

new horizons

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

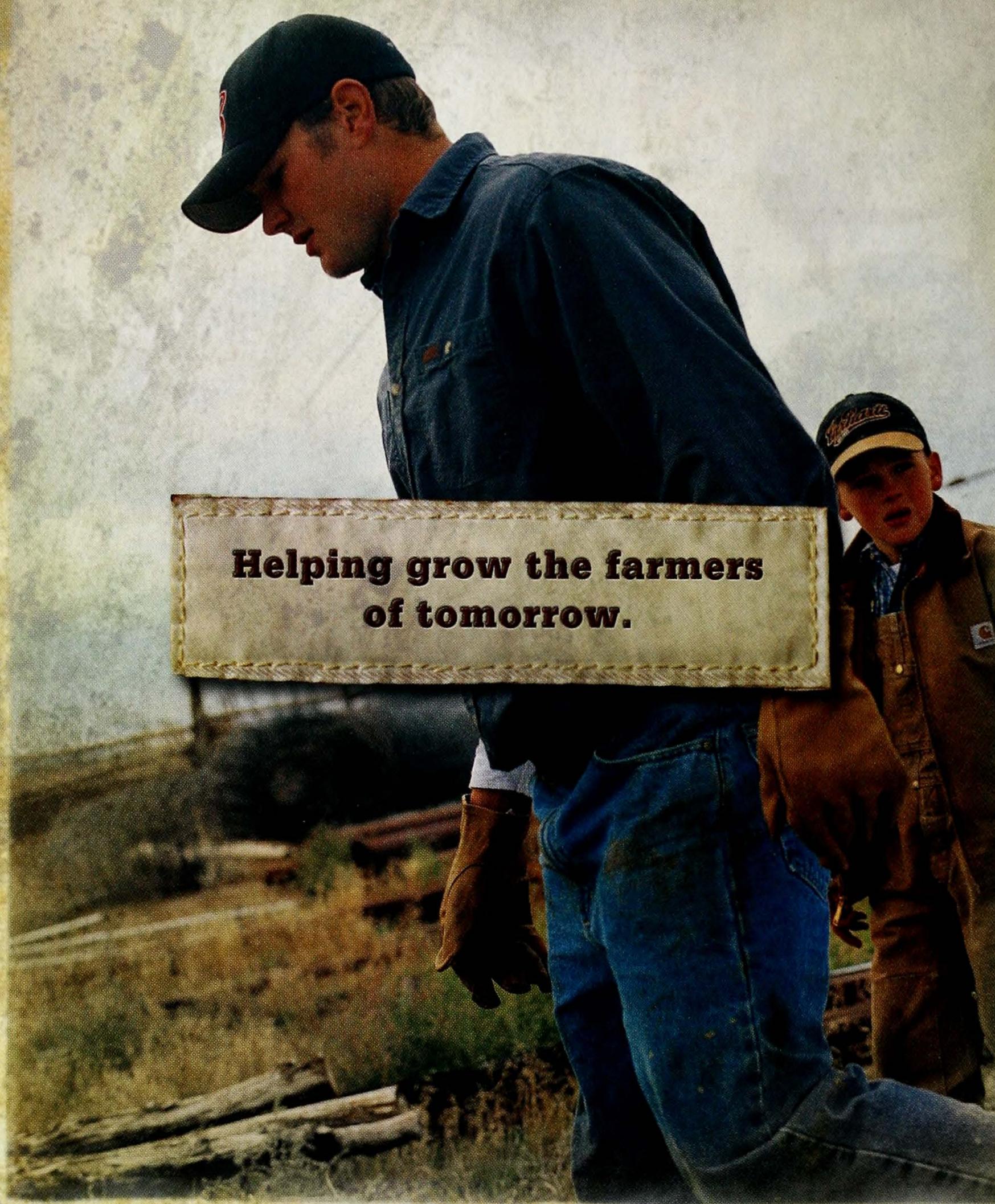
MARCH/APRIL 2004



A Matter of Degrees

BROTHERS' AMERICAN FFA DEGREES PUT ON HOLD BY CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

12



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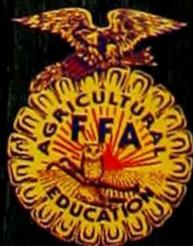
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New Horizons (ISSN 1069-806X) is published six times a year by Farm Progress Companies Inc. on behalf of the National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Periodical postage rate is paid at Indianapolis, IN and additional mail offices.

POSTMASTER: Address all correspondence to: *New Horizons*, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

SUBSCRIPTION: Non-FFA member rate: \$6 for one year in U.S. and possessions. FFA member rate: \$2.00 for one year (paid with dues). Single copy: \$2.00, or \$1.25 each for five or more. Foreign addresses: \$8.

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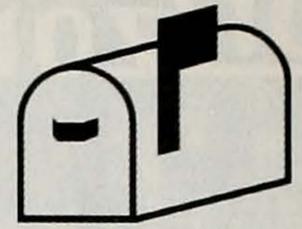
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ffa faces

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Chevy Trucks, sponsor of FFA Faces, will give each FFA member and advisor featured on this page a heavy-duty Chevy Trucks backpack. To nominate yourself, a friend or your advisor, mail us a letter that includes the following information about your nominee: date of birth, grade, address, phone number, FFA and academic achievements, extracurricular activities and any other information that makes the nominee worthy of inclusion. All submissions must include a color photograph of the nominee.



WISCONSIN



Michelle Wozniak

An FFA member since eighth grade, Michelle (now a freshman) works at two dairy farms for her SAE program. She loves it, she says, "because it is a great experience and I like working with all the animals." This FFA chapter secretary also has attended an FFA leadership retreat, participated in the FFA quiz bowl and takes part in a highway cleanup project.

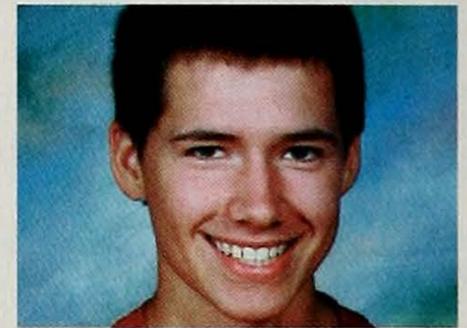
TEXAS



Jonathan Mitchell

This Dayton FFA Chapter vice president is a member of the livestock judging team and the agricultural issues leadership team. Jonathan, also an active leader in 4-H, shows heifers, steers and swine. A junior in high school, Jonathan is already looking ahead to attending Sam Houston University on his way to a successful career in agriculture.

NORTH DAKOTA



Griffin Gessner

This honor roll student joined FFA in the seventh grade. Now a sophomore, he enjoys raising and showing chickens, guinea hens, pheasants, quail and bantam ducks. A member of the Westhope/Newburg FFA Chapter, Griffin's poultry judging team recently took second place in the state. He also shows poultry in local showmanship clinics.

PENNSYLVANIA



Tyler Rice

A sophomore member of the Middleburg FFA Chapter, Tyler's SAE program includes dairy herd, dairy beef steer, vegetable production and on-farm work experience. He has served as a chairman of the dairy judging team and a member of the state demonstration team. Tyler enjoys playing guitar and showing animals at the fair.

KENTUCKY



Angie Vaske

This Ryle FFA Chapter president's career goal is pretty clear—to become an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. To achieve her goal, she will attend the University of Kentucky after graduating this year. Angie lives on a family farm and works at her family vegetable stand. Her SAE program includes swine, hay, tobacco, vegetables and beef cattle.

WASHINGTON



Brittany Komm

Before starting her career as an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Brittany wants to achieve a lofty goal—to fly F-14 Tomcats in the United States Navy. In the meantime, she is finishing high school, where she currently serves as vice president for the Eastmont FFA Chapter. Brittany participates in many CDEs, fundraisers and community development projects.

COLORADO



Mr. Allen Charles (FFA ADVISOR)

After 16 years on the job, Mr. Charles is considered a "wise owl" at the Arickaree FFA Chapter. His students say he is a caring person and that he makes sure every student learns something in agriculture—and has fun while doing it. The Arickaree students say Mr. Charles has led many students to success with their SAEs and CDEs. For that, they're thankful.



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q & a

NATIONAL OFFICER Q&A

Stacia Berry National Secretary

timeline

AGE

- 15 • JOINED FFA
• STARTED SAE (BREEDING BEEF AND MARKET BEEF PRODUCTION)
• WON STATE FFA CREED COMPETITION
- 16 • RECEIVED BRONZE EMBLEM AT NATIONAL FFA CREED COMPETITION
• ELECTED FFA CHAPTER REPORTER
• MEMBER OF FFA STATE CHAMPION PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TEAM
• MEMBER OF FFA NATIONAL CHAMPION PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TEAM
- 17 • FFA STATE CHAMPION EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKER
• FFA STATE CHAMPION AGRICULTURAL SALES COMPETITION
• FFA STATE CHAMPION POULTRY COMPETITION
• ELECTED FFA CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT
• THIRD PLACE TEAM IN FFA NATIONAL POULTRY EVALUATION COMPETITION
• FIFTH PLACE HIGH INDIVIDUAL IN FFA NATIONAL POULTRY EVALUATION COMPETITION
- 18 • FFA STATE CHAMPION PREPARED SPEAKER
• FFA STATE CHAMPION EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKER
• ELECTED FFA STATE PRESIDENT
• FFA NATIONAL CHAMPION EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKER
- 19 • ELECTED FFA NATIONAL SECRETARY

How has FFA helped shape your view of the world?
FFA has helped open my eyes to the many opportunities that are available to students in every aspect of the organization. I found that I could travel, compete and experience agriculture, education and community service. I love knowing the possibilities for personal growth are endless.

How did you learn to become a leader?
Leadership is a quality that every individual possesses. I simply develop my leadership skills by approaching each situation with a positive attitude and giving my personal best effort.

Did your SAE influence your college major and career plans?

In my family, agriculture is our way of life. I was raised around Hereford cattle and have a true love for them. This inborn fondness has definitely led me toward my chosen career in the agricultural industry.

Who are the most influential people in your life?

My parents. They have been incredibly supportive through the good times and the bad. I am so thankful that I can rely on their wisdom and guidance in trying times.

Do you ever set goals?
Constantly. I set goals every day of all sizes. Anything from how much work I want to get done each day, all the way up to goals for my future career.

Describe agriculture in Wyoming.

Wyoming is sheep and cattle country. It's sparsely populated with extreme weather, climate and land. There are actually more antelope and cattle in the state than there are people.

Do you have any talents we don't know about?

I started to play the violin in the second grade and still enjoy playing it to this day.

What are three important things you have learned in your lifetime?

I have learned many lessons throughout my short life, but three that I find to be very important are 1) Humility: learning to be humble, 2) Servitude: success and gifts are much sweeter when shared and given and 3) Honesty: it is the best policy. ★



vitals

Hometown: Cheyenne, Wyoming

Age: 20

Chapter: Cheyenne FFA

Advisor: Ty Berry and Tommy Cress

SAE: Market and breeding beef production, market swine

Education: Sophomore, University of Wyoming

Major: Animal science

Favorite band: Rascal Flatts

Last good book I've read: The Purpose Driven Life

Favorite cereal: Oatmeal Raisin Crisp

Favorite food: Eggs

Best movie I've seen lately: Finding Nemo

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A Matter of Degrees

When they were nine years old, twin brothers Jonathan and Jacob Poganski started learning the basics of forestry from their grandfather, who worked for the forest service. Living on an acreage in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in northern California, the boys learned how to clear brush and keep undergrowth under control—a practice employed to help prevent property damage from fires.

When they got to high school, their friend Brian joined the local fire department. “He was telling us about it, and we said we’ve give it a shot,” Jonathan explained. At the time, the brothers were already fully engaged in FFA. They were serving as Auburn-Placer FFA Chapter officers and had begun supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs—a jointly operated landscaping and yard maintenance business.

