

APRIL 2006

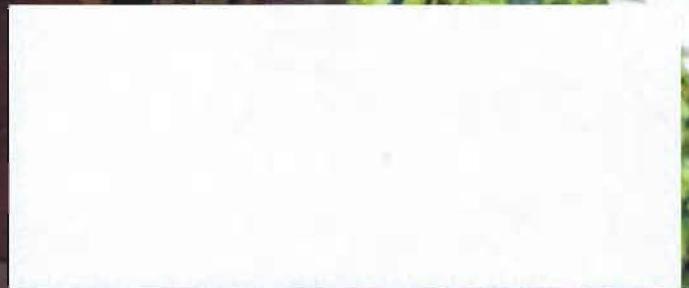
ffa *new horizons*



THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

Potatoes, Pines and Pride

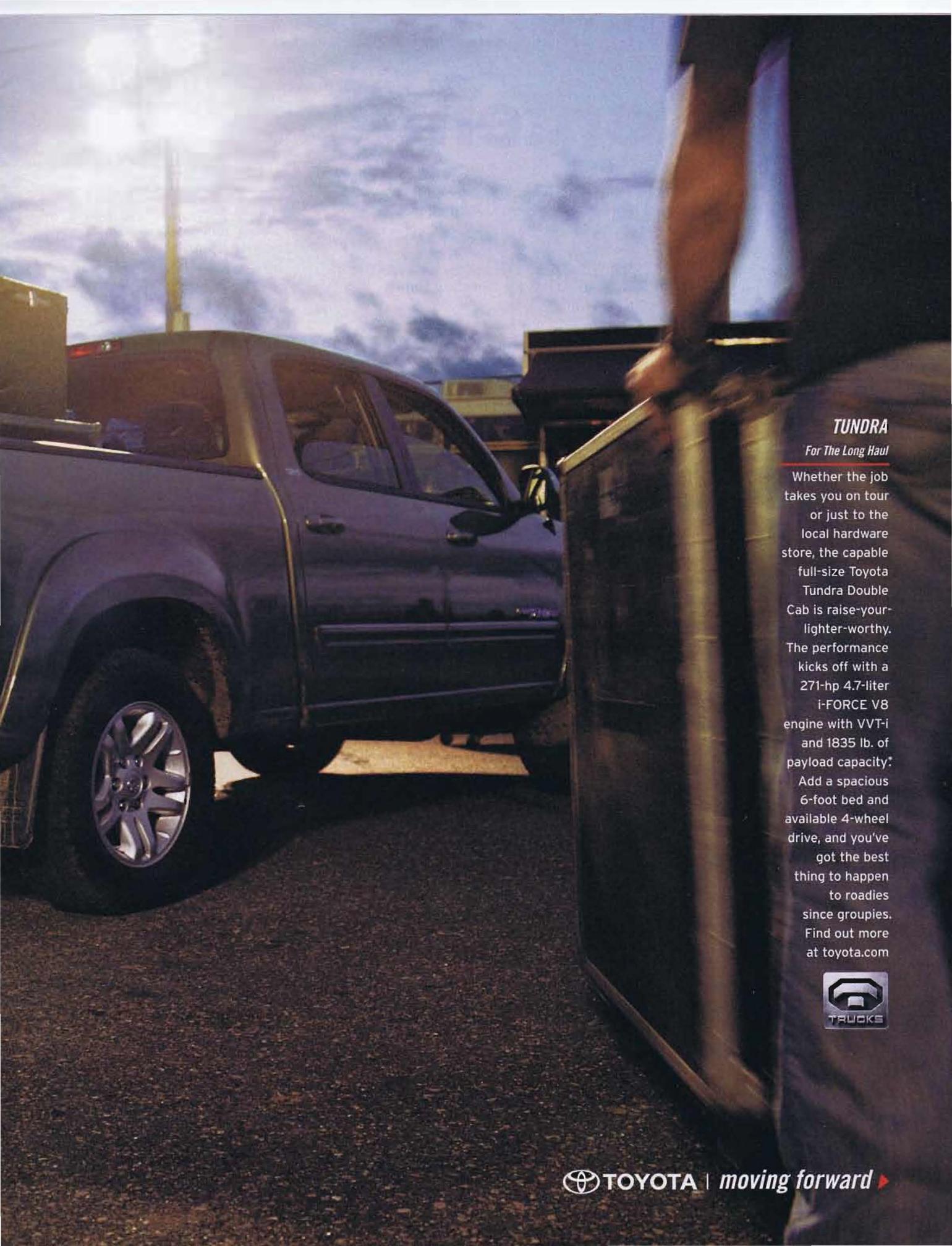
We visit Maine for the first article in a four-part series about FFA in the four corners of the United States





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Photo by Eric Rowley.

MAGAZINE STAFF

Publisher	Julie Adams
Editor	Erich Gaukel
Design Director	Alfred Casciato
Communications	Kristy Meyer, Amy Swain
Operations	Sarah Hess
Production Manager	Donna Cox
Research Director	Jim Rieck
Contributors	Chris Hayhurst, Stephen Regenold, Eric Rowley
Editorial	P.O. Box 68960 Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 Phone: 317/802-4235 Fax: 317/802-5235 E-mail: newhorizons@ffa.org
Advertising	Glenn Sims, National Sales Manager FFA New Horizons S100 W31244 Highway L0 Mukwonago, WI 53149-9301 Phone 262/363-9346 Fax 262/363-7894 E-mail: gsims@farmprogress.com Laurie Joecks, Advertising Assistant Phone: 262/363-8346 E-mail: ljoecks@farmprogress.com Renee Weston, Administrative Assistant Phone: 630/462-2334 E-mail: rweston@farmprogress.com

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FFA Talk

What's on your mind?

The **BIG** question:

What is the most rewarding part of being an FFA member?

Currently I am serving as the North-west district reporter in Kansas. All the work that goes into an event put on by the district officers is great. But the best part comes later when somebody begins talking to me about what went on. It is really rewarding that I have touched a person's life and have become their role model just by being who I am doing what I love.

*Nicole Keenan
Oakley, Kansas*

I think that the most rewarding part of being a FFA member is the leadership that it teaches you. I have made friendships that will last the rest of my life. I would like to thank my advisors, James Bonta and William Lobb. Without them I wouldn't realize what FFA is all about. I am Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live and Living to Serve. Being an FFA member is something I will never forget.

*J.T. Pruitt
Greensburg, Kentucky*

This is my first year in FFA. I didn't think I would like it that much, but I got more involved with it and our leader, Brian Stahl, made it fun and exciting for us. I think the most rewarding part of FFA is all the new people you get to meet and going to compete against other people you've never met.

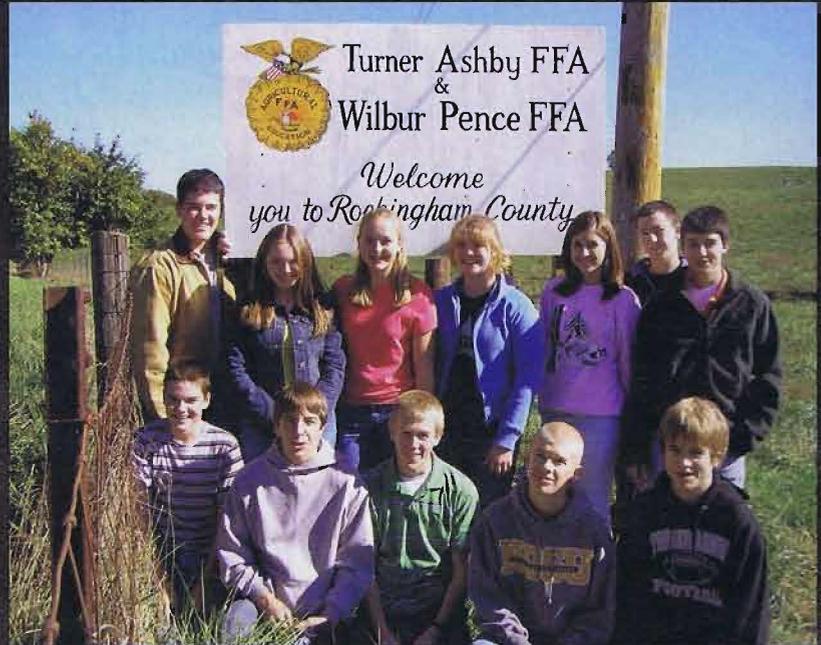
*Rebecca Swanson
Geneseo, Illinois*

What's the most rewarding part of being an FFA member for you? Send your responses to the address below.

Address all correspondence to:
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Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
e-mail: newhorizons@ffa.org
on the web: ffa.org

Show us your sign!

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



Members of the Agricultural Biology class at Turner Ashby High School in Bridgewater, Va., gather at their sign on Route 42 after visiting Hillview Dairy Farm to study best management practices and how agriculturalists can protect water quality. The sign, which they share with the nearby Wilbur Pence Middle School FFA Chapter, has been in place for more than 40 years, according to Steve Craun, co-owner of the farm: "It has been there as long as I can remember. It was there when I was in high school!" The sign greets visitors as they enter Rockingham County, the heart of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Submitted by Eric Fitzgerald, Turner Ashby FFA Chapter advisor



Members of Illinois' Valmeyer FFA Chapter raise and sell chrysanthemums and poinsettias. The used mums of various colors to spell out "FFA" in the hillside next to their school greenhouse. Submitted by the Valmeyer FFA Chapter

Blue & Gold

News from the National FFA Center

FFA Marketplace

The National FFA Organization has expanded its online shopping experience. In addition to the FFA Unlimited Online Store (ffaunlimited.org), you can now shop at FFA Marketplace (ffamarketplace.org), where you can make purchases from Old Navy, Fossil, Gateway computers, Bass Pro Shops, Amazon and more. You also can download your favorite tunes at the FFA Music Store. Any purchases you make through the FFA Marketplace will help to support FFA programs and activities.

"Seeds of Hope" Update

The FFA "Seeds of Hope" hurricane rebuilding effort, which assists FFA chapters and FFA members affected by last summer's hurricanes, has now raised \$770,000 in cash and in-kind donations. FFA chapters and mem-

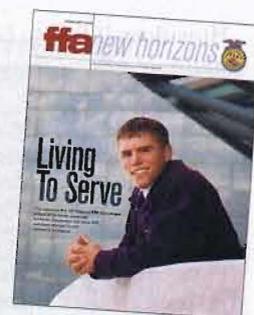
bers have donated generously. We'd also like to recognize the following corporate sponsors for their kind support: Kubota, the Lincoln Electric Company, RFD-TV, Timberland and the Veteran Corporation. Learn more about "Seeds of Hope" at ffa.org.

We want your story!

You may have noticed in the last few issues of this magazine that we've been running a short feature called "First Person" (see page 28 in this issue). It's a forum where FFA members write about their personal involvement in FFA and agriculture. We want to hear from you, so send us your story of 250 to 500 words and a photograph of yourself in one of the following ways: newhorizons@ffa.org; or write us at: First Person, FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960.

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National Officer Q&A

Meet National FFA Secretary Jessie Geib

How does it feel to be the first national officer from South Dakota in 51 years?

I feel honored to bring this recognition back to my state. It made me realize that even though we haven't had a national officer for a while, we still have that caliber of members in our association. I think this is true for many state associations.