Today, the brothers still maintain the business to supplement their income while they finish their education, which includes emergency medical, hazardous materials and fire command training.

A CHANGE OF PLANS

Last October, Jacob and Jonathan were just a few days away from an upcoming trip to the 2003 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, where they were to receive their American FFA Degrees—the highest level of membership FFA members can achieve.

But hundreds of miles to the



south, a series of fires was quickly spreading out of control. “When we first got the call,” Jacob explained, “it was about 9:30 on a Saturday night and we had just finished making dinner at the fire station.”

“Our chief asked us if we wanted to go,” Jonathan said, “and we told him yes.” So, that night, firefighters from around the county manned five engines and drove through the night, knowing there was trouble ahead, but unaware of just how dangerous the conditions had become.

“It was unlike any fire we’ve ever seen. Just the sheer size of it was a challenge in itself. People’s houses were burning. And the fire was burning 10,000 acres per hour. And that’s something we just don’t experience here in northern California,” Jacob said. “The largest fire that we’ve been on here,” he admitted, “is maybe 2,000 acres.”

When they arrived on the outskirts of Los Angeles, they immediately set to work on structure protection and defensive fire operations. “And we did

that solid for the first day," Jacob explained. "Then at about 12 o'clock that night was when we first got sleep. So we'd been operating for 28 hours straight. The next morning, once we had gotten rest, at about 8 o'clock we were reassigned to the line."

Jacob's and Jonathan's group focused on the fire in Simi Valley. For a week, Jacob and Jonathan fought to protect homes and other structures.

Because their engine had ability to "pump and roll" (pump water while it's being driven), they were frequently called upon to protect crews operating near hot spots.

AN HISTORIC TOWN SAVED

Early in the week, they were called to Mentryville, a 125-year-old historic oil town located inside a wooded state park. That job turned out to be one of the more dangerous situations for the firefighters involved, because while they fought to preserve the historic structures, the fire surrounded them on all sides. Some had to fight their

DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, JACOB AND JONATHAN TAKE EMERGENCY TRAINING CLASSES. THEY FIND TIME FOR HOMEWORK DURING DOWNTIME AT THE FIREHOUSE.



WHEN THEY'RE NOT ON THE JOB AS FIREFIGHTERS/EMT'S THE POGANSKI BROTHERS RUN THEIR OWN LANDSCAPING AND YARD MAINTENANCE BUSINESS.

way back out of the fire.

"There was one distinct time where we knew we had to get out of there, or else," Jacob said. "We made the decision to jump in the engines and drive as fast as we could out of the area. A lot of that is based on our training and our ability to recognize when the situation is so bad that you either need to leave or deploy the fire shelters."

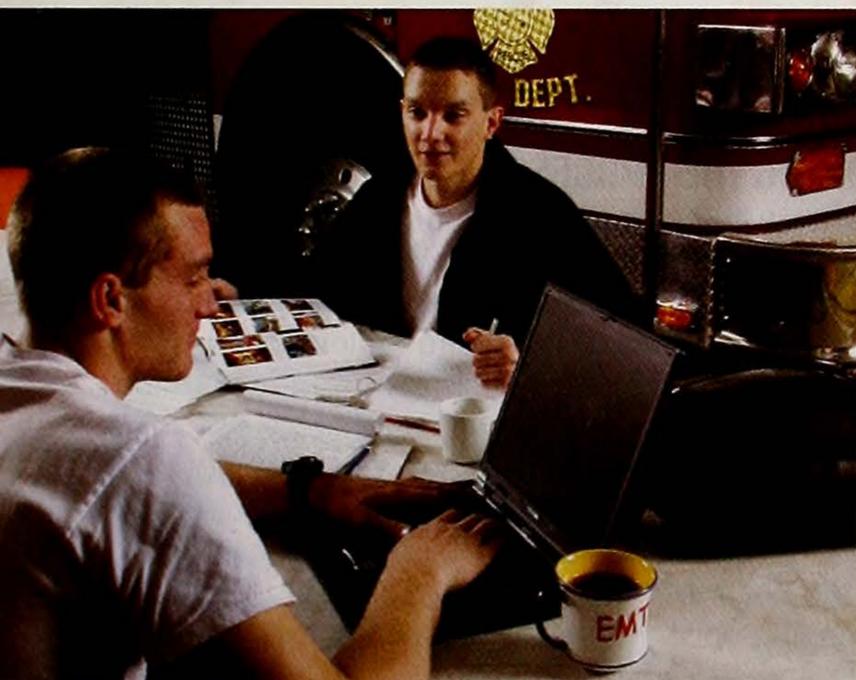
That ability to make survival

decisions wasn't helped by the sleep situation. Shut-eye proved to be scarce. When they did get a chance to rest, they had to curl up on the ground in a park or other area not directly in the path of a fire.

By the end of the week, it became clear to Jacob and Jonathan that they were not going to make it home in time for their flights to Louisville and the American FFA Degree ceremony. But they didn't lose any sleep over it. They were just glad to see cooler and wetter weather moving in, which was helping put the brakes on the fires that had consumed over 700,000 acres, destroyed 3,500 homes and left at least 16 people dead.

By making the trip to Los Angeles instead of Louisville, they knew they would become better firefighters. And, as Jonathan explained, they had to put others' interests ahead of their own. "We figured it was better to protect the citizens and their houses. We can always go and get the degrees later—for us, we still got the achievement. We didn't want to do things for ourselves. It's more about doing things for the community and being able to help and protect them."

Jacob and Jonathan have already made plans to attend the 2004 National FFA Convention, where they will belatedly receive their American FFA Degrees. ★



JEANS. ONLY TOUGHER.




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To the untrained eye, it was nothing but an awkward heap of ancient, rusting metal. It lacked tires. The engine was useless. Mountainous boils of rust had consumed the paint. It belonged in an equipment salvage yard.

Tabetha Salsbury, a 15-year-old member of the Pueblo County FFA, took one hard look at the tractor—a 1935 John Deere B plucked from a ranch by her grandfather—and saw a world of potential.

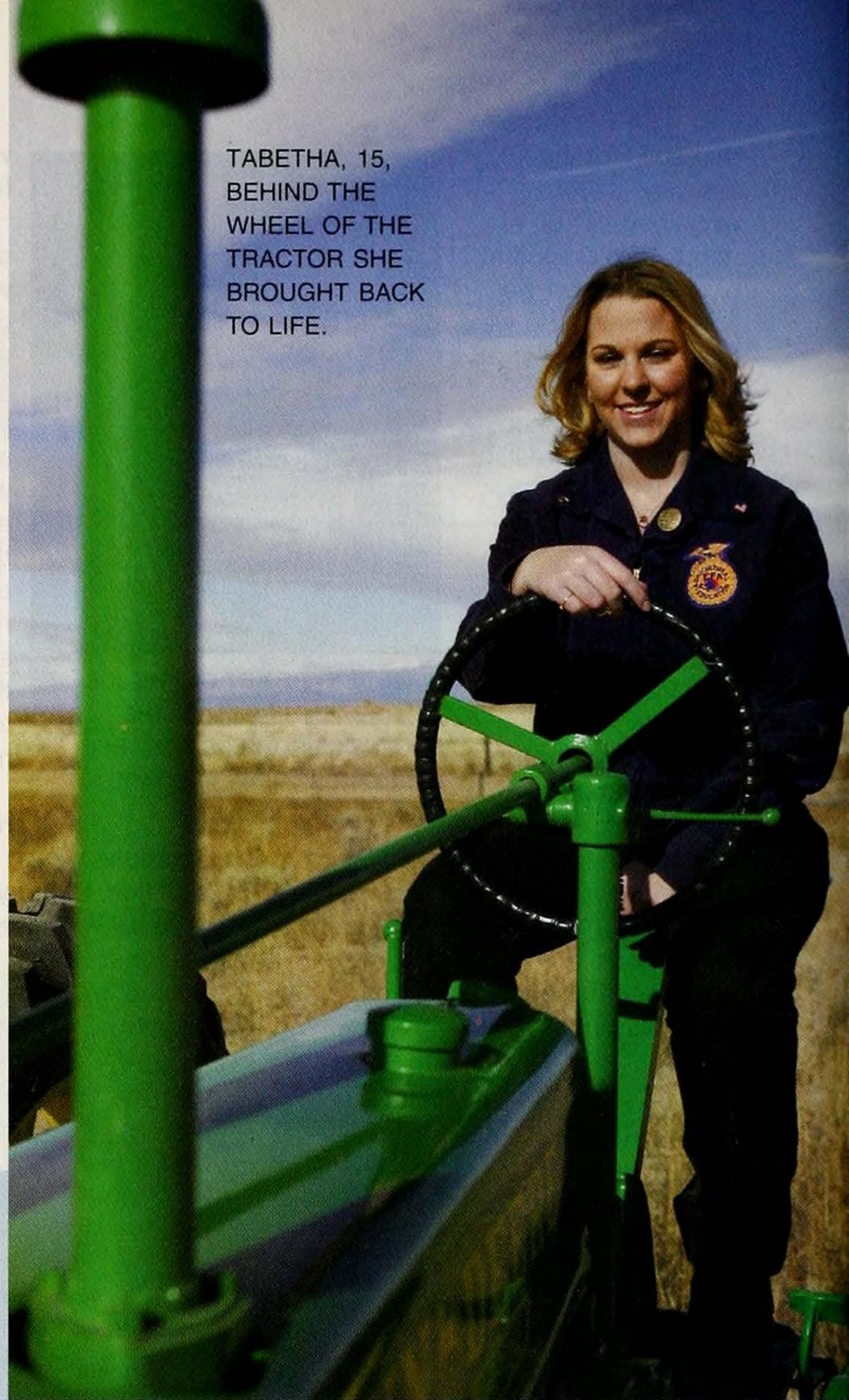
With a little imagination, she could see—and hear—the dilapidated engine roaring back to life. And finally, in this almost 70-year-old pile of scrap long left for dead, Tabetha saw a challenge: A chance to enter Chevron's annual tractor restoration competition for FFA members.

SUMMER 2003

In Pueblo, Colorado, temperatures climb into the 90s almost daily. People move slowly, methodically, as if their survival requires it. In the Salsbury family workshop, however, one girl put her nose to the grindstone. "I kept telling myself, I can do this," Tabetha recalled.

"I learned to keep going when it seemed there would be no end. I learned to say no to going out with my friends. I only went out once all summer."

By all accounts, the restoration itself was a heroic endeavor. Parts were broken. Parts were missing. Everything cost sweat and money. And despite the fact Tabetha clearly had an inherited talent to get the job done (her father and grandfather restored tractors for a living, and her sister, Tanya, took second overall in the competition the year before), there were times when even finishing the



TABETHA, 15, BEHIND THE WHEEL OF THE TRACTOR SHE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.

She

Tabetha Salsbury becomes the first female winner of a national tractor restoration competition for FFA members

did it

By Chris Hayhurst

Photography by Tim Tucker

project seemed like a long shot. "I just kept my hopes high from the start," Tabetha said. "I had a positive attitude the whole time."

Throughout the process, Tabetha did the work herself. Under the watchful eye of her father, she took the tractor apart, piece by piece. She then sandblasted everything, teasing the rust away to reveal the polished metal beneath. She welded broken parts back together.

She did whatever she could to find replacements for missing parts, sometimes travelling hundreds of miles to find the right one. If she failed to find a suitable replacement, she built it herself. She took front tires from her mother's tractor, received a generous donation of paint and got a little financial help from Mom, Dad and Grandpa.

DOCUMENTING THE PROCESS

In accordance with competition rules, Tabetha kept a meticulous record of her work. She photographed every step along the way. She maintained an official journal detailing the ins and outs of the entire restoration—everything from engine and transmission overhauls to the evolution of the tractor's external appearance.