How did FFA help you develop your passion in life?

Before FFA, I was just an eighth grade girl who just went with the flow and liked whatever my friends did. FFA really instilled in me the importance of having a passion in life. Through every FFA activity, my passions for agriculture and helping others are continually reinforced.

You recently participated in the National FFA Organization's "New Century Farmer" program. What



A native of DeSmet, S.D., 21-year-old Jessie is a member of the DeSmet FFA and is a junior at South Dakota State University.

Jessie's 5 secrets of success

1. One of my best friends always told me: "You can get what you want out of life by helping others get what they want out of life."
2. Actions speak louder than words.
3. Always learn from your mistakes and believe in your abilities, even when it feels like no one else does.
4. If you want something done, make it happen! Don't rely on others to carry out your goals and dreams for you.
5. Take every opportunity to grow, try new things and help others.

did you gain from the experience?

Of the many conferences I have attended, the New Century Farmer program was one of the most memorable.

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Not only did I learn new technologies, marketing methods and practices to apply to my family's farm and ranch, I also met 39 other college-age students from across the U.S. who have the same passion for production agriculture as I do. The friendships and networking opportunities I gained were priceless.

How do FFA leadership skills translate to the real world?

FFA members know what a true leader is. So often we find that many people think a leader is someone with a certain title or someone that can pressure others in to doing things they want them to do. FFA members are learning that a leader is someone who leads by example, someone who cares about helping others more than themselves, someone who is honest and has integrity. That helps us to become more effective and successful in the real world.

The national FFA convention moves to Indianapolis this fall. What can you tell us about the planning for the convention?

Everything is so new this year that we can't help but get pumped up about it. The city of Indianapolis has been so welcoming and willing to work with FFA that the transition to Indy is for this 79th National FFA Convention is going to be great. Let's just say that we have some new things up our sleeves this year and that it will be a national FFA convention that you will never forget!

Describe your involvement in career development events (CDEs) and how they helped shape your character.

I grew up on a South Dakota beef cattle ranch and farm where I was expected to work every day alongside my parents and siblings. Through all those days on my family's operation,

FFA timeline

- 14 ● joined DeSmet FFA Chapter
- 15 ● named chapter Star Greenhand
- lost state job interview CDE
- elected district secretary
- 16 ● received chapter degree
- elected district president
- lost state job interview CDE
- 17 ● elected chapter president
- elected district president
- lost district parliamentary procedure CDE
- won state job interview CDE
- 18 ● received state degree
- won state beef proficiency award
- elected state president
- 19 ● received American FFA Degree
- 20 ● elected national secretary

I learned many life skills such as hard work, responsibility and dedication—all of which helped shape my character. Even though my parents told me I would someday use the skills I was learning, I never truly believed them until I joined FFA, where my character and life skills were reinforced even more. ●



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FFA on film

The Preston FFA Chapter in Idaho uses its newfound fame from *Napoleon Dynamite* to promote FFA

By Preston FFA Chapter members Connie Owen and Sasha Griffeth

We were extremely flattered at the national FFA convention last fall when a cute boy and his friends stopped us and asked for our picture. Of course, we were happy to honor their request. It was while we were standing there smiling that we realized they weren't that interested in us—they were really interested in having a picture of our Preston FFA jackets.

Before *Napoleon Dynamite*, Preston, Idaho, was unheard of to most of



From left, Salena Wheatley and Connie Owen take their positions in the milk-tasting booth, which is based on a scene in the movie.



The Napoleon Event Committee. Top row, from left: Jake Stone, Skyler Smith, Kory Owen, Myles Porter and Michael Porter. Bottom row, from left: Salena Wheatley, Hailey Talbot and Connie Owen.

the country. The Preston FFA Chapter was even more unknown nationally. But on the day *Napoleon Dynamite* hit theaters across the country, Preston became an icon of small-town America, receiving the recognition we believe it deserved. The Preston FFA Chapter gained more publicity than we ever could have imagined.

On June 24 and 25 last year, the Second Annual Napoleon Dynamite Days festival occurred right here in Preston. People from Maine to California traveled to our small town for this event. Our FFA chapter took this opportunity to publicize the National FFA Organization.

If you have seen *Napoleon Dynamite*, you may have recognized, as we did, that the main career development event (CDE) showcased in the movie was foods. In keeping with the tradition of the movie, we set up a milk-tasting booth for the celebration.

The event committee decorated the scene using the banners that were seen in the movie. We had the *Napoleon Dynamite* FFA jacket displayed while tourists tasted the onion-flavored milk. Many people just posed for the picture; however, a few brave people actually did the milk sampling. We were excited to see how many people were interested in learning more in order to understand what FFA is really about.

The Preston FFA chapter and FFA in general have received some posi-

tive exposure. It has been a wonderful opportunity to help our community as well as others understand the effort and time that is put in by members of the great National FFA Organization. ●

NAPOLEON FACTS Did you know that . . .

Napoleon Dynamite director Jared Hess is a former Preston FFA Chapter member. His FFA advisor, Larin Crossley, says Jared was always filming things, so it wasn't that big of a deal when the *Napoleon Dynamite* crew showed up and started filming.

The FFA banner used in the milk-tasting scene came straight from the National FFA Organization's merchandising division. FFA communications consultant Mickie Miller worked with film producer Chris Wyatt on the details.

Boxoffice Mojo.com reports that the film's estimated production budget was \$400,000. To date, the film, released in June 2004, has grossed more than \$46,000,000 worldwide.

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Georgia



RICO TURNER

Rico, a member of the Swainsboro FFA Chapter, has earned his FFA Greenhand and chapter degrees, has competed in FFA Creed, forestry, floriculture and prepared public speaking career development events (CDEs). He now serves as FFA chapter historian and is proud to volunteer for such organizations as Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society.

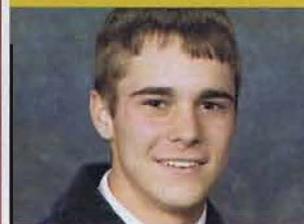
Utah



LUCIA RODRIGUEZ

When Lucia joined FFA her sophomore year, she became involved with the floriculture CDE team, which finished with a gold medal at state competition. She also earned her Greenhand FFA Degree. After her great start, she followed it up by becoming FFA chapter treasurer, getting involved in the FFA Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS) program and starting her own vegetable growing business.

Texas



MATT DAVIS

He's the first Hale Center FFA Chapter member to serve as an FFA area officer in 12 years. In addition to those duties, Matt is FFA chapter president, has served as FFA district president and recently served as a Texas delegate to the national FFA convention. He competes on the public relations and livestock evaluation CDE teams and has won many showmanship awards with his swine projects.

Kentucky



JESSICA WILSON

This aspiring veterinarian is a Russell County FFA Chapter member who's been involved in parliamentary procedure, seed judging and an FFA history competition. To prepare for her future career as a vet, she has taken agriculture science and small-animal science classes. After high school, she plans to enroll at the University of Kentucky where she'll major in pre-veterinary medicine.

Illinois



CHRISTOPHER OVER

This Streator FFA Chapter president leads on the farm and on the football field. He credits FFA with helping him make new friends and finding direction in his life. He won the FFA Star Greenhand Award as a freshman, and he now works on a hog farm for his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program. Last year, he was named the most valuable player on the high school football team.

Wisconsin



TEGEN BUCHLI

This Fort Atkinson FFA Chapter member says FFA "has definitely changed my life forever." As a sophomore, she has already attended the national FFA convention and FFA leadership conferences such as Advanced Leadership Development (ALD) and Made For Excellence (MFE). She's involved in parliamentary procedure, and her favorite part of FFA is showing swine at the county fair.

Ohio



ANDREW SWISSHELM

Andrew, an entrepreneur who operates his own landscaping and lawn service business for his SAE program, serves as Greene County FFA Chapter student advisor. He has been involved in various CDEs and is currently working toward his State FFA Degree. After high school, he plans to attend Ohio State University. First, he hopes to earn an associate degree at OSU's Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI).

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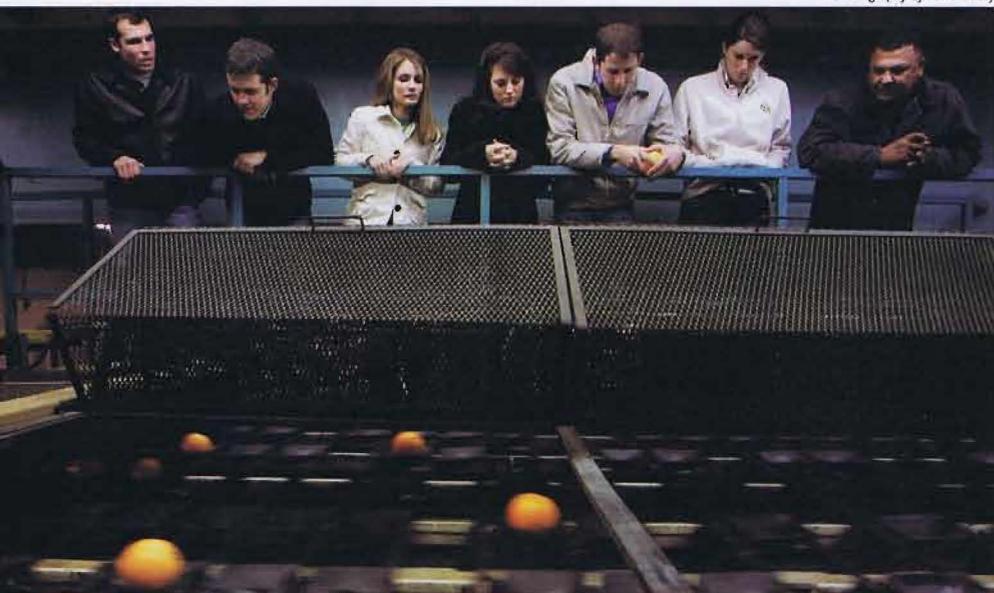


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By Erich Gaukel

“Water’s everything here in the valley,” Bill Ferry said to the six national FFA officers as they stood along a gravel road separating the orange and olive trees on Ferry’s ranch near Woodlake in California’s Central Valley.

Ferry uses water to hydrate his crops, but there’s another reason he always needs an adequate supply: When the temperate outside drops to 27 degrees—which does happen once in awhile here in sunny California—he opens the hoses and lets the water flow. The water, as it floods the ranch, can lift the air temperature in the field by one degree. It might not sound like much, but it can be enough to save a crop.

This little capsule of knowledge, like so many the officers collected during this weeklong agricultural tour, became a critical part of their training. After the trip, the officers would be spending the next 11 months on the road as advocates for FFA and agriculture. The California trip was designed to build their knowledge base and sharpen their communications and speaking skills.

UP TO SPEED

This trip has become an annual event. Each year, the National FFA Organization, with funding from the Altria Group, Inc., the parent company of Kraft Foods, sends the officers to California because it’s the ideal

place for such a tour. The state has an amazingly large diversity of agriculture—from artichokes to oranges to cattle—and things actually grow in December.

The trip also is intended to provide the new officers—Erica Der, Anita Estes, Jessie Geib, Travis Jett, Stuart Joy and Ryan Peterson—the opportunity to make their first FFA chapter visits as representatives of the National FFA Organization.