When Tabetha finished, several hundred laborious hours later, she stood before a gem—a gleaming, purring, 3,000-pound green and yellow machine that looked as though it had just rolled off the Deere assembly line. With summer winding down, Tabetha focused her energy on the competition and its \$2,500 grand prize.

The competition, not surprisingly, turned out to be tough. At the start, there were more than 50 entries from around the country. Most of those who entered were male. Among those vying for individual honors (a separate competition was held for FFA chapters), Tabetha is the only female who entered the race.

Chevron gradually narrowed the individual pool to 10 finalists, all of whom would be invited to the 2003 National FFA Convention. There, they would present their project to a panel of judges. Tabetha, with her 1935 John Deere B, made the cut.

"When I was chosen as a finalist," Tabetha said, "I told myself no matter what happened next, I'd be happy. Along with the other finalists, Tabetha traveled to Louisville, Kentucky. Standing before the judges, she delivered a 20-minute oral presentation. With her tractor back at home, she relied on her photos and documentation to tell the story.

THE PAYOFF

Kurt Schulte, who manages the competition for ChevronTexaco, remembered Tabetha's presentation vividly: "She's very articulate and well spoken," Schulte said. "She has a wonderful personality. You could see it through her project and also see the incredible hard work she put into it."

After the presentations, the finalists had to wait two days for the results. Then, at the awards luncheon, the announcement was made. "At first they announced the runners up," Tabetha recalled. "I figured I just didn't place. Then they said I was the winner. I couldn't believe it."

Before long the word had spread. Tabetha Salsbury, now \$2,500 richer, was the first-ever female winner of the individual competition. Back in Pueblo, before Tabetha could even leave Louisville, her high school principal gave the news to the school over the intercom. When she returned, the school held a special assembly in her honor. And the tractor—the fruit of her long and arduous summer—had a prime parking spot, just outside the school's front doors.

For Tabetha, this wasn't about money. "I really found myself in the process and learned a lot about who I am," she said. She plans to enter the competition again next year, perhaps as part of a team with her classmates. She also plans to run for state FFA office some time in the future, and hopes to go to college for an agricultural education degree.

And what did she have to say about paving the way for other girls to take top honors in this traditionally male activity? "A lot of guys think women shouldn't do this kind of thing," Tabetha explained. "But I was raised to think differently. Anyone can do it if they set their mind to it." ★

Web links:

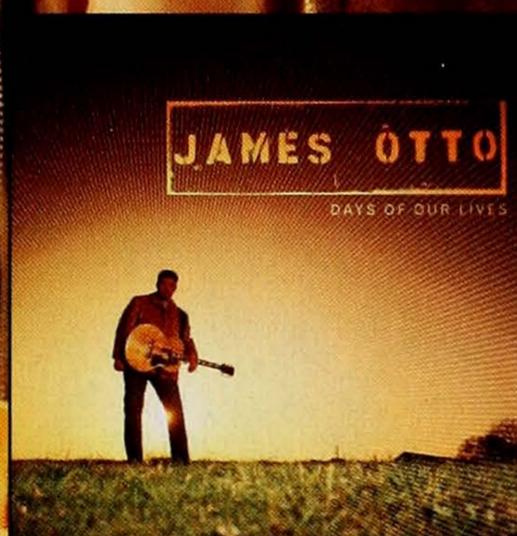
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By Stephen Regenold

On-Lawn Startup



held in Louisville, Kentucky, last October. He received \$2,000 and an invitation to join a group of FFA members and associates on a 10-day international experience tour in Costa Rica this June.

THE IDEA

Like many innovators, Zeithamer saw a problem and decided to find the solution. In the late 1990s, communities in Minnesota and other states began banning the use of phosphate-containing lawn fertilizers near open water. Runoff from these fertilized lawns was perpetuating the growth of algae at unnatural rates, resulting in the suffocation of fish and turning clear water thick and green.

Some of the large fertilizer companies fought the government-imposed bans. But Zeithamer saw an opportunity in the situation.

"I began thinking about a phosphate-free fertilizer when the bans were in their infancy stages," Zeithamer said. "By the year 2000, when the bans were becoming more of an issue, I got serious about it."

Growing up helping at his father's fertilizer business, Zeithamer knew the industry. He took agriscience courses in high school. And he was active in FFA, participating in multiple supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs and earning the American FFA Degree.

With this knowledge and experience, along with grants from rural-revitalization programs, Zeithamer created a new kind of fertilizer made from environment-friendly ingredients.

Today, Bio Builder manufactures

Joshua Zeithamer, the 2003 American Star in Agribusiness, turned his SAE program into a successful company that employs five and sells environment-friendly fertilizer

Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes. It's also the land of 10,000 lakefront homes and cabins, most with lush, green lawns that require fertilization at least once or twice a year.

But traditional fertilizers and pristine lakes do not mix, as most lawn fertilizers contain phosphates that can pollute lake water.

Joshua Zeithamer, the 2003 FFA American Star in Agribusiness, hopes to clean up the fertilizer industry and eliminate the phosphate issue altogether.

Zeithamer, a 22-year-old student at North Dakota State University and a native of Alexandria, Minnesota, is the president and owner of Bio Builder Inc. The company, which Zeithamer founded while still in high school, now employs five full-time workers and manufactures a line of residential- and commercial-grade fertilizers that contain no phosphates and are safe to use near lakes and other water sources.

The American Star in Agribusiness award was presented to Zeithamer at the 2003 National FFA Convention,

and sells several fertilizer products, including Thrivin' 7-0-2, the blend made for use on home lawns. The company also sells grass seed and erosion-control products and provides aeration services for golf courses and sports fields.

THE FULL CIRCLE

Even beyond the phosphate issue, Bio Builder is committed to being a clean, environment-conscious company. All of its fertilizers, for example, are made from natural renewable resources procured from suppliers in Minnesota.

The company uses a mixture of distiller's dried grain and fish tissue in its products. The grain is a co-product of ethanol processing usually used as animal feed. The tissues from rough fish species, such as carp and bullhead, used in the products provide fertilizing nutrients that are free of the banned phosphate pollutants and safer for lake waters.

Coincidentally, Bio Builder is attacking the problem of polluted lakes in two ways: Its fertilizers help control algae growth by eliminating phosphates; and by using rough fish as an ingredient, the company is encouraging the harvesting of these species, which are overpopulating and polluting many U.S. lakes.

"I like to think of it as a full circle," Zeithamer said.

THE FUTURE

For now, the company will focus on marketing its existing fertilizers while continuing the development of new products. Zeithamer plans to slowly and steadily grow Bio Builder over the coming years.

"As a business, we want to grow naturally and organically, just like the plants and grass," he said.

Zeithamer hopes to create more

Web links:

Bio Builder Inc.
(gobiobuilder.com); FFA Stars Over American Program, information on SAE opportunities and the FFA Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program (www.ffa.org)

jobs in rural Minnesota with Bio Builder. He wants to not only provide more full-time jobs at Bio Builder, but also at supplier businesses and other companies associated with the fertilizer industry.

And what about the rewards afforded to him as the American Star in Agribusiness? Well, Zeithamer is committed, excited and ready to go

on the 10-day international experience tour in Costa Rica this June.

And the \$2,000? Ever the businessman, Zeithamer has decided not to splurge on a new stereo system or mountain bike. The money is going straight into his bank account to help pay off college tuition loans.

"Boring, I know, but it needs to be done," he said. ★

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Moreno injured in car accident

National FFA President Javier Moreno is currently recovering from injuries sustained in a single-car accident on January 19.

During a short break from his national officer duties, he had flown to Pennsylvania, where he is a student at Penn State University. After visiting with faculty and friends, he got in his car and headed to his host family's home. The next thing he remembers is being in the hospital—two days later.

Nobody really knows what happened, but the roads were icy. Javier likely hit a patch of ice, lost control and hit a tree. A state transportation worker found Javier inside his mangled car eight hours later. A helicopter airlifted Javier to a hospital with a fractured knee, jaw and both ankles. He went through surgery and spent more than two weeks in the hospital.

Casts will be removed from both legs in March. His strength is coming back, he says, so he should soon be resuming his national officer duties. "I am feeling much better these days and looking forward to getting back on the road."

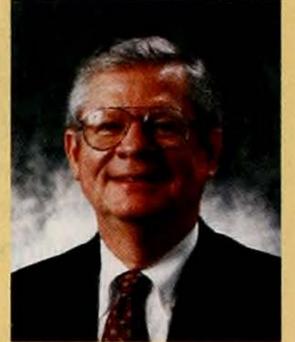
News of the accident has been posted on the National FFA Organization website (ffa.org) since late January. Since then, FFA members from around the country have helped Javier keep a positive attitude. "Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers," Javier says. "I have enjoyed every single card and letter of support I have received since the accident. I feel blessed to be part of the FFA family." ★



Staller announces retirement

Bernie Staller announced he will retire in the fall of 2004 after serving 13 years as chief operating officer of the National FFA Organization and National FFA Foundation.

A former FFA and 4-H member, Staller began his career as an agribusiness instructor and FFA advisor. He joined the foundation in 1977 and assumed responsibilities as chief operating officer for the organization and foundation in 1991.



"The timing for this decision feels right," said Staller. "The National FFA Organization is fiscally sound, FFA membership is at a 19-year high, our operations are fully staffed and we have exciting developments on the horizon. I can't imagine a better time to look forward than during the diamond anniversary of the organization."



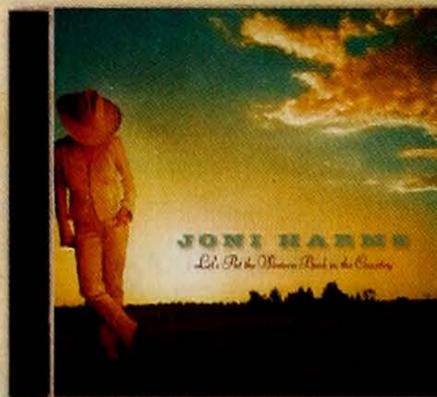
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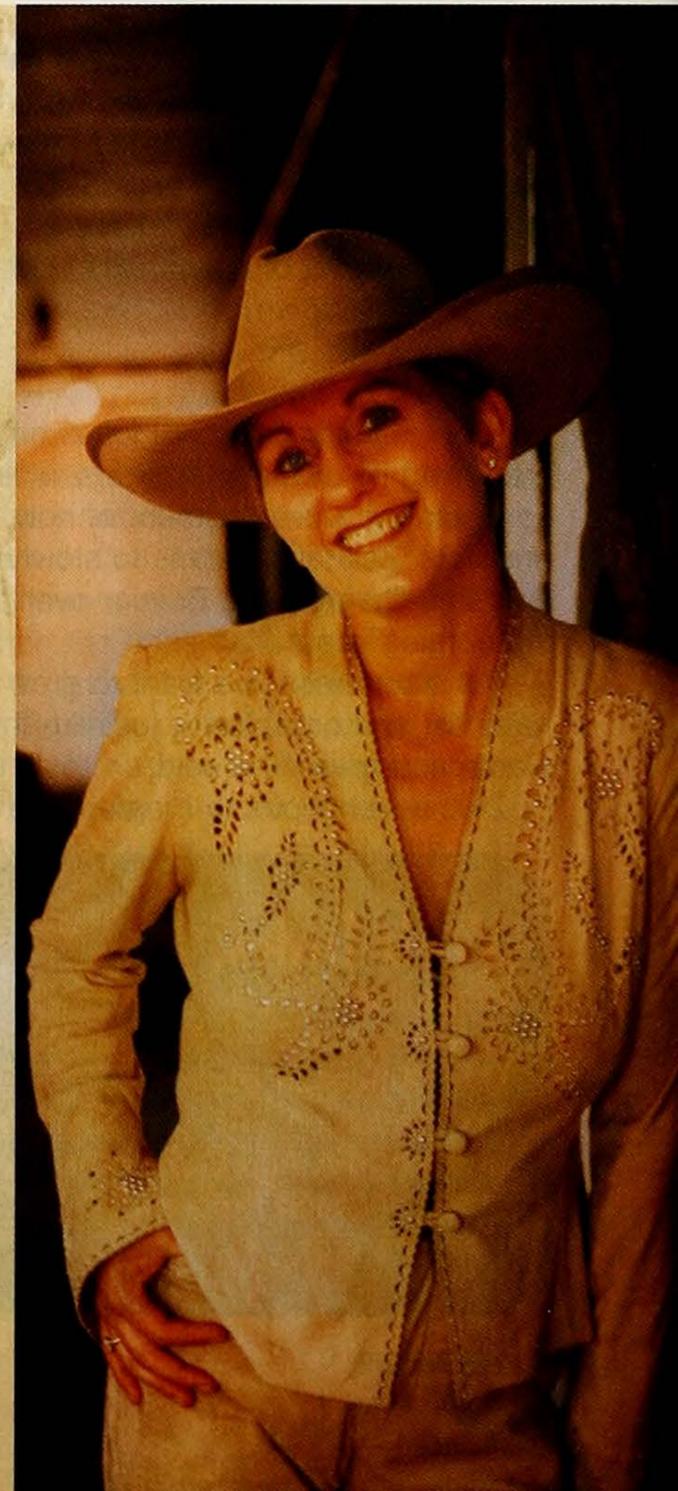
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The Impact

Indiana FFA

March 2004 www.IndianaFFA.org

Braving the Elements to Reap the Benefits

Details on page C

Internships: A Chance to Work and Learn

Take a peek at page F for more!

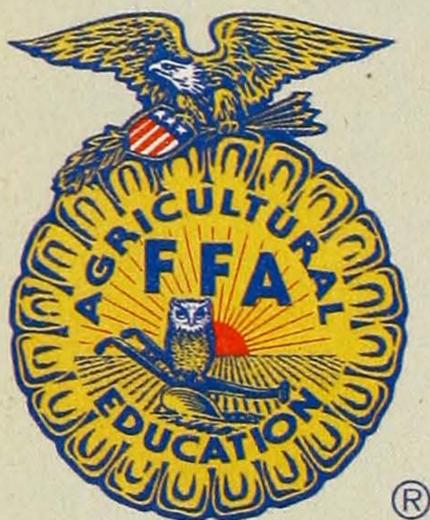
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Wyoming

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2003-2004

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Reporter

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Attention!

Is your chapter doing something unique? Has someone in your chapter recently received recognition for their outstanding effort? Have a story idea for an upcoming magazine? Contact one of the state officers and share your idea – you and your chapter could be featured in an upcoming issue!

Calendar of Events

March 2004

- 4** State Degree and Proficiency Scoring Workshop
- 16** Section Chapter Meeting CDE

April 2004

- 5** State Proficiency Applications Due Postmarked
- 6** State Welding CDE
- 17** State Wildlife Habitat CDE
- 19** American Degree & Chapter Award Applications Due Postmarked

Braving the Elements to Reap the Benefits

By Mikki Marshall

In the dead of winter, who really wants to be in a barn in sub zero temperatures critiquing livestock? If you are involved in the Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event, you would consider this a privilege!

The Livestock Career Development Event takes place in the months of January thru May. This event focuses on the evaluation of cattle, sheep, and hogs and providing oral reasons to justify your placings. Not only is this a great CDE to get involved in, it is packed full of useful skills that can be utilized later in your career choice.

Jamey Albrecht, a junior in the North Montgomery FFA chapter, says she uses the skills she acquired through livestock judging everyday.

"Livestock judging is a great activity to help build public speaking and decision making skills," said Albrecht. "I am much more comfortable and confident when giving speeches in class due to my experience with judging. When making important decisions I always weigh the outcomes of what might happen just like you do in a contest."

Even though this CDE may sound intimidating, any FFA member who is interested can be successful. If your chapter does not currently have a livestock team, be the member who initiates one. Jamie Goodman, a junior in the Rensselaer FFA chapter, gives this advice.

"If you want to judge, go for it!" says Goodman. "It's an experience that is well worth your time!"

Yet another benefit of livestock judging is your chance to travel and meet new people from across the state. Livestock judging invitational contests are constantly being held across the state. Hayley Wertenberger, a junior in the Warsaw FFA chapter, says she has met some of her best friends while judging livestock. There is also the opportunity to travel to places like Denver, Colorado or Baltimore, Maryland to evaluate livestock.

No matter what reason you enter the Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event, your benefits will be endless. Don't pass up the opportunity to critique livestock in sub zero temperatures - join a judging team today! ■

Connecting with the Community

By Michael McDaniel

The Indiana FFA Foundation is proud to announce a new opportunity for chapters to connect with their communities, seek out supporters and volunteers, and raise funds for their chapters - the Local Program Success Breakfast. The purpose of the breakfast is to reconnect former members and partners with the local FFA Chapters to raise funds for the local chapter's annual campaign.

At each breakfast, attendees have the opportunity to pledge funds. From each dollar pledged, \$0.60 goes to local the chapter to be used at their discretion for scholarships, awards, building programs, lab materials, FFA jackets, etc. The remaining \$0.40 goes to the Indiana FFA. This money would be used for the organization's annual campaign, lodge renovation, and future endowments.

The Western Boone FFA hosted a Local Program Success Breakfast last August that was a great success. The program for the breakfast included creed speakers, personal testimonies, and a declaration from a key community leader as to the critical need to support the FFA. The breakfast earned positive publicity for both state and local level, thousands of dollars pledged, and 20 new volunteers for the local program, all in the space of about one hour.

"I really enjoyed the experience because it showed me we do have a lot of support in our community," says Kay Leigh Lawson, a senior at Western Boone. "They do care for our chapter, and it showed."

The best part about the Local Program Success Breakfast is that it is easy to do at the local chapter level. If your chapter is interested, call Mr. MacKinnon at (317) 878 - 5367 or e-mail him at cmackinnon@mindspring.com ■

Milk Promotion Services Believes in the FFA

By Tim Green

The Indiana FFA has the opportunity to produce quality programs and activities because of a special group of people and organizations that share their time, talent and treasure because they know what great things can come from the FFA.

In each issue of The Impact, one partner is featured. In this issue, we share why and how Milk Promotion Services is helping the Indiana FFA develop members' potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

In this issue, Deb Osza, director of communications for Milk Promotion Services, shares her thoughts on the partnership between her company and the Indiana FFA. ■



AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA, INC.
DAIRY AND NUTRITION COUNCIL, INC.

"Milk Promotion Services is an organization that is committed to the growth of the public by promoting the advantages of having dairy in your diet. They also invest in the FFA through their sponsorship of the Dairy Production Proficiency and the National Dairy Foods CDE Team."

Abby Dougherty

Indiana FFA Program Specialist

Full Name of Company: Milk Promotion Services

Number of Employees: 15

Location of Company Main Office: Indianapolis, Indiana

Years in Business: Since 1984

Industry: Nutrition Education

Brief History of Company: In 1984, Milk Promotion Services was formed from the merger of the American Dairy Association of Indiana and the Dairy Council.

Length of partnership with Indiana FFA: Since 1984

How has Milk Promotion Services chosen to support the Indiana FFA?

"We think that Indiana's youth are our future and working together with agricultural organizations is our future as well."

What value do you think the FFA provides to high school students? "The FFA provides great opportunities for the students through leadership training. The FFA is great for communications for all walks of life, no matter the age difference. Members have a sense of maturity, they can just come up to you, shake your hand, and be very professional."

What makes the agricultural industry unique? "[Agriculture] helps to feed the world, and what else is there to do that? [Agriculture] feeds us and provides us with a home."

Where do you see the dairy industry going in the future? "I see the dairy industry continuing to gain efficiencies. We may have small dairy cow herds, but our milk production will continue to get bigger because of our efficiencies."



Is your chapter trying to think of new and fun way of increasing that treasurer's account? Think about contacting Milk Promotion Services! They are willing to work with your school on providing a milk vending machine. If your chapter and its members are interested in doing so, contact the state reporter, or Ms. Deb Osza, Director of Communications at Milk Promotion Services at (317) 842-7133. Also, check our next issue for more fundraising ideas!

A Different Kind of Career in Agriculture

By Shane Hageman

When most people hear the word 'lawyer' the last idea that comes to mind is agriculture. However, law is an important, interesting, and essential sector of agriculture as a whole. Chad Frahm is a staff attorney and regulatory specialist at Indiana Farm Bureau. He shares with us his experiences in college, what an agricultural lawyer does, and helpful hints for those wanting to become lawyers.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Frahm earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University with a minor in international agriculture. After receiving this degree, he worked for a few years before he attended law school at Indiana University in Indianapolis.

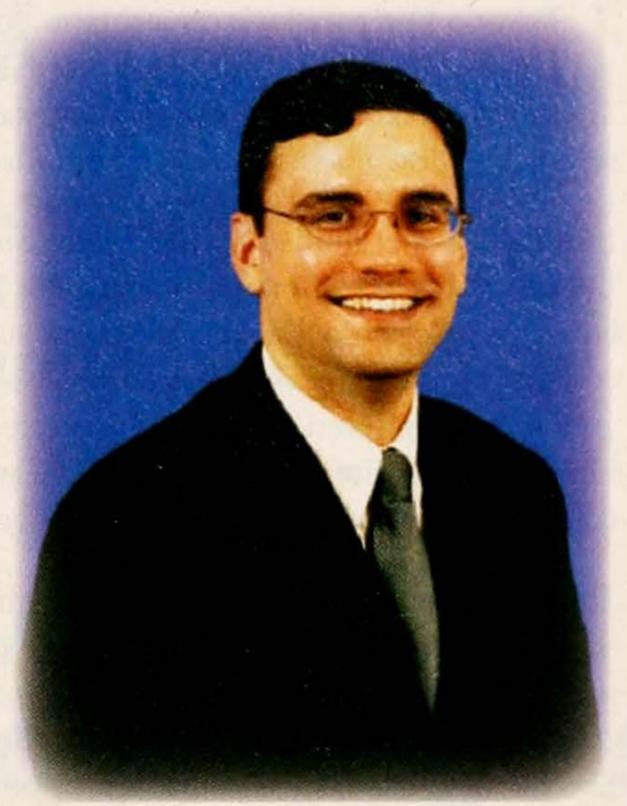
Agriculture law is an area of education that only few schools offer. To specialize in the area of agriculture is uncommon because of the way most law school programs are set up. According to Mr. Frahm, the first year-and-a-half of law school covers all the basics of law. The second year-and-a-half is full of electives and classes to assist in passing the bar exam, an exam that all lawyers must pass in order to practice law.

To be successful in agriculture law, an appreciation and understanding of the agriculture industry, lifestyle, and its uniqueness is important. Mr. Frahm, not an FFA member himself, envied his friends who were members because of the public speaking and time management skills they learned, and the competitive spirit they possessed.

"There is a right way and wrong way to do things," says Mr. Frahm. "The FFA teaches the right way."

His advice to students going to college is to take advantage of internships and study abroad programs. He attended a total of nine semesters at Purdue but during that time he spent one semester and one summer in Washington D.C. as an intern for Senator Lugar working on the 1995 Farm Bill. He also studied abroad in the Ukraine and Japan while a student at Purdue.

For people who are interested in law as a career, Mr. Frahm recommends interacting with others in the profession as much as possible. Visit a local attorney, whether they are in agriculture or not. Do your research ahead of time to give yourself a new perspective on the career. ■



"There is a right way and wrong way to do things. The FFA teaches the right way."

– Chad Frahm

*Indiana Farm Bureau
Staff Attorney and Regulatory Specialist*

Getting into a good law school can be a competitive process. If you know you are interested in a career in law, start preparing now. The FFA offers several events that will help in preparation for this career.