Before I joined the officers at Mr. Ferry’s ranch, the team had already been on the road for three days. In that time, they had eaten brunch with the president and CEO of Arysta LifeScience Corporation; they had toured Costa Farms; they had walked through a Fresh Express salad plant; they had visited artichoke, strawberry and dairy operations; and they had explored a Kraft Foods cheese plant.

After our morning visit with Mr. Ferry, we stopped at a nearby Sunkist packing plant, where plant manager Albert Kimble took us on a tour of the facility. On its best days it will pack from 18,000 to 20,000 boxes of oranges.

The plant’s 80 employees operate a complicated web of machinery that moves oranges by conveyor through a sweat room, a black light room, washers, waxers, photo scanners and many other devices. All along the way, Sunkist employees work at computer keyboards, at machines, at the grading tables, assembling boxes and driving forklifts. The oranges packed in this

On the job training

In December, the newly installed national FFA officers spent a week in California, meeting with FFA members and exploring the diversity of agriculture. It’s all part of the national officer training.

plant are shipped to stores like Wal-Mart and Albertson’s in the United States. Others are shipped to Japan and Korea.

From here, we went straight to another packing operation—the Harris Beef Company’s processing plant near Selma. The day before, the officers toured the company’s 800-acre feedlot with 107,000 head of cattle. Back at the plant, manager Mike Smith welcomed us right after news broke that Japan had just reopened its borders to U.S. beef. He was trying to adjust plant production for the newly created demand.

In this single facility, Harris workers do everything from slaughter the animals to prepare precooked, microwavable meals using beef, vegetables, marinades and other ingredients.

During our visit, the opening of the Japanese market was scheduled for the following Monday. To make sure Harris Beef didn't miss a beat, Smith said, they had already reserved a Boeing 747 cargo jet that would be leaving Sunday night for Japan. On board—the very first shipment of Harris beef.

AT THE SCHOOLS

That afternoon, we got on the highway and headed north to Clovis, the home of Clovis East High School, where the agriculture classes, according to FFA advisor Matt Actis, are “bursting at the seams.” It's a regional vocational center with 800 students from several high schools enrolled, so it's easy to see why the classes are full.

The students take course work in vet science, ag geology, horticulture and ag engineering. A federal grant helped the agriculture department build an impressive campus, which the chapter officers were proud to show us. It includes a classroom building, office building, greenhouse, swine barn, farrowing house and a barn for sheep and beef.

The next day, the officers visited Galt High School. Here, they ate pizza with the chapter officers and then joined agriculture teacher Mandy Garner's afternoon class. The topic of the day's class: leadership.

After Garner led her students in a discussion about what defines a leader and why leaders are needed, the class broke up into teams. Each of the national officers joined a team and helped the teams develop short skits illustrating aspects of leadership, such as diffusing conflict,

helping others grow and delegating responsibility.

Garner's lesson plan that day was part of the National FFA Organization's LifeKnowledge initiative. For the national officers, this was their first opportunity to see the program used in the classroom. The goal of the initiative is to provide a leadership experience for every student enrolled in agricultural education.

After the trip, Jessie reflected on

the experience. “I have a completely new understanding and respect for the diversity of American agriculture. No matter what crop farmers grow, whether it is corn, broccoli or strawberries, they're all there for the same reason—because they love having the most prestigious jobs in America. I learned that even though the crops we grow and animals we raise may be different, we all are here to help feed the world.” ●



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Mississippi native Barry Rinehart (left), an FFA advisor and a staff sergeant in the Army National Guard, meets with (from Rinehart's left) Iraq's minister of agriculture, First Lieutenant Chip Cole and two other Iraq government officials. Rinehart was recruited to work on improving Iraqi agriculture by Cole, a former FFA member himself. Rinehart and Cole both recently received Bronze Stars for their work.

most fulfilling parts of the job," he said.

Rinehart's unit also worked on improving the district's irrigation systems. Though an irrigation infrastructure was already in place, years of neglect had taken their toll. The canals needed clearing, and the pumps needed repairs.

In a massive show of civilian force, up to 50,000 Iraqi workers would be hired each day to dig out the canals, remove sludge, clear vegetation and repair or replace pump systems.

POLITICAL LINES

Beyond the logistics of improving area agriculture, the Civil Affairs Unit performed its tasks in a war zone. Terrorism was a constant concern, and, tragically, two Iraqi government representatives who worked closely with the unit were killed during Rinehart's tenure.

Rinehart's unit had to pay strict attention to clan lines in and around Baghdad. During the irrigation project, for example, the unit had to meet with local sheikhs and hire new groups of workers whenever they crossed political boundaries.

But Rinehart said his unit was one of the least attacked in the region.

"The people knew we were doing something to help them and their country," he said.

"They seemed grateful, and we could see that our projects gave them hope, which is why we were there to start with." ●

Agriculture in Iraq

An FFA advisor serving in the Army National Guard played a key role in getting Iraq's agricultural industry back on track

By Stephen Regenold

Of the world's agricultural cradles, the fertile plains along Iraq's Tigris and Euphrates rivers are some of the most significant in history.

Yet agriculture in Iraq today is emerging from a state of disrepair. Government-imposed sanctions, trade embargoes, tyrannical dictatorships and wars have been devastating for the agricultural community there.

Barry Rinehart, a 50-year-old high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor from Booneville, Miss., has seen the devastation firsthand. A 22-year veteran of the Army National Guard, Rinehart deployed to Iraq in January 2004.

A staff sergeant with the 1st Cavalry Division ROC out of Tupelo, Rinehart spent more than a year working with Iraq's Minister of Agriculture to jump-start the nation's troubled agricultural industry.

"The state of farming in 21st-century Iraq is comparable to farming in the United States during the 1920s," said Rinehart, who has been involved

with FFA for most of his life. Family farms near Baghdad, where Rinehart worked, are one or two acres in size, he said, and people use the same seeds from year to year to grow paltry crops of wheat, maize and barley.

"Many Iraqi farmers," he added, "are still using hands, hoes and shovels in the dirt; very few have tractors."

OPERATION AGRICULTURE

In addition to working with farmers, Rinehart oversaw several major agricultural revitalization projects. His small group worked with local veterinarians to de-worm and vaccinate more than 50,000 animals. They also worked to improve milk and meat production and implemented herbicide and insecticide programs.

For the farmers, Rinehart and his colleagues in the Army's Civil Affairs Unit provided new seeds to introduce a wider gene pool and improve yields. They procured seeds from northern Iraq and the United States. Rinehart said the farmers were grateful.

"Seeing people pick up the new seed and fertilizer was one of the

March/April 2006

The Impact

Indiana FFA



Its your first glimpse at the 2006
Indiana State Convention Speakers!
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Learn how to win a CDE from
some Indiana experts. Page D

Indiana State Staff

Craig Rebich

Association Executive Director

Brian Buchanan

Foundation Executive Director

Robert Junker

State Advisor

Stephanie Warner

Program Specialist

Noelle Dunkel

Magazine Editor/Designer

**2005-2006 State
Officer Team**

Bruce Cooley

President

Shawn Gearhart

Secretary

Jessica Quear

N.R. Vice President

Sawyer Sparks

S.R. Vice President

David Mohler

Treasurer

Mindi Salmons

Reporter

Nathan Lehman

Sentinel

Indiana FFA Association
Room 229, State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-9171 (voice)
317-232-9121 (fax)
www.indianaffa.org

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DATES TO KNOW

March	14	Section Chapter Meeting
April	3	State Proficiency Applications Due Postmarked State FFA Officer Applications Phase I Due Postmarked State FFA Honorary Degree, Distinguished Service, and VIP Applications Due Postmarked
	4	State Welding CDE
	8	State FFA Executive Committee Meeting - Evening Jr. High FFA Day State Officer Candidate Open & Guest Open House State Wildlife CDE
	17	American Degree & Chapter Award Applications Due Postmarked

STATIONED BY THE EAR OF CORN

Shawn Gearhart, 2005-2006 State Secretary

Fun Facts about Shawn

Parents: Robert and Pam Gearhart

Siblings: One older sister, Kim

FFA Chapter: Warsaw

Advisors: Lynnette Markley and Kraig Bowers

Favorite Food: Steak and Chicken

Favorite Animal: Tiger

Favorite Color: Blue and Green

Favorite Song: *Chicks Dig It*, Chris Cagle

Favorite Sport: Basketball

Favorite Cartoon Character: Scooby Doo

Life Lesson: Hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

Favorite Experience: This past summer I was able to travel to Washington D.C. While there, I met the President of the United States. That will be a day I will never forget.

Favorite Quote: *Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.* Charles Swindle

Favorite Book: *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren

Favorite Childhood Memory: I will always remember my first day at kindergartens because it is one of my earliest memories.

Future Plans: Attend Purdue University for Agriculture Business.



SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT SHAWN...

"Shawn is a nice hard working individual who is reliable and trustworthy. You could not pick a better friend because Shawn is the type of person who would lay his life down for you. He has been a great friend to me!"

~ Paden Jones, Best Friend



"Shawn is very goal oriented, when he decides what he wants he works hard at achieving it. He has always been a hard worker that is willing to pitch in and help no matter what was asked of him. Shawn is very outgoing and social and never meets a stranger, all in all I think Shawn is a well-rounded person who I always enjoy being with."

~ Pam Gearhart, Mother

State Officers

Student Spotlight

What Does it Take to Win a

Ask the Eastern Hancock FFA Livestock Judging Team!



"I imagine, the best advice I can give for national contest participants is to have a good balance between poise and composure. So, make sure you have yourself and your teammates prepared to the best of their ability."

~ Kyle Jacobs



"The advice I would give to an FFA member wanting to participate in any National Contest is to simply work hard and never give up. At times you may get frustrated or discouraged. You may need to work hard, but that just means it will be more rewarding in the end."

~ Seth Lawyer



"The best advice I could give an FFA member who is getting ready to compete in a national contest is to relax, work hard, and have fun. Don't make it harder than it is. Just treat it like it's a regular contest and you should be okay."

~ Aaron Jones



"The best advice that I could give an FFA member who is getting ready for a national contest is to never give up, there are many frustrating moments when getting ready but in the end all the hard work and time will pay off."

~ Evan Matlock

Career Development Event?

Ask the Western Boone FFA Forestry Team!



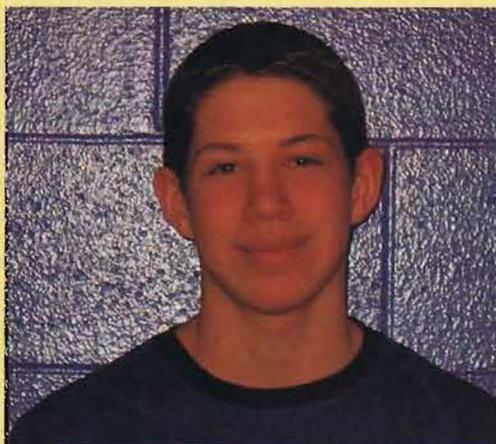
“Be willing and eager to practice hard. Determination is the key factor to succeeding. Be proud of what you have already accomplished. Every improvement is a step towards your goal.”

~ Elizabeth Mohler



“Work hard, practice, and have fun. At nationals you only have one chance so make the most of it!”

~ Rachel Schluttenhofer



“Be sure to study the old tests, they really help. Also remember to have fun.”