- Prepared Public Speaking
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- Creed Speaking
- Agriculture Communications
- Agriculture Marketing
- Job Interview
- Leadership Ambassador



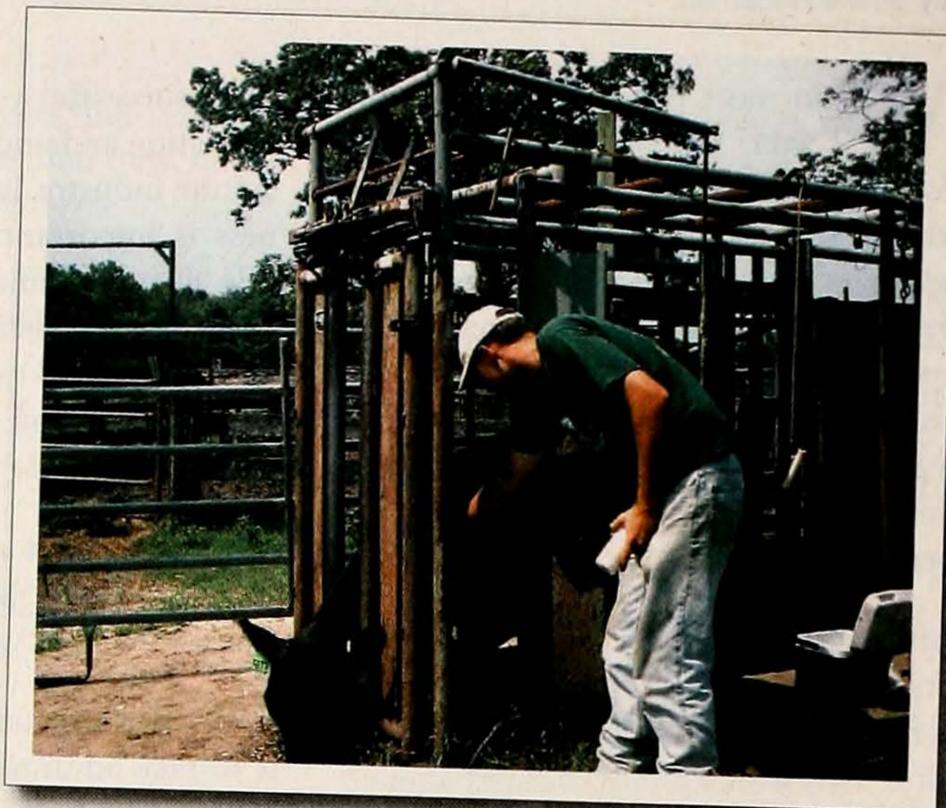
Internships: A Chance to Work and Learn

By Micah Haltom

How do I prepare for a career? How do I make business contacts? How can I ensure a job after I graduate from college? These are all common questions that students may ask themselves. The best answer to these questions is easy – internships.

Internships are similar to the FFA's Supervised Agriculture Experience. They allow participants to gain practical experience in a professional field while being supervised. Internships combine learning, earning money, getting work experience, and sometimes even earning college credits, says the Purdue University Website. Internships may be available to students in college or those who have just finished college.

To find an internship while still in high school, talk to your school guidance counselor or contact local businesses. You might also take a look at the Web sites for any local or regional colleges. Some positions may require specialized knowledge, like horticulture or communication, but some positions are general openings.



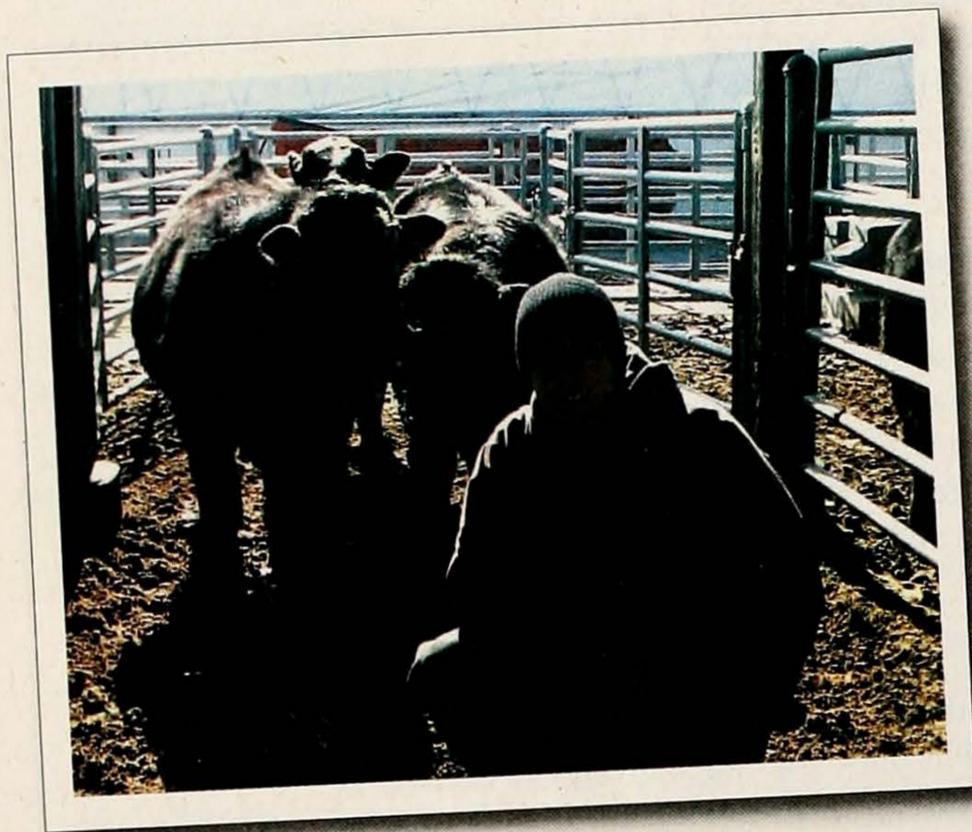
Often, employers are looking for interns who may be interested in working full-time for their companies in the future. If you have a specific career interest, try to find companies that would allow you to explore that interest. As an intern, you will need skills that most employers are looking for in their full-time employees: honesty, dependability, strong work ethic, and integrity.

Casey Davis is a sophomore at Purdue University majoring in Animal Science, and a graduate of South Ripley High School. Casey completed an internship with the Murphey-Brown Cattle Division during a summer break at Purdue. Casey found out about the program from the career services coordinator in his program of study. Throughout the summer, Casey did a variety of tasks, including setting up temporary corrals, working cattle, building fences, and administering vaccines.

“You have to be very open to trying new things,” says Casey. “If you go to the internship thinking that you are going to be doing one specific thing the whole time, you are going to be in for a rude awakening.”

Internships can be a lot of work, so why would you want to pursue one? Intern programs offer many opportunities, such as the chance to travel, develop professional contacts, earn good money, learn new skills, and maybe even earn college credit. But according to many students, the experience itself may be the best part of it.

“As an intern you get the opportunity to actually see if this is really the kind of work that you want to do the rest of your life,” says Casey. “If you have a good experience many times there can be a job waiting for you after you graduate, and even if you don't enjoy it you can make some great contacts.” ■



“As an intern you get the opportunity to actually see if this is really the kind of work that you want to do the rest of your life.”

*– Casey Davis
Former FFA Member
Sophomore, Purdue University*

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I l l i n o i s

FFA Partners Stress the Importance of Preparing for Careers

By Shane Hageman

The Indiana FFA State Officer Team took the week of December 15th- 19th, 2003, to visit partners of the Indiana FFA to deliver a personal 'thank you' for sharing their time, talent and treasures. Partner support throughout the year enables the Indiana FFA to fund many programs and awards, including Career Development Events, conferences at the Leadership Center, State Convention, and much more. The team visited 12 businesses and met with senior staff members at each location.

The Indiana FFA would like to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to all of our partners. Each individual partner impacts the success of the organization. Because of your support, we are able to positively influence the lives of our members. Your contributions help shape one of the country's most valuable resources – the lives of today's young people. While on the tour, the state officer team had a chance to visit with the Indiana FFA partner about many different topics. In this article, you will find some of their thoughts on how to begin preparing for careers after high school.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Tom Cresswell, *Area Sales Manager*

When preparing for any career, look for an industry or profession you will enjoy. There are many opportunities in agriculture and in Pioneer in science, sales, distribution, and production. There are many places for individuals who are interested, educated, and motivated. The key area that people can differentiate themselves is leadership, and FFA does a particularly good job of teaching those skills.

Agribusiness Group, Inc

Mark Voors, *Business Development Manager*

We believe that pursuing some type of higher education is one of the most important things FFA members should consider today. Not only does it help develop technical skills, critical thinking and problem solving abilities, it opens doors of opportunity and presents possibilities to people that are hard to find elsewhere. Pursuing a higher level of education shows a level of commitment on the part of the individual and a willingness to learn, grow, and mature in ways that are important to our organization, and ultimately to our customers.

Dedication



Honesty



Thank you to the following businesses for setting aside time to meet with the officer team.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Milk Promotion Services of Indiana, Farm World Newspaper, Indiana AgriNews, Reynolds Farm Equipment, Inc., Agribusiness Group, Inc., Indiana Packers Corporation, The Cisco Companies, Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education at Purdue University, Dean of Agriculture at Purdue University, Farm Credit Services of Mid America, CLAAS of America

Farm World Newspaper

Toni Hodson, *Advertising Manager*

Study, mentor and shadow people who are in the business you are interested in. Pursue secondary education in your area interest. Work your way up from the ground to the top. The FFA is a good confidence builder. Honesty, integrity, dedication, perseverance, and leadership, are a few of the adjectives used to describe FFA members.

Cisco Companies

R. David Pearl, *President/CEO*

I found that the FFA organization provided me an opportunity to grow as an individual. The opportunity for public speaking and the parliamentary procedure helped in preparation for the college experience. I believe a good college education, whether obtained at a major institution or even a small university provides an opportunity for each person to grow personally. It is imperative to have a broad background of educational courses with an emphasis in core of courses that are of your major interest. The FFA is a good start to this process, but a college education only enhances everything you have already begun to learn.

Farm Credit Services of Mid-America

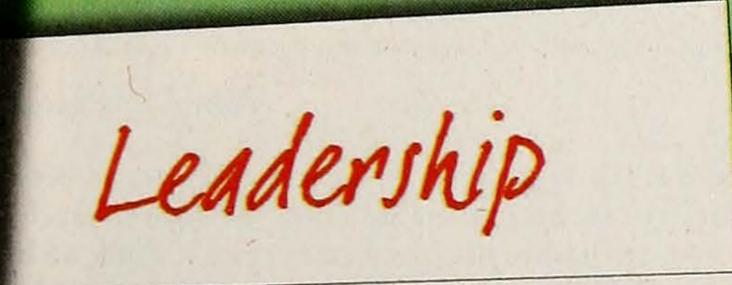
Randy Barbee, *Director of Marketing Support*

We can think of no better use of our cooperative dollars than to support organizations that support and endorse the importance of agriculture in our communities. In fact, many of the characteristics and traits that FFA members exemplify - integrity, confidence, leadership - are just the type of qualities we're looking for when recruiting new employees.

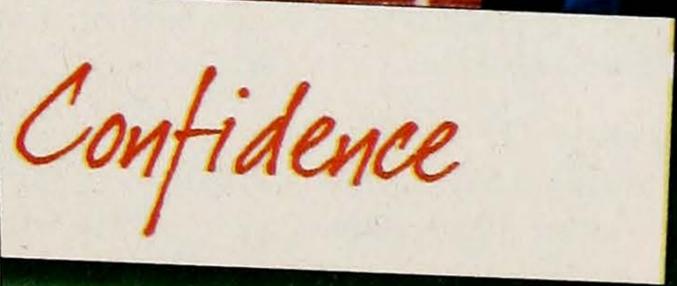
Reynolds Farm Equipment, Inc.