~ Jacob Culbertson



“Just do your best and have fun while you are doing it. Practice and dedicate yourself to what you are learning.”

~ Lisa Schluttenhofer

Student Spotlight

State Convention Speaker Preview

You Won't Want To Miss This!



Hailing from northwest Oklahoma, Mr. Rhett Laubach has a lot of experience with FFA and public speaking. Having served as both Oklahoma State President and State Vice-President, it's no wonder this American FFA Degree recipient is still involved with agriculture and youth leadership development!

In addition to being the Chief Motivational Officer of his organization, YourNextSpeaker, Rhett is also an established author and leadership expert. He spends half his time with student leaders and half training corporate leaders, recognizing the importance of continuous improvement in leaders of all ages.

With more than ten years of motivational speaking experience, Rhett is sure to be a keynote speaker you won't want to miss! See him at the 2006 Indiana FFA State Convention!

Chalk it up to Leadership!

You may have seen him at the 2005 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky... that's right, the Chalk Artist himself is coming to West Lafayette, Indiana. Sam Glenn, or "The Chalk Man," as you might have heard him called, has a rather unique presentation. Along with his inspirational wisdom and motivational insights, Sam captivates his audiences with intricate and beautiful chalk drawings.

Called "Outstanding" by legendary Christian motivator Zig Ziglar, Sam recharges, entertains, and empowers groups ranging from associations to corporations in more than 100 presentations per year.

"The way I communicate is with great sincerity. I understand the value of time and want to maximize it to the fullest. I use humor to get my points across, because it helps my audiences hear and remember the lessons," says Sam.

And Mr. Glenn's humor is certainly effective. As the author of fifteen books and one of the most sought-after speakers in America, you won't want to miss Sam Glenn at this year's State FFA Convention!



Tune In...To the National FFA Band

By Sawyer Sparks, State Southern Region Vice President

Long before thousands of blue jackets converge on the National FFA Convention, the sound of music can be heard throughout the convention hall. It doesn't only come from the sound check—tubas, flutes and snare drums can also be heard.



On the Saturday before the convention, over 100 musicians come together for the first time to form the National FFA Band. Many of these band members

c o m e

from high school bands of less than 50 members, and it is a tremendous opportunity to play in a band with full sound and all of the instruments listed in the score. Soon, a listener can no longer tell that this band came together only minutes before.

Directed by Mr. Joe LaJoye of Michigan, the band rehearses for over 25 hours from Saturday evening to Wednesday morning. The group performs throughout the convention with appearances at sessions, outdoor pep band concerts and dinner music for the American FFA Degree luncheon on Saturday morning. One of the highlights for the band during the convention is the National FFA Band and Chorus Concert on Friday night. It is the band's time to shine during a 45 minute show before the general session.

A n o t h e r highlight for the national band is the opportunity to record a CD. For several years, students had asked if they could have a

recording of the band. For the first time, the 2005 band made a CD of the seven feature songs. The group had the opportunity to purchase the CD and burn copies for family and friends.

"The coolest thing about the CD is the fact that you can say, 'I played that!'" Says Elise Brown, a senior at Turkey Run and two-year member of the band's baritone section. "I get caught singing along with it."

For some time, Indiana has not had a state FFA band because of lack of interest. However, the national band provides an opportunity to combine music and FFA. Playing in the band also gives an FFA member the opportunity to make new friends from across the United States. Hoosiers can sit next to a Minnesotan or room with a New Yorker. There are many chances to meet someone new throughout the week.



"National Band is a great time to hone your playing skills and have fun with FFA members from across the nation," says Trevor Perkins, who is a senior percussionist at Prairie Heights and also a two-year National FFA Band member. "It's a blast!"

Members of the band are selected based on their submission of an application and audition tape. The application can be found on ffa.org/convention by clicking on the activities link, which leads to the National FFA Band link. Both the recording and the application are due to the state on June 23, 2006.



Helping Hands

Chapters Contribute to Indiana's Success
By Nathan Lehman, State Sentinel

The support of local FFA chapters is a crucial part of the Indiana FFA Foundation. Every year, Local FFA chapter giving accounts for almost 15 percent of the Foundation's budget, this translates on average into \$42,000-60,000 for the Indiana FFA Foundation.

Executive Director of the Indiana FFA Foundation, Brian Buchanan stated, "The support of local FFA chapters is critical to the success of the FFA programs across the state. Contributions from chapters to the Indiana FFA Foundation help to provide opportunities and resources for all FFA members."

What does the money from chapter giving go to? It helps fund leadership programs and camps, the state officer program and proficiency and leadership contests.

Shenandoah, Southern Wells, and Benton Central were the three largest monetary donors in 2005 bringing in a combined \$8,080.

Chapters also give their time, by helping work at the Leadership Center in Trafalgar. Many chapters donate man-hours throughout the year and spruce up the center. Chapters do a range of activities including raking leaves, painting buildings, landscaping, cutting down trees and replacing roofs.

Doug Walker, FFA Advisor at Forest Park said, "The work camp allows members to take ownership in the center. My members love the camp and don't mind giving back to it."

The Foundation benefits from the work camp allowing it to keep its cost down and making the center look great.



Brian Buchanan
Executive Foundation
Director
Indiana FFA Leadership
Center
P.O. Box 9
Trafalgar, IN 46181
1-317-878-4178

Taking a Different Approach

By Melinda Salmons, State Reporter

A former member of the Hagerstown FFA Chapter, Mr. Luke Bowman is a great asset to any agriculture program. In his own chapter, he was active as chapter reporter and vice president, as well as Chapter Star Farmer. This American Degree recipient also initiated the Hagerstown FFA Livestock Judging Invitational during his senior year of high school.

As a recent graduate of Purdue University's College of Agriculture, Bowman is off to a great start as the advisor of the Union City Community FFA Chapter. From entertaining classroom lessons to field trips to reproductive plants, things at Union City are never boring! And that's exactly how he planned it.

"I am the fourth ag. teacher in five years here at UCC. The three ag. teachers before me were more 'traditional.' Knowing this from day one, I decided early that I needed to take a different approach in recruiting members for FFA."

When it comes to recruitment, Mr. Bowman does not just do the typical display case or posters. He likes to penetrate other organizations for members. Union City has a very popular Varsity Basketball coach. Their FFA chapter decided to market his popularity by having another school business class make shirts promoting Mr. Marshall. The shirts had a slogan for Mr. Marshall on the front, and on the back, it said, "Union City FFA" with a big FFA emblem. The shirts sold well to many of the other teachers, FFA members, non-FFA members and various student leaders. This gave the UCC FFA more visibility around school. Exploring other ideas by using other popular clubs and working with them has proven to be very effective for the Union City Community FFA Chapter.

Recruitment hasn't been the only success found at UCCHS. Success can also be found in the classroom. "I am not here to create national champions. I am not here to make us one of the biggest FFA chapters in the state. Those things would be very nice; however, I am here to help improve the leadership, professionalism and the image of the UCC FFA and its members," says Bowman. Like most advisors, Mr. Bowman has big ideas and big tasks that he would like to see the Union City Community FFA Chapter accomplish, but he understands the big pic-

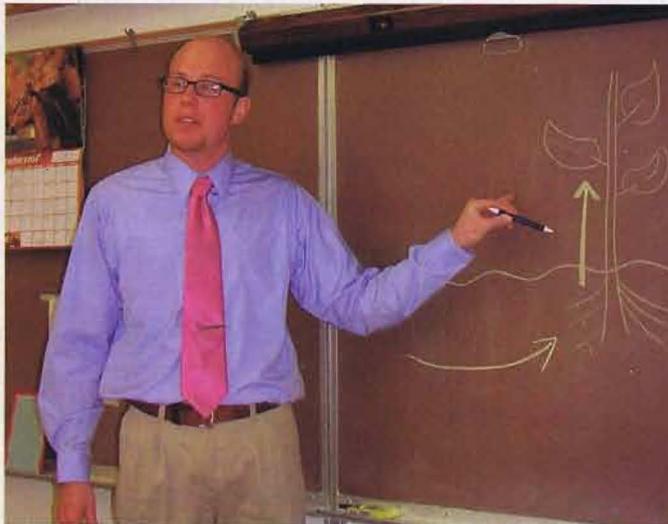
ture: ultimately, it's up to the members. He understands his role as a teacher well, and he emphasizes the importance of leadership.

"Once we learn how to be better leaders, and become more professional in all aspects of what we do, all the glittery things will fall into place."

"The students know that I am young and not far from them in age. With this in mind, I have been able to connect and communicate with them on a 'peer,' yet still 'professional' level. It is important that they know that I hold them to the highest of standards. We are trying to get a lot of things done here at UCCHS. Everyone knows my expectations are set high for this small town FFA."

While Union City is a particularly small, rural town, there is only a handful of "farm kids" in the agriculture department. Bowman makes use of technology and field trips to make learning a more fun environment. In fact, their last few field trips have gone so well that the superintendent has reserved her seat for the next Agriculture class outing. Classes have visited several local places that students are aware of, but they aren't familiar with the purpose of the operation.

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit Union City Community High School and experience their FFA Chapter firsthand. Even as outsider, I could tell that Mr. Bowman has a gift for working with students. He would joke around and tease them, and the students would return the favor. His classroom is an enjoyable and relaxed environment, but even non-FFA members enjoy his classes. The environment is education-oriented, but the atmosphere is laced with fun.



Big Owl

FFA Members Find Success at UNO

By Nathan Lehman, State Sentinel

University of Northwestern Ohio (UNO) offers degrees in agricultural business and marketing technology and agricultural equipment technician. UNO is located in Lima, Ohio. To the 3100 students, it offers a student activity center, a racing club, and an off-road club.

UNO prepares students for careers and productive citizenship that encompasses the business, professional, corporate and technological communities by providing quality education and training in response to the needs and aspirations of our constituents.

"The University of Northwestern Ohio has provided me with many opportunities that I can pursue in the agricultural industry," said Matt Adams. "With these opportunities and the skills I have obtained, I have established myself in numerous wise endeavors."

UNO offers baccalaureate and associate degrees in its school of business and associate degrees in its School of Technologies. The University of Northwestern Ohio also offers an associate degree for people

interested in becoming an agricultural equipment technician. This degree teaches how to diagnose and fix agricultural equipment, such as skid loaders, tractors, trucks and combines. This course teaches basic welding techniques, workings of a hydraulic system and diesel performance along with basic business, math and english courses to give all UNO graduates an advantage in the job force. Another degree offered by the University of Northwestern Ohio, is agricultural business and marketing technology this degree educates students on marketing techniques and strategies, financial practices and business principles and trends.

"The University of Northwestern Ohio has given me the opportunity to focus my studies on Agriculture Business and Management," commented Erich Rediger, "as I near the completion of my Associates Degree, I feel prepared to take on new responsibilities on our family farm."



*"I have established myself in numerous wise endeavors."
~Matt Adams*

<p>UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO</p> <p>Stats:</p> <p>Established: 1920 Enrollment: 3,100 Mission: The University of Northwestern Ohio is an entrepreneurial, not-for-profit institution of higher learning, preparing students for careers and productive citizenship that encompass the business, professional, corporate and technological communities by providing quality education and training in response to the needs and aspirations of our constituents.</p>

Treasurer's Message

NEW BEGINNINGS

Springtime is just around the corner. When people think of spring, they think of snow melting, trees turning green again, flowers blooming, and all sorts of new beginnings. Nature is all about having a fresh start every year. FFA members, while Nature's news is about new life and warming up again, we can make our own new beginnings.