Gary Reynolds, *Owner*

I feel higher education is a must. I feel it makes stronger candidates for us in the hiring process. The average person may not have the leadership skills that are necessary in the workforce and leadership learned in FFA is one of the most important skills we look for in our company.



Leadership



Confidence



Stationed by the Plow...Mikki Marshall

2003-2004 Northern Region Vice President

Fast Facts about Mikki Marshall

Parents: Kris and Kent Marshall

Siblings: 2 sisters, Kim and Karlee

FFA chapter: North Manchester FFA

Advisor: Mrs. Mize

Favorite sport: Softball

Favorite food:

Pickles and Peaches, but not together

Favorite moment spent with state officers:

Hill Hopping on Airport Road

Favorite past time:

Spending time working with family in the barn

Favorite high school memory:

Beating Northfield in softball junior year

Mikki's FFA Timeline

Age 14

- Joined FFA
- Received Greenhand degree
- Earned Outstanding Chapter Freshman award
- Record setting citrus seller for chapter
- Lost Area Livestock contest

Age 15

- Elected Jr. Officer President
- Lost District Prepared Public Speaking

Age 16

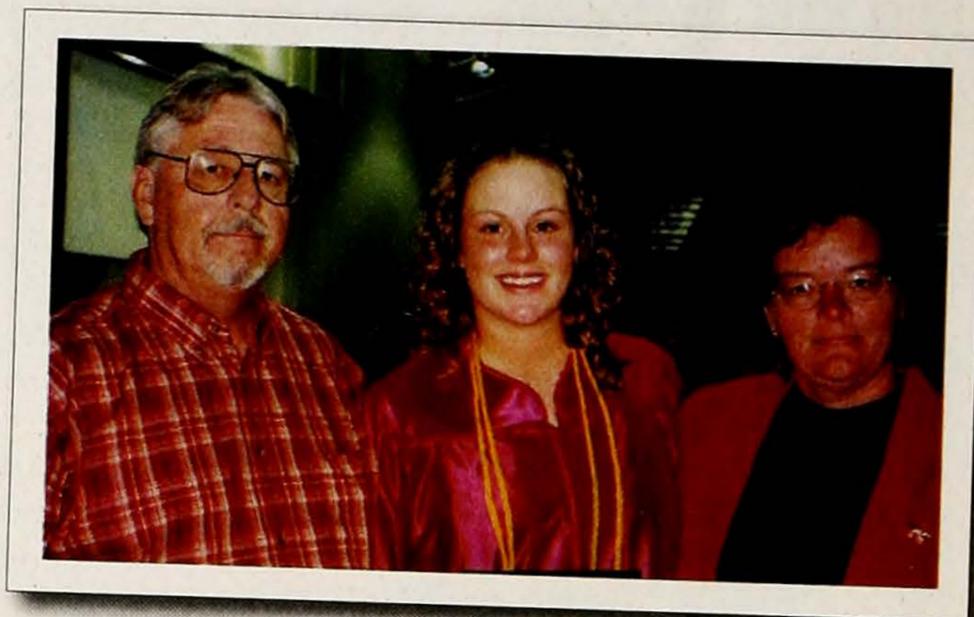
- Elected District VI Reporter
- High Individual sheep @ state livestock, 2nd high overall
- Received Purdue Junior Scholar for Agriculture Scholarship

Age 17

- Re-elected Sr. Officer President
- Elected District VI president
- High individual oral reasons at National Livestock
- Received State Degree

Age 18

- Earned State Star Farmer award
- Won State Job Interview CDE
- Received 2nd in Leadership Ambassador CDE
- Elected to state office
- 5th in National Job Interview CDE



Some Thoughts about Mikki...

"Mikki makes things look easy, but I know that it has not been easy. It is really her hard work and determination that help her accomplish her goals. She has many of the "d's" - discipline, direction, determination, dedication. Mikki is very goal oriented, and organized. If she sets her mind to it, she will accomplish it. If you want something done, assign it to Mikki. I wish she worked for me!"

Kris Marshall, mom

"All those times at evening leadership practices when she was always there to help with projects, she would always think of some wacky practice question when pretending to be the judge. Also, we would always have long talks on the bus rides home from softball games about how we will decorate our houses when we grow up and get married."

Ashley Southworth, friend

"Whenever Mik is home she always makes it a point to let us know and check in to see how things are going. We have so much in common and our friendship has lasted many years. I think we bring out the good qualities in each other. But we have a friendship bond that I know will last forever and just knowing that is enough to keep us such close friends."

Joni West, friend

"Every time I see Aunt Mikki, she makes me give her a kiss before she plays with me. That's funny! I miss you Aunt Mik."

Collin Tennant, 5-year-old nephew

Mikki plans to attend Joliet Junior College on a full livestock judging scholarship. She plans to major in agricultural education and later transfer to a four-year university.

Mikki's state officer team voted her the most likely to become the director of the television show *Clean Sweep* on TLC.

Delphi Advisor Unafraid of Setting a Positive Example

By Mikki Marshall

Without a doubt, Mrs. Beth Theobald of the Delphi FFA chapter is passionate about her work. Whether she is in the greenhouse working with students or on an FFA trip, her love for agriculture and teaching shine through.

Mrs. Theobald, a native of Jamestown, Indiana, and a graduate of Western Boone High School, has a love for agriculture that stems from growing up on her family's grain farm. While Theobald knew that she wanted to be involved in agriculture, her background in the FFA is slightly different than most.

"Before girls were allowed into FFA as members they had an honorary position in the chapter for a female called the Sweet-



heart," said Mrs. Theobald. "Since I was the only girl our FFA members knew that could drive a tractor they chose me! I must have been a good match because they asked me to be their sweetheart for four years. I did participate in the district sweetheart contest my last year."

Even though females were not allowed into the FFA while she was in high school, Mrs. Theobald's love and passion for agriculture were evident when she decided on her career path. She attended Purdue University to earn her bachelor's and master's degrees in agriculture education.

Mrs. Theobald accepted her first teaching position at Delphi High School, where she has been serving as an agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor for the past 23 years. Yet another unique aspect of Mrs. Theobald's career is that she is in a dual teacher program with Mr. Ross Streibek. However, she truly enjoys her teaching partner and all that a dual teacher program has to offer.

"We work very well together and complement each other as we work in our agriculture program," said Mrs. Theobald. "He is the 'front' man and I'm the 'behind-the-scenes' gal. We bounce ideas off of each other and tag-team on big projects. It is great to have someone to share the responsibilities of the chapter with."

While Mrs. Theobald has definitely become a respected agriculture educator, it has not come without a few challenges. When asked what it was like to be a female in a male dominated field, her responses were filled with enthusiasm and advice for future female agriculture teachers.

"I haven't wanted to be treated differently and I have always been treated with respect amongst my peers," Mrs. Theobald said. "There may have been early resistance in our profession for females in the classroom but I think that through the years our population in general has become more accepting of females in non-traditional roles."

One of Mrs. Theobald's favorite classes to teach is floriculture because her students can be so imaginative. Mrs. Theobald also believes agriculture education classes have changed over the years.

"Our departmental offerings have changed over the years to try to accommodate the evolution of education in Indiana," says Mrs. Theobald. "Our number one priority is to fill the needs within the community."

As her career has been filled with many amazing events, there are still times that stick out vividly in her mind. Mrs. Theobald recalls that her greatest accomplishments she may never know, simply for the fact that her hopes are to touch her students' lives in positive ways and help to instill in them a passion for agriculture. ■

★ Star Chapter ★

Fun and Fellowship

Make the Warsaw FFA a Star Chapter

By Jessica Geisler

In the central part of District II sits this issue's star chapter - the Warsaw FFA. The chapter is able to lay claim to bragging rights as the school's largest student organization. With a student population of more than 2,000, the FFA chapter, advised by Mrs. Markley and Mr. Bowers, is proud to call 65 of those student FFA members.

"I enjoy the opportunity to work with the diversity of our FFA members here at Warsaw," says Mrs. Markley. "Eighty percent of our members don't have a 'farm' background but are enthusiastic about the program here and do get involved in many different ways!"

One of Warsaw's biggest priorities is community service. Chapter members spend days gathering food for the fall food drive. They also have a coloring book drive for Riley Hospital and set up booths at the Hoosier Beef Congress. One of their most popular activities is their Young McDonald Barn, where younger children can learn about agriculture, animals, and the FFA while viewing the animals in the petting zoo.

During FFA Week, members are able to show their support for the FFA through special activities such as Drive Your tractor to School Day and Wrangler Day.

The Friday of FFA week is Teacher Appreciation Day, when FFA members prepare breakfast for all of the teachers and staff at Warsaw High School. This is a pretty big feat, considering Warsaw has around 200 faculty members!

Warsaw FFA members also enjoy participating above the chapter level throughout the year. The livestock team has been to nationals the past two years, and the dairy foods evaluation team has also been very successful at the state and national levels. Students also enjoy participating in many other CDEs and attending various conferences and workshops at the FFA Leadership Center.

Any time a trip is involved, whether it's traveling to judge livestock or attending National Convention, the chapter pays for all travel expenses. This, of course, leads to many fundraisers throughout the year. Warsaw currently has a Fruit Works vending machine and is working on getting a Milk Chug vending machine. They also have an annual fish fry, but their biggest fundraiser is an auction where FFA members are "sold" and must then do work for the highest bidder.

For fun, the chapter hosts a Greenhand Grill, where all greenhands can get to know the chapter officers, and then all

members are invited to eat afterwards. They also have a Halloween party and a Christmas party. At the Christmas party, every FFA member participates in a white elephant gift exchange, where things can get pretty crazy. At the end of the year, they have a trip where ten people earn a trip to Indiana Beach and Deep River Water Park.

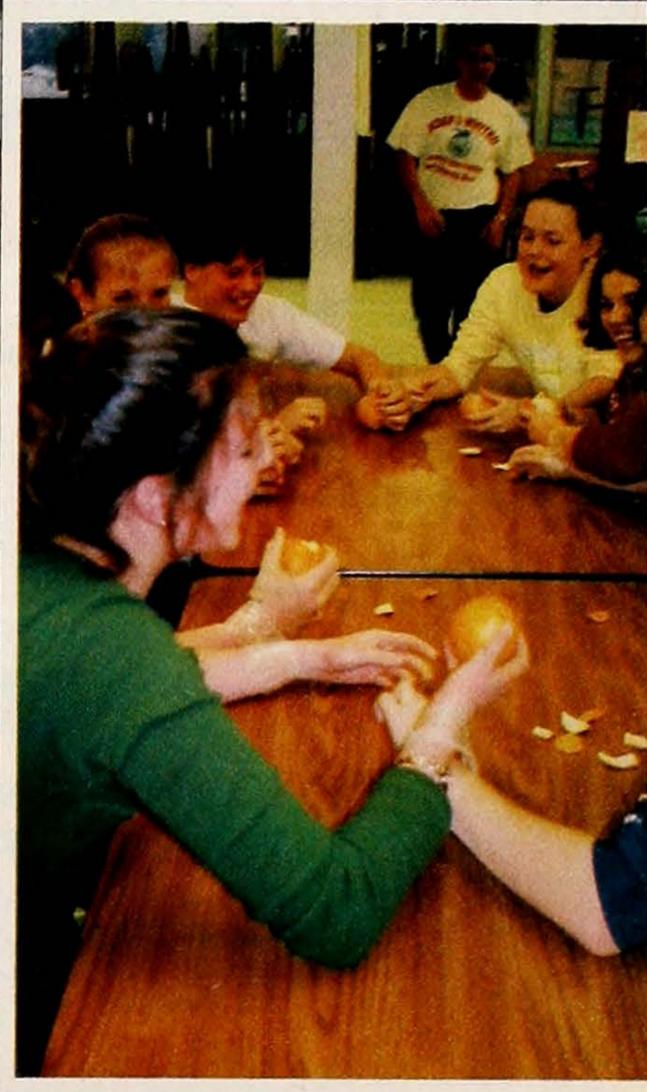
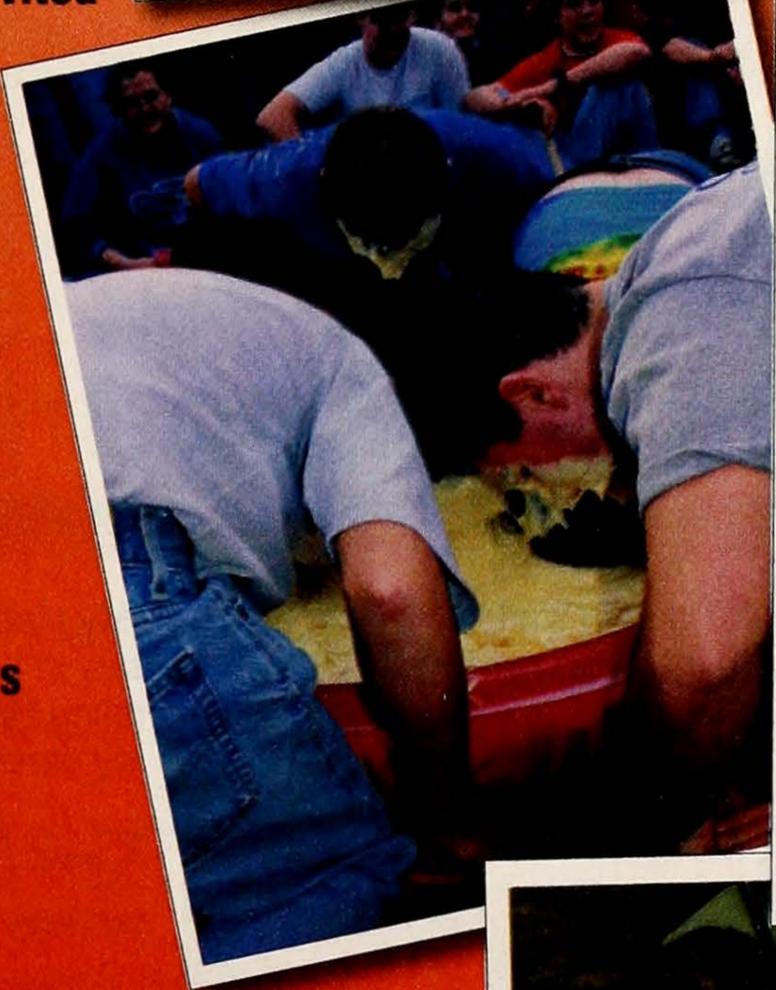
"Warsaw FFA members are really friendly people," says Matt Sands, a sophomore at Warsaw High School. "We are always there to help each other out, even if it means babysitting Mrs. Markley's twins. There is never a dull moment in our FFA chapter!"

The friendly people, fun activities, and dedicated FFA members are what truly make the Warsaw FFA a star chapter. ■

New Opportunity for Members!

Jr. High FFA Day

- April 17th, 2004
- Fun filled day from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Registration begins at 9 a.m.
- Held at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center in Trafalgar, IN
- All Jr. High FFA members are invited
- Explore the Indiana FFA Leadership Center
- Learn about FFA opportunities
- Meet new people
- Learn about ag classes
- Mingle with other FFA members during a day of recreation

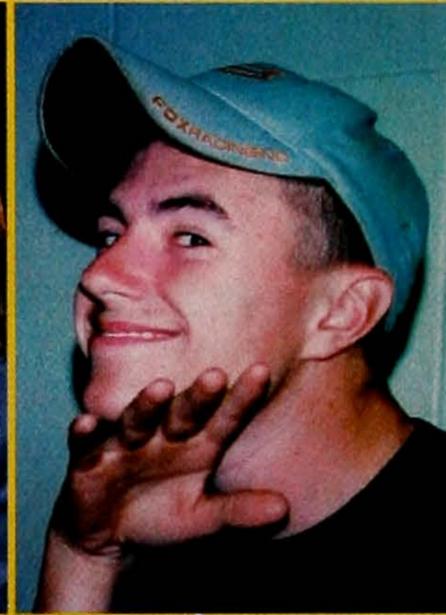
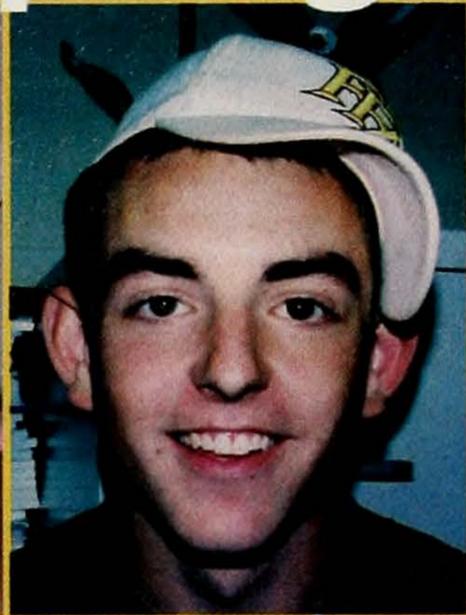


Talk to your advisor about attending!



In the Spotlight!

What are your Spring Break Plans?



"Over spring break, I am probably going to a cattle show in Indy called the AGR. I will be showing and judging there. The rest of spring break will just be resting up."

Torie Schwartz, freshman

Rossville FFA

"This year for spring break I plan on getting a head start on 4-H projects, and go to track practice twice a day."

Pamela Ross

Connersville FFA

"Over spring break, I will probably be staying home. My dad wants me to help around the farm. We've got a lot of work to do."

Ashley Gunter, junior

Jac-Cen-Del FFA

"Over spring break I plan to work during the day and relax in the evenings."

Aaron Allgeier, junior

East Central FFA

"My plans are to go to Tennessee and stay in a cabin. While there I plan on riding Harleys in the mountains with my parents and girlfriend."

Ronnie Powell, junior

East Central FFA

**Next issue's spotlight question:
What are you looking forward to most about state convention?**

To share your answer to the Spotlight Question, send an e-mail to inffaspotlight@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to attach your picture!

STRAIN YOUR BRAIN

Do you know your Ag Leadership?

G D A Z Y Z K C O W L L I V N O D S G A B
 Y R L B O L N K D B I L E M N F Y Z G B N
 E B E A B J R V H S X S B A R G B R A H O
 L B X B D Y H E A B A X M Z F W I X V Q N
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 P C E E T T I M M O C E V I T U C E X E C
 S U M K R E Q O A K M G B U Y J R S G J L

- This past national FFA officer is Indiana FFA's program specialist.
- What is the largest Ag department at Purdue University?
- This California Native is America's secretary of agriculture.
- Who is Indiana FFA's state advisor?
- This past state FFA officer is currently Indiana FFA's ITPC representative.
- Who is Indiana FFA's foundation director?
- This individual is the president of the Indiana Farm Bureau.
- This group of individuals is made up of state officers, district presidents, the chorus president, and section directors.
- This organization gave the Indiana FFA a \$450,000 grant.
- This Indiana native is currently serving as the deputy to the national secretary of agriculture.
- This past state officer is currently our executive director.
- This person took Joe Kernan's place as Lieutenant governor of Indiana.
- This first female Indiana State president is currently the executive director for the Indiana young farmers.
- This individual is currently the dean of the school of agriculture at Purdue University.

~ **What is the 75th Anniversary of the Indiana FFA worth?** ~

Sending out a press release about the 75th Anniversary of Indiana FFA: \$0.37

Getting in touch with 50 former members by letter: \$18.50

Having a special 75th Anniversary section of your chapter banquet: \$100

Attending the 75th Indiana FFA State Convention: \$250

Celebrating a proud past and a promising future of the Indiana FFA: Priceless

The 75th Anniversary Celebration is nearing...are you ready?

Indiana FFA...

Celebrating a Proud Past and a Promising Future

By Tim Green

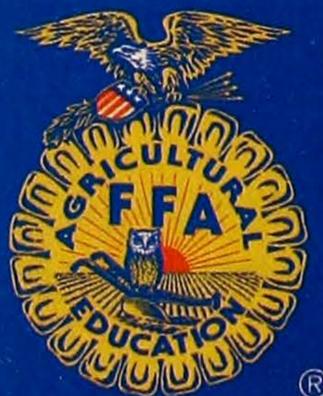
The time has come for you and your chapter to get involved with our biggest celebration to date - The 75th Anniversary of Indiana FFA! As a chapter member, you have the opportunity to start a celebration committee to plan 75th Anniversary Celebration Events for your chapter!

Here are some ideas of ways your chapter can celebrate...

- Plan a special 75th Anniversary Celebration at your chapter banquet
- Start a special committee for public awareness
- Contact those former FFA members around your area and invite them to join in the festivities
- Share the FFA story with those who may not know
- Use the chapter planning packets for more ideas

Once you have made contact with former members, make sure you invite them to the 75th Indiana FFA State Convention, June 14-18, 2004, where the main Anniversary Celebration festivities will take place!

To find out more about how you can get involved on the local and state levels with the 75th Anniversary Celebration, contact your chapter reporter or the Indiana FFA State Reporter!



Indiana FFA

www.IndianaFFA.org



**Serve your
chapter**

**Build your
community**

**Influence
the country**

**Change
the world**

Start planning your trip to D.C.!



**The dates for this
year's conference are:
June 1-6, June 8-13,
June 15-20, June 22-27,
July 6-11 and July 13-18.**

For registration information, visit www.ffa.org, e-mail wlc@ffa.org or call 317-802-4312.

Strawberry fields



Washington Leadership Conference participants pick fruit for Washington D.C. food banks

BY AMANDA LINDAHL, A MEMBER OF THE CHAPMAN FFA CHAPTER IN KANSAS

This past summer I attended the FFA Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. While attending, I was able to live up to the FFA motto by living to serve. The conference staff told us that we would be participating in a community service project. We had no idea where we were going, or what activity the project involved. They only told us not to wear our best clothes and to come with a positive mental attitude.

Our group of 300 FFA members loaded the buses and headed out of town. Soon, we pulled into a fresh produce marketplace and we realized we would be picking strawberries that would later be distributed at Washington-area food banks.

The day was extremely hot. By the time we actually got to picking strawberries the sun was high and the humidity was sweltering. The weather proved to be a burden on many. It made our one-acre field seem like five acres, and it made our fruit boxes appear larger and



impossible to fill.

To motivate others, I enjoyed singing with the verses saying, "If you would only bend over, your box would get fuller." There probably wasn't a single person in the field that day that didn't sample at least one of those strawberries. One touch to the lips and they seemed like fine cuisine. Fresh off the plant, cool from the morning dew, and ripened to perfection, those strawberries were the best I've ever had.

As my friend and I crawled between the rows picking strawberries, we had plenty of time to talk. We thought, "If these taste so good to us, I wonder how good they taste to people in shelters, who have to search each day for a good meal." We knew that every strawberry picked would definitely be put to good use. This made us want to work even harder. The plants were loaded with strawberries. Some were already spoiled and had to be left, but there were many that were perfectly good. We only had four hours to get as many berries as we could. I felt like a squirrel trying to gather as many nuts as possible before winter.

With time running out, we neared the end of the field. I glanced back on our work accomplished and I instantly became proud. When given the task, we jumped in and got to work. Sure, we were sweaty, very dirty and thirsty, but we put our needs in the aside to make room for the needs of others.

After we finished our picking and had loaded up the strawberries, we began the ride back into the city. This seemed to be a different group of students than had made the trip to the farm. A good number of them had never participated in community service projects before. Taking part in the strawberry harvest deeply touched them.

As I think back today on that simple project I can feel the heat, taste the strawberries and hear the excitement in the air. There is just one detail, however, that I have to imagine: the sparkle in the eyes of less fortunate people as they bite into fresh strawberries that I helped pick. ☆

For more information on the community development ideas and the Washington Leadership Conference, visit www.ffa.org.