We have a chance here at the start of a new year to begin fresh with our FFA careers. We are going to be able to achieve more this year with the experiences that we have had already. We cannot only do this by continuing to participate in the same activities as before, but we can also do some new activities. One of the great ways to take advantage of this opportunity is to try out some different Leadership contests. Leadership contests are those contests that we first compete in at District Convention. I suggest participating in at least one of these Career Development Events. My favorites were the Essay contest and the Public Speaking Contests. Not only was I able to practice demonstrating my knowledge of the FFA and current Agricultural trends, but I was also able to secure some extra credit from my English and Speech teachers. They were thrilled to find that I was able to utilize some of the skills I learned in their classes to help me succeed in those contests.

Spring is also a time for your chapter to start some new activities. Many times we get caught up in only doing what has already been done. Spring is a time for new beginnings – we have a chance to break that mold and try new things. There are plenty of opportunities for your chapter to find new community development activities and ways to reward members for doing a great job.

In this time of new beginnings, what are you going to do? Try to spread some of your own sunshine by giving your teachers an extra smile. Melt away all of your cold feelings toward a fellow student. And always remember - stay thrifty!

David Mohler
State Treasurer



Striking a Spark

By Jessica Quear, State Northern Region Vice President

The spring season is finally here and we are all “stir crazy” to get out and about. The best way to do this in FFA is CDE’s. The new “hot” career development event for this season is the welding contest. It is sparking interests amongst FFA members from across the state. Now, welding is more than an agriculture class you can take in school. It is a contest that is held once a year in April. Students get to come together and show off their abilities of skills. They can do this through five different welds. They must be able to show a butt weld, lap weld, vertical stringer, up and down vertical T, and one-pass pipe to plate weld.

Welding may not sound like it has a future, but it does! Individuals with the skills to weld have enormous career options. Few career choices offer such vast options for employment and personal development as welding. From industry production lines, to the laboratory, to research and development, to national defense, to sales and repair, the varied welding industry impacts virtually every industry on the globe. From deep in the oceans to high above the planet, there is a position within the welding industry for ambitious, smart professionals ready to excel and achieve new heights!

Come and check out the Welding contest on April 4, 2006!!



Partner Profile

By David Mohler, State Treasurer

What do FFA members think of when they hear TSC? Well, of course, Tractor Supply Company! Tractor Supply Company has been partnered with FFA for several years. What started out in 1938 as a mail order tractor part business in Illinois has now become a nationwide retail store. Today, Tractor Supply Company helps support the Indiana FFA by not only donating funds, but they sell the commemorative FFA tractors across Indiana.

Tractor Supply Company and the FFA have had much of the same change over the course of their beginnings. Both TSC and the FFA have changed in order to best serve the people they depend on. FFA started out targeting farm boys and traditional farming. TSC started out by offering mail order tractor parts. Today, the FFA is committed to leadership and student develop-

TSC TRACTOR SUPPLY CO VALUES

ETHICS
Do the "right thing" and always encourage others to do the right, honest and ethical things.

RESPECT
Treat others with the same personal and professional consideration we expect for ourselves.

BALANCE
Manage your time for both business and personal success.

WINNING ATTITUDE
Have a "can-do" attitude. Be positive, upbeat, and focused.
We are winners!

COMMUNICATION
Share information, ask questions, listen effectively, speak thoughtfully, and let ideas live.

DEVELOPMENT
Learn from each other. Teach, coach, and listen. Create an environment where everyone can be a "star".

TEAMWORK
Value different viewpoints. Execute the agreed-upon plans.
Together, everyone achieves more!

CHANGE
Accept it. Embrace it. Initiate it. Do everything better, faster, and cheaper.

INITIATIVE
Seek opportunities. Use good judgement.
Take intelligent risks. Champion ideas.

ACCOUNTABILITY
Know your responsibilities. Live up to your commitments.

TSC TRACTOR SUPPLY CO MISSION

To work hard, have fun and make money by providing legendary service and great products at everyday low prices.

OUR BUSINESS:
We are committed to be the most dependable supplier of basic maintenance products to farm, ranch and rural customers.

OUR PEOPLE:
We value honesty, integrity, mutual respect and teamwork above all else.
We are an open company where everyone has the information and tools to grow and excel.
We encourage risk taking, celebrate initiative and reward success.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS:
We are a growth company.
We consistently grow sales and profits by continuous improvement throughout the company.

ment by preparing students for jobs not only in the agricultural sector, but in any walk of life. Tractor Supply Company states that "less than 10 percent of the company's customers classify themselves as full-time farmers or ranchers." In fact, Tractor Supply's largest customer segment does not farm at all. They are better described as rural or suburban homeowners.

One of the great things about Tractor Supply Company is the way they treat the people that work at their stores. Nobody is an employee; rather, each person is a Team Member. This helps to create a sense of ownership and pride in the company. Each Team Member is expected to pull their own weight, and creating pride in their company is a great way to do this.



Will you be there?

By Sawyer Sparks, State Souther Region Vice President

Are you interested in taking your leadership skills to the highest level? Have you ever thought about how you can influence others to lead? Do you have what it takes to make a positive impact in your local community? If you have ever asked these questions of yourself, then the Washington Leadership Conference is just for you.

Washington Leadership Conference is a great opportunity for any FFA member with their chapter degree. This program gives members a chance to gain leadership skills, meet new people, and visit our nation's capital. The Indiana FFA is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington D.C. with fifty of your friends from across the state. The bus trip will be during June. The approximate cost will be \$550 for WLC registration, lodging, most meals, round trip transportation, travel insurance, and a one night stay at Gettysburg.

Throughout the week Indiana FFA members attended outstanding leadership sessions taught by and awesome National staff, saw the wonderful sites of Washington D.C. on a beautiful night tour of the monuments and visited Arlington National Cemetery to experience the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. If you want to participate in a "life changing experience", consider attending WLC as part of the Indiana FFA sponsored bus trip this summer!!!

Members had the opportunity to tour the Capital or meet with congressmen from their home districts during one of the mornings.

On the way to Washington D.C., Indiana FFA members stopped to spend the night in Gettysburg. While in Gettysburg, members had the opportunity to tour the battlefield.



The last day of WLC is centered around a Community service project. This year, members "gleaned" (picked unharvested, surplus crops) squash which was donated to Washington D.C. food pantries.

Indiana's own Shane Hageman took time out of his busy schedule working as a summer intern for Senator Lugar to speak to the Indiana FFA members when they visited Capital Hill.

Growing a Great Future

By Shawn Gearhart, State Secretary



It is not uncommon to find dedicated, hard working individuals within FFA chapters. This organization is full of young people who go the extra mile. That is exactly what you find with James Kimble, a senior member from the John Glenn FFA chapter. Whether it's working late in the agriculture room or out in the fields or barn, James is one who represents FFA well.

James has a very unique Supervised Agriculture Experiences; he currently works as a general laborer for Shady Lane Farms near his home. The farm specializes in growing mint. He has had an opportunity to learn firsthand about a unique product in Indiana. James became involved through the ICE program at school and ever since, he has taken full advantage of the opportunities to learn.

"James is an easy learner and eager to do whatever we want him too," states Randy Matthis, James' supervisor.

The willingness to learn has proved beneficial for him as well.

"I have gained an understanding of how impor-

tant maintaining machinery is," James says of his SAE.

The value of this experience will not end when he leaves to attend college at Purdue University next fall either. After receiving a degree in Agricultural Education, he plans to become an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.

"When I start teaching I can apply this knowledge that I learned in the classroom"

Along with keeping up his SAE records, James is busy serving as chapter treasurer and District II Vice President. He has competed in Dairy and Forestry CDE. He was awarded the Star Chapter Greenhand as well. Along with being active in the John Glenn FFA Chapter, James is also busy in 4-

H and his church group.

Being involved in FFA and maintaining an SAE has proven to be a great experience for both James and the farm he works for.

Matthis has enjoyed having James on his farm, "James is a great example of an FFA member. He

gets along with others well and has been beneficial".



ST JOSEPH COUNTY FARM BUREAU FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2005	
CENT	686
CLAY	363
GERM	164
DREH	187
WADD	336
	298
	109
	237
	264
	523
	1456
	225
	323
	17
	8242
	100%

STRAIN your Brain

- 1.) 18 H. on a G. C.
Fore, might be a common phrase in an area like this.
- 2.) 12 E. in a D.
I don't have any business with those. I'm a roster!
- 3.) 52 W. in a Y.
About 36 of these are spent in school.
- 4.) 28 D. in F.
I am the shortest of my kind.
- 5.) 10 D. in a P. N. with A. C.
I am used everyday.
- 6.) T. on a U.
I LOVE milk!
- 7.) 4 H. in a S. C.
Dirt is what is underneath you fingernails.
- 8.) 366 D. in a L. Y.
I only come around 25 times a century.
- 9.) 48 S. in the C. U. S.
What about Alaska and Hawaii?
- 10.) 92 C. in I.
You are probably in one of me.
- 11.) 7 S. O. in the I. FFA. A.
These guys and gals are awesome! J
- 12.) 12 D. in I. FFA
We have a great group of officers for each of these in Indiana.
- 13.) 184 C. in I. FFA
You are in one of me!
- 14.) 85% E. in the E. C.
I am driven by all of the State Officers and am boasting a new alternative fuel.
- 15.) 52,000 FFA M. in I. in 2006 for N. C.
This fall is going to be outstanding!

18 holes on a Golf Course*12 Eggs in a Dozen*52 weeks in a Year*28 Days in a February*10 Digits in a Phone Number with Area Code*4 Teats on an Udder*Four Holes in a Soils Contest*366 Days in a Leap Year*48 States in the Continental United States*92 Counties in Indiana*7 State Officers in the Indiana FFA Association*12 Districts in Indiana FFA*184 Chapters in Indiana FFA*85 % Ethanol in the Ethanol Car*52,000 FFA Members in Indiana in 2006 for the National Convention



FFA in Indy

Gearing up for the 79th National FFA Convention

In seven months, a strike of a gavel will open the 2006 National FFA Convention. After seven years in Louisville, Ky., and 71 years in Kansas City, Mo., before that, the convention moves to Indianapolis, Ind. This will be the 79th National FFA Convention, and the National FFA Organization has been working closely with the city of Indianapolis to make the transition smooth, and the convention memorable.

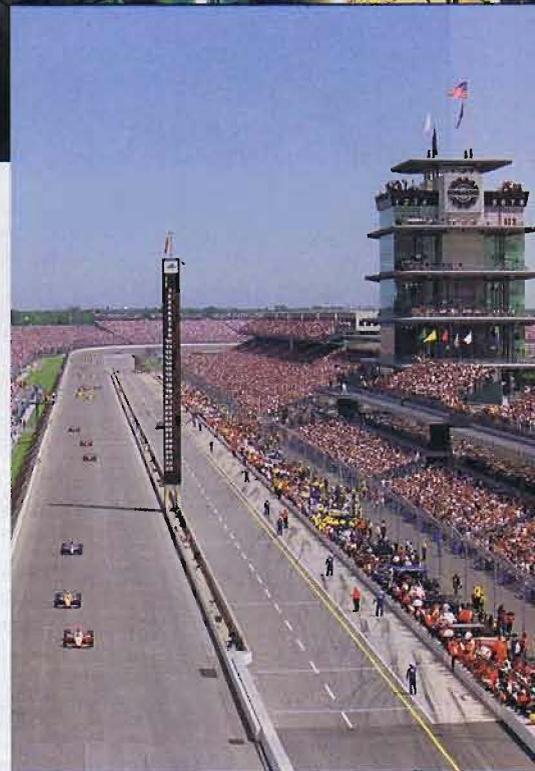
CITY SCENE

Indianapolis, home of the National FFA Center, is the 12th largest city in the nation. It's located 114 miles north of Louisville and is within a day's drive of half the nation's

population. Even though it's a large metropolis, it's easily navigable, with several interstate highways feeding into the city's I-465 loop. The airport, a 10-minute drive from downtown, is served by 19 airlines.

The downtown area, where much of the convention action will take place, is clean, well connected and has ample parking for FFA convention attendees. In addition to skyscrapers and the state capitol building, the downtown area also is home to White River State Park, which features the Indiana State Museum, the Eiteljorg Museum, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Indianapolis Zoo, an outdoor concert venue and a restored urban waterway.

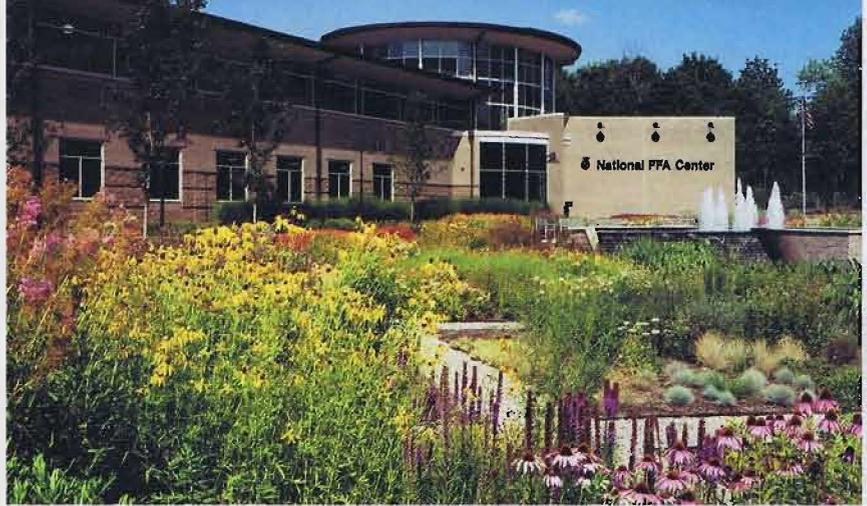
The Indianapolis Motor Speedway ▶



is home to the two largest single-day sporting events in the world—the Indianapolis 500 and the Allstate 400 at the Brickyard. The speedway also is home to the United States' only Formula One race.

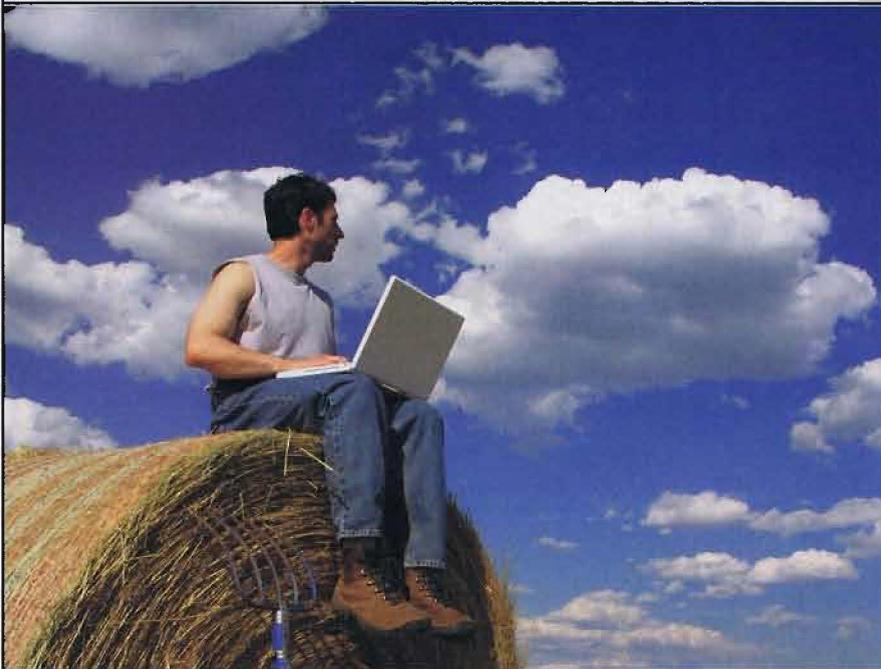
THE CONVENTION FACILITIES

The national FFA convention will utilize the city's top convention facilities, including Conseco Fieldhouse, the home of the Indiana Pacers; and



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the Indiana Convention Center and RCA Dome, a 1.9 million square-foot structure that's one of two facilities in the nation comprising a convention center with an attached domed stadium.

For career development events (CDEs), the convention will use the Indiana State Fairgrounds, which hosts the Indiana State Fair and is one of the largest multi-purpose venues in the country.

The National FFA Center (pictured above), the home of the National FFA Organization, will be open for tours during the convention.

ROOM AND BOARD

FFA and the city have worked out rooming arrangements with 120 area hotels. There will be a variety of price points, locations and brands from which to choose. All FFA hotels are within a 35-minute drive from the convention facilities. Skywalks connect many hotels to the Indiana Convention Center and RCA Dome.

Indianapolis has more than 2,000 restaurants citywide. More than 200 of these are downtown and close to the convention activity. The city's trendy cultural districts—Massachusetts Avenue, Fountain Square, the Wholesale District and Broad Ripple—feature fun dining in unique surroundings. And there's no shortage of your favorite chain restaurants and fast food establishments.

We'll bring you more information about the city and the convention in the next few issues of *FFA New Horizons*. In the meantime you can find more information about the city at indy.org and more information about the convention at ffa.org.



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2006



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2006
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Dates

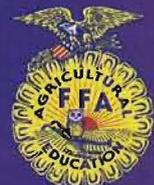
June 6-11	July 11-16
June 13-18	July 18-23
June 20-25	July 25-30
June 27-July 2	

**For conference and registration information
visit www.ffa.org**



Timberland PRO is proud to sponsor the Washington Leadership Conference Service Day again. This marks the third straight year we'll gather with over 2,300 FFA members - all intent on sharpening their leadership skills and using them to serve their communities, fight hunger, and change the world. This year we're expanding our sponsorship with the WLC to a seventh week. Will you be there "Living to Serve"?

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By Erich Gaukel

Potatoes, Pines

A few days with FFA members in Maine



Even though it's the only state that borders only one state (New Hampshire), Maine does have other significant neighbors—the Atlantic Ocean and the Canadian provinces of Québec and New Brunswick. In this land of trees and coastline, there is a strong diversity of agriculture that includes potatoes, blueberries, aquaculture, dairy and maple syrup. It's known as the Pine Tree State, and there's a good reason for that—there are 17 million acres of forestland. That's a \$5.6 billion industry when you include forest-based manufacturing and tourism. Throw in the mountains, the 6,000 lakes and ponds and the 3,500 miles of coastline, and you've got a paradise for people who love the outdoors. That would probably include just about every FFA member in this state.

In fact it didn't take me long to find an FFA member who spoke eloquently about the natural wonders of the state. Just a few hours after leaving Boston early that morning, we met Tamara Koi during our visit to the Sanford Regional Vocational Center in the very southern tip of the state.

"During the winter," she said, "I love to look at the snow as it glitters when the sun just hits it in the

right area. In the foliage season, I'll go out to Vermont and I'll go up to Canada and I'll look around, and there's nothing like here in Maine."

Tamara is among just a handful of active FFA members here. Her FFA advisor, Aaron Stam, is in his second full year and is working hard to rebuild the program. The Sanford area has very little traditional agriculture, so Stam has his students, who come from eight area high schools, involved in landscaping, aquaculture and floral design.

"Mr. Stam is an awesome teacher," said FFA member Evan Hanson. "He lets us explore anything we want to do. I'm into heavy equipment, and he lets me get some hours on the tractor a lot. I can't thank him enough for it."

Evan had recently landed a part-time job at a John Deere dealership. "I work every day after school and one day on the weekend. . . I just clean up the shop, and they have me work on some tractors. They have me mow the front yard and stuff like that."

Between school, work and FFA, Evan is getting exactly the kind of background he'll need to get a good job with one of the many landscaping companies in the Sanford area.

Tamara, another FFA member who takes classes with Evan, has devel-

Eight years ago I set out on a month-long road trip across the United States. I logged more than 10,000 miles and visited FFA members in nearly 30 states. The trip ended in Louisville, Ky., which, at the time, was the new site of the national FFA convention.

Now that the convention is headed for Indianapolis, it seemed like the right time to hit the road again. In planning this next trip, an idea came up to do a story about FFA in Alaska, Puerto Rico, Maine and Hawaii.

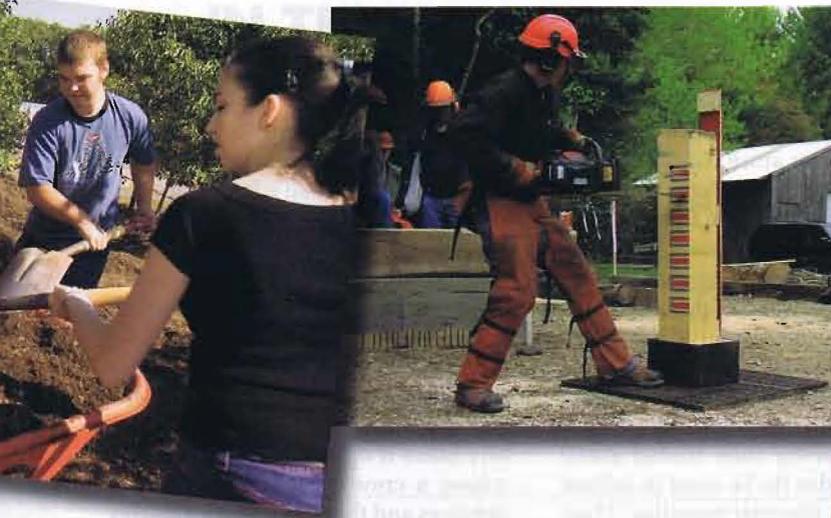
Why those places? I was inspired by a line from the FFA opening ceremonies: "As the flag covers the United States



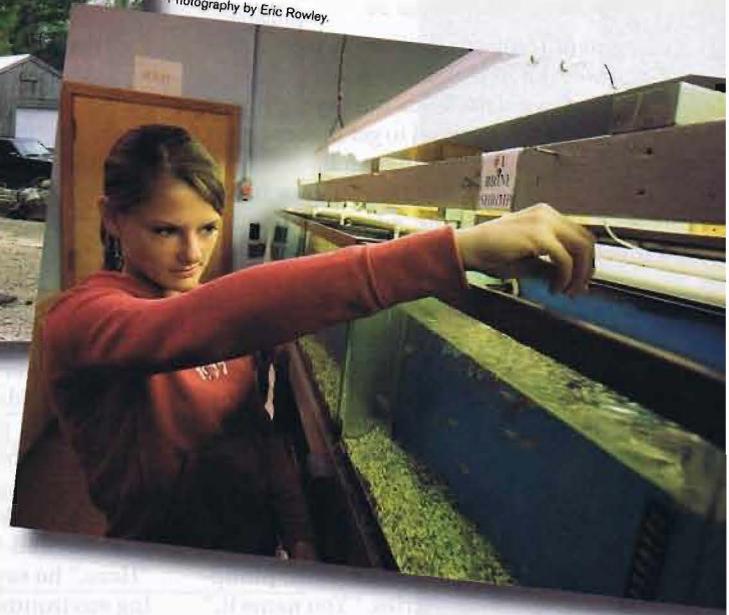
of America, so I strive to inform the people in order that every man, woman and child may know that the FFA is a national organization that reaches from the state of Alaska to Puerto Rico and from the state of Maine to Hawaii."

The story on these pages is the first installment of "FFA: The Four Corners," and it's based on my trip to Maine last October. It's the first of the four trips. In the next few issues, you'll read about FFA members I met in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Erich Gaukel
Editor



Photography by Eric Rowley.



and Pride

oped a completely different career plan. She's always been interested in physical science classes, but Stam's environmental science class opened her eyes to the applications of science: "I might be able to create a new hybrid of plant that could maybe cure a disease."

After a great visit in Sanford, photographer Eric Rowley, State FFA Advisor Doug Robertson and I drove toward the coast for a tour of Bayley Hill Elk & Deer Farm. Manager Nick Richardson agreed to give us a tour. The farm has a herd of around 1,100 animals and, according to Richardson, more elk are inseminated here than at any farm in the world.

An hour later we got back on the highway and headed for Portland, Maine's largest city and the site of an FFA leadership workshop for chapter officers from southern Maine.

PORTLAND

When we arrived, it was clear we weren't the only visitors in town. The *Queen Mary 2* had recently arrived in the harbor, and its passengers had invaded the restaurants and shops in Portland's quaint downtown area. At 1,100 feet long, it's the world's largest passenger ship.

Inland, at the Holiday Inn in West Portland, Mr. Robertson and the three FFA state officers—Matt Turnbull,

Darick Williams and Brandon Marquis—started preparing for the following day's leadership conference for FFA chapter officers.

The next morning, chapter officers and FFA advisors from Portland Arts and Technology High School, Oxford Hills Technical School and Maine Vocational Region 10 arrived.

Matt, Darick and Brandon started things off with an icebreaker where everyone gathered in a circle to learn each others' names. It worked.

Later the state officers used a computer presentation to give the members background about the National FFA Organization and the available opportunities, such as leadership events, scholarships, career development events (CDEs) and the national FFA convention.

Using music, games and other activities, the state officers discussed concepts such as "understanding your purpose" and "building the future." In a team-building activity, the students formed groups, were given a pile of supplies—markers, string, straws, balloons and other objects—and were told to create "garbage art."

It took some sketching, brainstorming and discussion on the students' parts to create three-dimensional artworks out of ordinary objects. But I'll also admit that it took even more creativity for the judges (includ-

ing me, Eric and Rod McCormick, a public affairs specialist from the Maine Department of Agriculture) to evaluate the sculptures.

After the winners were announced, a student named Robert reacted to his team's fourth-place (out of four teams) finish with a laughing protest about his project's low score: "Aw, come on, that was ingenious!"

After the daylong workshop, Eric and I got on the highway and headed north to visit FFA members in Aroostook County (locals just call it "The County"), which takes up the northernmost part of the state.

THE COUNTY

After a late-night arrival in Presque Isle, we caught a few hours of sleep, then got up and ate breakfast. Aaron Buzza, Presque Isle FFA Chapter advisor, met us at the hotel, and we set out for the school farm.

As it turned out, the school farm was the only place at school where we were able to find any students at all. Schools in the region were in the midst of a three-week break so that students could help with the potato harvest, which was in full swing.

Some students were out working on potato harvesters or in potato houses (the potato storage facilities); others were working at the school farm or other jobs. For Chapter Presi- ▶

Continued from page 21

dent Danielle Hotham, a senior, this was the first year she wasn't working in the potato fields during the break. Instead, she opted to get in some extra hours at her part-time job.

Chapter Treasurer Paul Deschaine, a junior, said he was spending the entire three weeks working at the school farm. "We grow many crops," he explained. "Our big thing right now is our apple orchard and apple cider house. . . . We also do a lot of strawberries. We broke our record this year, with more than 15,000 boxes."

The 38-acre school farm also includes a structure housing a farm store, storage, offices and equipment. Ten acres of apple trees share the land with spinach, potatoes, corn, pumpkins and strawberries. "You name it," Buzza explained, "we grow it."

The chapter sells its bounty, both in raw form and in value-added products, such as apple cider, pies and jams. Customers stop by the farm's store to shop, but they can also go to local stores that purchase produce directly from the school. As we toured the school store, we met Laurie

Corrivau from Graves Shop 'N Save, a local grocery store. She buys the school farm's produce and sells it in her store. "Everybody in the area likes to buy local stuff," she said, "and [the school's] stuff is high quality."

In the cider house, designed and built by the school's building trades students, a 545-gallon tank keeps students busy bottling apple cider. They recently made a deal with the school district whereby they traded small bottles of cider (to be used in school lunches) for piecrust supplies. Then they baked pies, which they sold in their store.

Nick Weeks, the chapter reporter, has worked here for three years. "Here," he says, "it's more of a learning environment than a real job."

POTATOES

Later in the day, we met some FFA members working in the potato fields. Maine, it should be noted, is among the top 10 potato growing states, and the bulk of the production comes from this region.

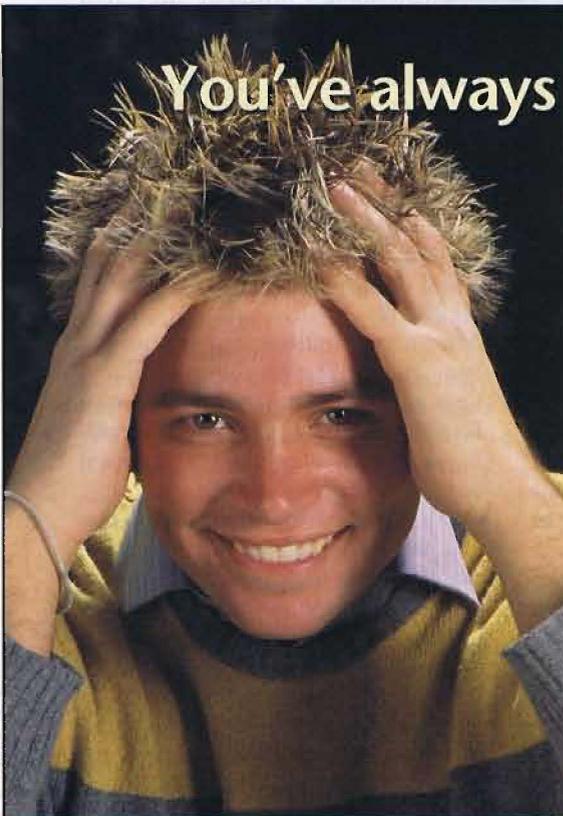
We met Charley Chandler, a mem-

ber of the Washburn FFA Chapter, as she worked atop a huge potato harvester on her dad's farm. The harvester is an amazingly large, complex and potentially dangerous machine. It comes in two forms—either as an all-in-one machine or as an implement pulled behind a tractor.

The harvester lifts the potatoes onto perforated belts, which sift out the soil. The potatoes eventually make it up to a sorting platform, where a crew removes debris, bad potatoes and the pesky rocks. Charley was part of one of these crews.

The belts carrying the potatoes and rocks move by quickly. Charley sorted frantically. The rocks, nearly as large as the potatoes, had to be discarded before plunging with potatoes into the truck moving alongside.

Up on the platform, it was loud, it was dirty, and large rocks flew in all directions. Charley, her FFA sweatshirt caked with mud, didn't seem to mind. Maybe that's because she got out of school for a few weeks to work alongside her dad on this pleasant October afternoon. ●



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WHAT'S HOT

Here's how you voted in our most recent poll.

TOP 5 SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE (SAE) PROGRAMS

outdoor recreation
swine production
dairy production
sheep production
turf grass management

TOP 5 AG CAREERS

veterinarian
farmer/rancher
agricultural mechanic
agriculture teacher
welder

TOP 5 FFA CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS (CDES)

livestock evaluation
horse evaluation
public speaking
agricultural mechanics
meats evaluation

TOP 5 FFA CHAPTER EVENTS

chapter meetings
donkey basketball
ffa conventions
opening and closing ceremonies
banquets

TOP 5 TV SHOWS

the family guy
the simpsons
csi
laguna beach
the oc

TOP 5 MOVIES

friday night lights
the longest yard
fast and furious movies
joe dirt
coach carter

TOP 5 FOODS

pizza
mexican
steak
chinese
chicken

TOP 5 STORES

american eagle
wal-mart
hot topic
hollister
abercrombie & fitch

TOP 5 COUNTRY MUSIC ACTS

kenny chesney
tim mcgraw
big & rich
toby keith
rascal flats

TOP 5 ROCK MUSIC ACTS

ac/dc
green day
usher
nickelback
fall out boy

TOP 5 BOOKS

harry potter books
a child called it
the notebook
the bible
to kill a mockingbird

What's Hot Survey

If you won a free flight to any country, where would you go? _____

What's the most important issue facing U.S. agriculture? _____

Who's the most influential woman in U.S. history? _____

Who's the most influential man in U.S. history? _____

If you had to pick your career today, what would it be? _____

What's your FFA chapter's best fundraiser? _____

What's the best movie you've seen lately? _____

What's the best part of being an FFA member? _____

What's your favorite type of car or truck (make, model)? _____

What's your preferred style of music? _____

What's your all-time favorite pizza topping? _____

Send completed surveys to:

What's Hot

FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960

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

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

Charter Oak-Ute FFA Iowa
Galt FFA California
Tulare FFA California
Hilmar FFA California
Fulton County FFA Kentucky
Woodbury FFA Connecticut

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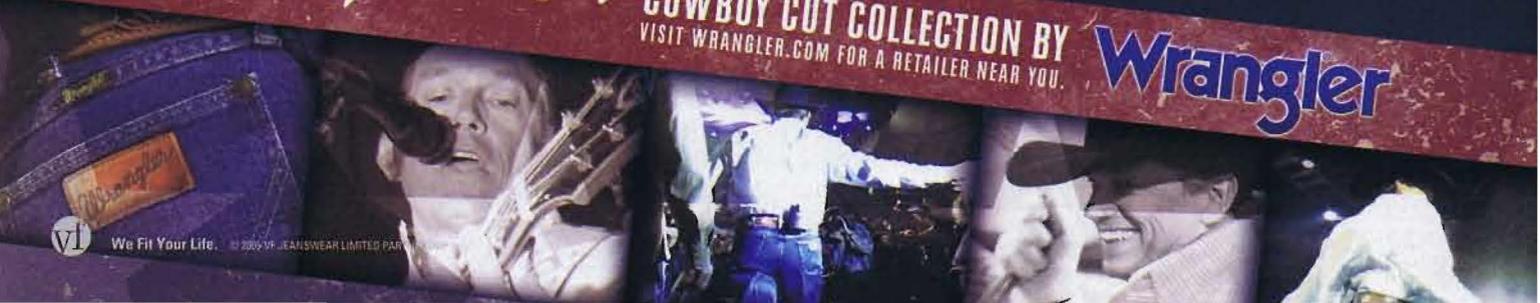


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Your Money

Tips for building your financial standing

It's not the first business to set up shop in Winfield, Kansas, but Stonework Stones can lay claim to this: Without a doubt, it's the only company in town that has as its headquarters the Ag-Business and Leadership class at Winfield High School.

Stonework Stones, created last fall for an assignment and run by all 20 students in the class, sells custom-designed engraved and painted stones. To place an order, customers stop by the school's agriculture building, call in or just fill out an order form on the class's website. Customers can specify what size stone they would like; the lettering, message or picture to be etched into the stone; and any color preferences they might have. When the stone is ready, a customer comes to the school and picks it up. From the customer's end, it seems easy. And it's affordable: \$10, \$12 or \$15 for a small, medium or large stone; 50 cents per square inch for letters and pictures; plus the price of paint.

An average stone, according to John Kielhorn, a senior who serves as leader of the company design team, sells for \$35 to \$40. "They're fairly cheap compared to what the professionals in the industry are offering. But we're not trying to put anybody out of business. It's meant to be a learning experience. To see what it's like to work in the real world."

CRUNCHING NUMBERS

Most businesses require start-up money, and Stonework Stones is no exception. The students could have used class funds to meet their needs, but decided against it. Instead, explained AnnHeidi Reed, a sophomore who began as the chief executive officer but recently moved to design, they applied for a loan from their FFA chapter's alumni group.

Knowing they would need money

Rock Solid

FFA chapter builds business—
one stone at a time

By Chris Hayhurst



to buy two rock-carving routers, paint, brushes, carbon paper and other supplies, they presented their plan at an alumni meeting. When they were done, they asked to borrow \$300. "They gave us the loan," said AnnHeidi, who works under John, "and they asked us to pay it back over six months at \$50 per month."

MONEY IN THE BANK

As it turns out, paying back the loan was easier than anticipated. With the business rolling, and money coming

in, the class paid \$50 in November, then got ahead with a \$100 payment in December. On February 2, eager to pay the loan off early, they gave the alumni a check for \$150, leaving \$96 in their account. And about that account: It's managed by the school district, as school policy prevents the class from opening its own business account. For money to enter or exit the account, students must go through the district office first. "It's a pain," admitted FFA Advisor Chad Epler. "But I think everyone understands that in this world, if you want to get ahead, sometimes you have to jump through a few hoops."

To simplify things, Stonework Stones established lines of credit at the local stores it uses most often for supplies. "If a student finds he needs to pay out of pocket for anything," Epler explained, "he just keeps his receipts, turns them in, and the district office cuts him a check."

FUTURE PROFITS

While the \$96 the company holds may not seem much, the number is misleading. Thanks to creative marketing and word-of-mouth advertising, the orders keep coming in, and with down payments of \$10 per stone, Stonework Stones is well positioned for profit. There are supplies to buy—new paper, receipt books, bits for the routers—but the rocks are donated by a generous local business.

With continued good budgeting, teamwork and an eye on deadlines, said paint team leader Meg Drake, the company seems bound to succeed. "It can be stressful when you get a rock that comes from carving and they say, 'Oh, by the way, this has to be done today,'" Meg said. "But it's usually okay. We just get right on it and we get it done." ●

You can visit the Winfield FFA Chapter's website and its online store at usd465.com/winfieldaged.



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The FFA experience, as told by FFA members, in their own words

Hard work pays off

An FFA member reflects on the relationship between effort and reward

By **Tabatha Webb**, a member of Oklahoma's Vanoss FFA Chapter

In the beginning, when I first started, it was hard. Between the late nights and early mornings, I would pray for just a few more hours in the day. Fighting steers and wrestling pigs day after day can be trying. But when you climb into bed, you sleep through the night until the sun rises.

When you enter the show ring after weeks or months of hard work, that's when you know everything you've done and everything you've been through is worth the ribbon you're handed. It doesn't matter if it's first or seventh place, because the happiness that comes from the work and the new friends you've made are worth more than the recognition.

My faith in this organization has come from my experiences. I believe I would not be who I am if it weren't for my hard work and the skills I have learned while in FFA under the advisement of my agriculture teacher, Mr. Clay Young. ●

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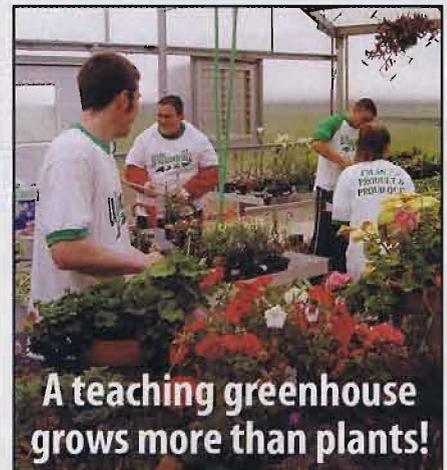
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LAST LAFF

Q: Why was the plumber so tired?

A: He was drained.

Corey Barnes
Emporia, Virginia

Q: Why does a milking stool have only three legs?

A: The cow has the udder.

Justin Newman
Heber Springs, Arkansas

Knock knock.

Who's there?

Butter.

Butter, who?

Butter let me in or I'll melt.

Leanna DeJong
Bonanza, Oregon

Q: Where did the sheep get its haircut?

A: At the ba-ba shop.

Brent Fleming
Overton, Texas

Q: What are a horse's favorite numbers?

A: Neigh-gatives.

Nina Beck
Manila, Utah

The Agrinuts

By Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



Q: What dance does the celery stick like to do?

A: The stalk.

Josh Moreland
Claremore, Oklahoma

Q: You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?

A: An ear of corn.

Jamie Solberg
Preston, Minnesota

Q: What do space cats drink out of?

A: Flying saucers

Andrew Van Genderen
Cary, North Carolina

Q: Where does the fish keep its money?

A: In the riverbank.

Jessica Bergan
Peterson, Minnesota

Q: What do fish fear about the Internet?

A: Getting caught in the Net.

Melissa McEnany
Nevada, Iowa

Q: What weighs most on a fish?

A: The scales.

Myriah Morris
Gallatin, Tennessee

Q: What do a band and a chicken have in common?

A: They both have drumsticks.

Monica Lourenco
Hilmar, California

Q: Why don't skeletons play music in church?

A: They don't have organs.

Lisa Matthies
Interlachen, Florida

Q: What do you call a fly with no wings?

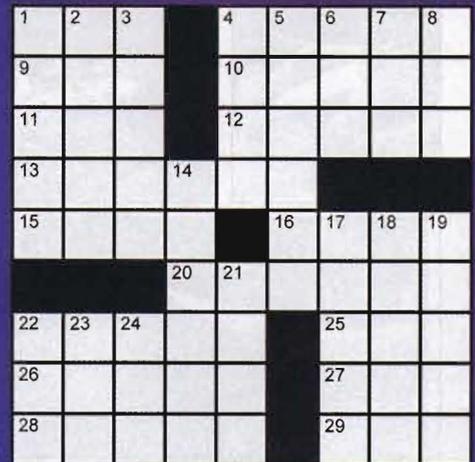
A: A walk.

Adam Hodges
Tamm, Illinois

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

Puzzler

by Matt Gaffney



ACROSS

- 4th-year high school students: abbr.
- Pile, as of note cards
- Welcome ___ (item on your doorstep)
- Cartoon strip "Broom ___"
- State where the Preston FFA holds its annual Napoleon Dynamite Days: abbr.
- Stares
- The wood industry, which the Northwestern FFA Chapter learned about on a trip to a sawmill
- Wish
- Popular pet food brand
- South Dakota hometown of Jessie Geib, FFA National Secretary
- "How are you today, ___?" (father's words to his son)
- "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" character
- State Erich Gaukel visited on his "FFA: The Four Corners" trip
- Item collected by the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter
- Napoleon Event Committee member ___ Porter
- Shout at a bullfight

DOWN

- Napoleon Event Committee member Skyler ___
 - You might listen to it while you do homework
 - It gets licked and put on a letter
 - It goes over your sock
 - One of two rivers Barry Rinehart saw in Iraq
 - Every last bit
 - Career development event: abbr.
 - "___ in 'Kimberley'" (sentence used while spelling a word over the phone)
 - "Let's just ___ with it!" ("Hurry up!"):
2 wds.
 - Brand of gas station
 - Gold, silver or bronze, at the Olympics
 - Napoleon Event Committee member Jake ___
 - Body parts you use to look at things
 - "This tastes good!"
 - "Yippee!!!"
 - "The Family Circus" cartoonist ___ Keane
- Several clues are based on stories in this magazine. See solution on page 28.

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FFA Across the USA

Dispatches from FFA chapters across the nation

Texas Back in the saddle

The Forestburg FFA is working its way back to the top. After membership dwindled to eight two years ago, things turned around with a new agriculture teacher and a subsequent increase in motivation among the students. The school of 60 students now boasts 45 FFA members.

Reporting by Kristy Judd, Forestburg FFA Chapter advisor.



Ohio Timber!

In Springfield, FFA members in Northwestern High School's wood technology and agricultural production classes took a field trip to learn about the timber and logging industries. Bryan Forbes, logging company owner, and Mike Moore, a local timber harvester, provided instruction for the students, who learned about tree harvesting and log-grading. They watched loggers cut down a tree that was more than 100 feet tall and 40 inches in diameter. The classes then traveled to an Amish sawmill to observe the milling of trees they had seen harvested earlier in the day. The mill turned the trees into lumber that would later be used to make pallets. In the third leg of the field trip, the students went to Wooster Memorial Park, where they identified trees and measured board footage.

Reporting by Dan Fulk, Northwestern FFA Chapter advisor



Iowa Can drive successful

To fulfill the FFA motto "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve," the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter held a canned food drive in association with the Fairbank and Readlyn elementary schools and the Community Lutheran School. The grades competed against each other to see which could collect the most cans. The winning class at each school won ice cream treats provided by FFA members. The drive yielded 566 cans and boxes of food that were later donated to food pantries.

Reporting by the Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter



Utah Roadside cleanup

In November, Manila FFA Chapter members teamed up to clean up more than two miles of highway. Some interesting items were found, including the pirate flag shown in the photo. Members were slightly disappointed to not have found money, as they have in previous years. Although the weather outside was on the cold side, it was a great way to help out the community, and it proved to be a great FFA chapter get-together. They encourage other FFA chapters to give it a try. Reporting by Ashley Straatman, Manila FFA Chapter reporter, and Kodee Schell, chapter historian.



What's happening in your FFA chapter?
Send your news, along with a photo, to:
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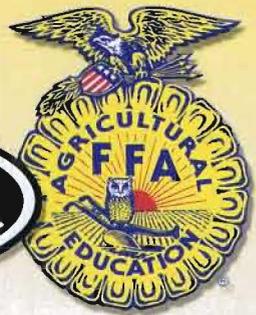
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