If a tree fell in the forest,
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Life is one giant haul. Good thing the All-New Tundra Double Cab has arrived. With up to 1,875 lbs. this big hefty truck has more payload capacity** and more cargo-carrying volume*** than the Ford F-150. So when it comes to the really heavy questions, "Will that fit in my truck?" won't be one of them.

toyota.com 2004 Tundra Double Cab Limited 4x4 shown with available equipment. *1875 lbs. for Tundra Double Cab SR5 4x2 4.7-liter V8. Including the weight of occupants, available equipment and cargo; limited weight distribution. **1875 lbs. for Tundra Double Cab SR5 4x2 4.7-liter V8 vs. 1530 lbs. for Ford F-150 SuperCrew XLT 4x2 4.6-liter V8. Comparison data compiled from manufacturers' Web sites 12/10/03. ***43.88 cu. ft. for 2004 Tundra Double Cab 4x2 and 4x4 vs. 43.42 cu. ft. for Ford F-150 SuperCrew 4x2 and 4x4. Comparison data from ford.com 12/10/03. ©2003 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

GET THE FEELING



Joni Harms' family has farming roots dating back to 1870, when her grandfather homesteaded an Oregon ranch. It's that same piece of ground where Harms lives today with her family. They raise quarter horses and Christmas trees.

For Harms, FFA membership was a way of life. "I have the best memories of my FFA years," she explained. "I was involved all four years of high school, had cattle and horses as my main project."

While in high school, Harms developed a love for western music and singing. FFA turned out to be the right venue for her talents. "The very best part for me," she explained, "was that I was able to sing at some local events put on by the FFA, then sing at state convention, and eventually at the national convention in Kansas City."

It was at that national



Born to Sing

Vocalist Joni Harms reflects on her FFA experience

FFA convention that Harms knew she could do this for a living. "I sang a song I'd written called 'A Girl From The Country' with a band from Hobbs, New Mexico. I received my first standing ovation. What a

thrill that was!"

She went home from that convention with something that would provide miles of motivation. "I was awarded an FFA jacket that said 'National Talent Winner' on it that is still one of my most prized possessions." It was that national FFA convention where, she said, "I knew more than ever I

would have to continue on with my music."

In 2003, the Western Music Association named Harms the top female vocalist of the year and also awarded her the song of the year. Her success in

western music can be traced back to her appearance at the national FFA convention, but it was an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor from Iowa who helped her get noticed.

"He started to book me at events in the area as well as FFA events in the Midwest," Harms explained. "He took my folks and me to Nashville for the first time, and did his best to help get my music attention there."

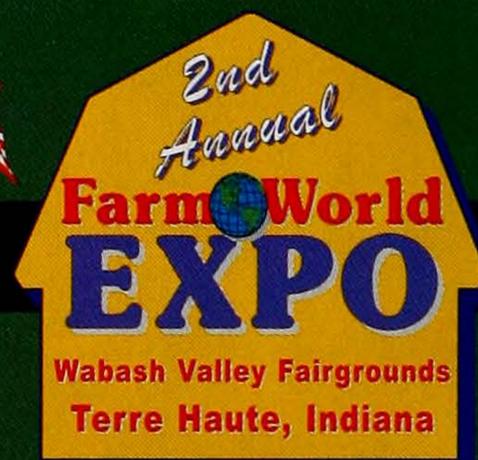
Harms has strived to keep her music in the traditional western music genre. Her new album, "Let's Put the Western Back in the Country," is an attempt to keep the western side of country music alive.

"The majority of the songs," she said, "include lyrics of the West, because I love to write about things I've experienced. Rodeo, cowboys and the ranch way of living shows through in a lot of my music." ★

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- Petting zoo
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- Craft and cooking demonstrations daily
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- Old-time threshing demonstration
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- ATPA tractor pull
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www.farmworldexpo.com

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what's hot

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

TOP 5 AGRICULTURAL CAREERS

farmer/rancher
veterinarian
agriculture teacher
agricultural welder
florist

TOP 5 FFA FUNDRAISERS

candy sales
meat sales
fruit sales
gold and blue cards
cookie sales

TOP 5 SCHOOL LUNCH FOODS

pizza
mexican food
hamburger
chicken
french fries

TOP 5 NON-AG CLASSES

math
p.e.
english
history
science

TOP 5 BOOKS

harry potter books
the bible
a child called it
where the red fern grows
lord of the rings

TOP 5 COUNTRY BANDS / SINGERS

tim mcgraw
kenny chesney
toby keith
rascal flats
faith hill

TOP 5 NON-COUNTRY BANDS / SINGER

50 cent
linkin park
tupac shakur
good charlotte
eminem

TOP 5 FEMALE ACTORS

jennifer lopez
julia roberts
sandra bullock
halle berry
reese witherspoon

TOP 5 MALE ACTORS

adam sandler
vin diesel
ben affleck
jim carrey
mel gibson

TOP 5 MALE ATHLETES

kobe bryant
michael jordan
tiger woods
mike bibby
allen iverson

TOP 5 FEMALE ATHLETES

mia hamm
anna kournikova
venus williams
serena williams
lisa leslie

TOP 5 MOVIES

2 fast 2 furious
the lord of the rings
bad boys II
scary movie
freddy vs. jason

TOP 5 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

sports
hunting/fishing
water sports
camping/hiking
biking

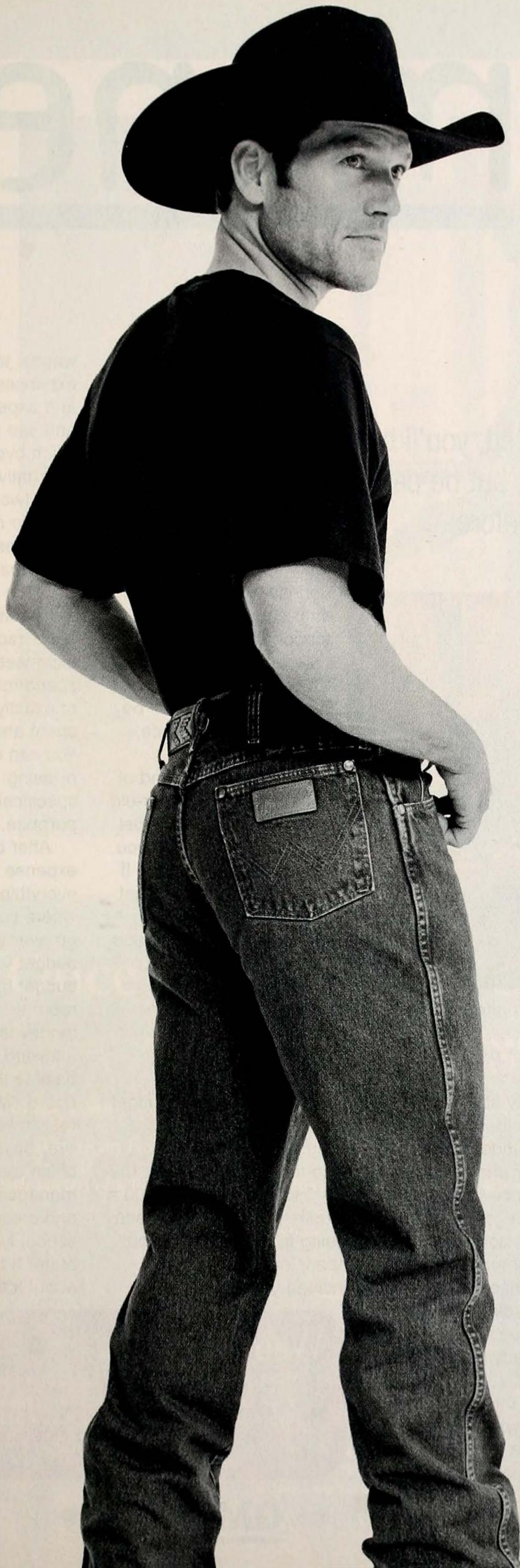
All surveys sent to FFA New Horizons are used in tabulating the above results. Here are the chapters, in alphabetical order, that sent in the most surveys:

Boling FFA, Boling, Texas
Cherryvale FFA, Cherryvale, Kansas
Deming FFA, Deming, New Mexico
Elk Grove FFA, Elk Grove, California
Monache FFA, Porterville, California
North Greene FFA, Greeneville, Tennessee
Ruston FFA, Ruston, Louisiana
Smyrna FFA, Smyrna, Delaware
Sunny Hills FFA, Fullerton, California
Turlock FFA, Turlock, California
Wilson Central FFA, Lebanon, Tennessee



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your money

Earning to live

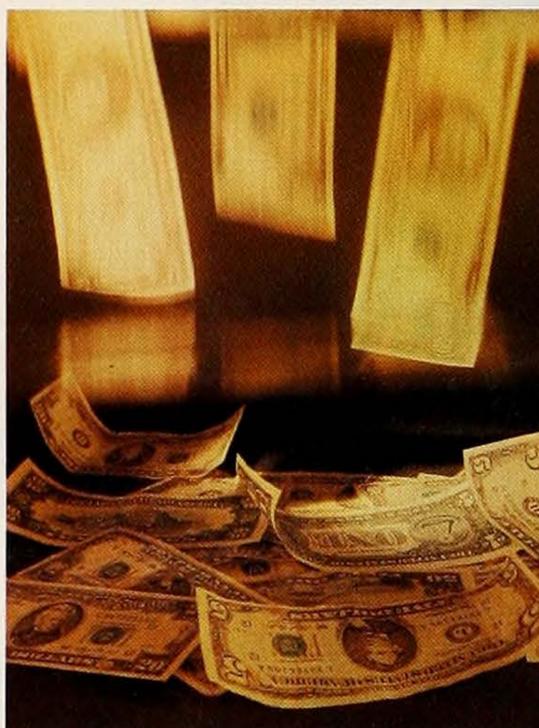
Once you get your career started, you'll be making more money than ever before, but be careful—you'll also be spending more than ever before

You can't wait for that first big paycheck when you're done with school. You'll finally be on your own, and you'll be able to spend your cash in any way you see fit. But there's a catch: Before you ever get your paycheck, about a quarter of your money will have been removed for taxes. With the remainder, you'll quickly find that the rent, the car payment and bills—for your cell phone, Internet service, electricity and car insurance, will quickly eat up even more.

But don't forget about eating. The grocery bills, when combined with what you'll spend at restaurants, will feast on your hard-earned money. While you're at it, don't forget the costs of entertainment and travel.

Be responsible

It's the real world—that vast, awe-inspiring universe everyone enters when graduation comes and school finally ends. It's a world requiring constant financial responsibility. Those who are financially responsible tend to succeed, while those who



are reckless often fall deep into the cracks.

It may not be obvious, but the path to financial responsibility starts in school. Whether you're headed for independence immediately after high school or once you've finished college, by planning ahead—considering potential careers, estimating future expenses, and crafting a preliminary budget—you can be sure you'll be ready when the time comes.

The first thing to consider, says Sara Allen, an executive director with the Consumer Credit

Counseling Service, is what comes after high school. "If you're going to college," says Allen, "student loans might be the way to go. If you'll be entering the workforce, look at the income possibilities. What kind of wages can an 18-year-old expect in your area?" Set goals for yourself. Do you have a career in mind? If so, what will it take to get there? The Internet, guidance counselors, and family friends with interesting jobs are all great sources for career information.

Budget

Next, put together a budget based on a reasonable estimate of your future income. "Rent is due on the first," says Allen. "It's \$400 a month. Where is that money going to come from?" Your spending plan should include your salary or

wages, taxes and your expenses. Subtract taxes and expenses from income and see what, if anything, is left over. If you're left with a negative number, you have two choices: Think of ways to reduce your expenses or consider a better-paying job.

Once you make the transition to independence, keep track of your expenses. Every time you spend money make a note of exactly how much you spent and where it went. You can do this in a journal or using computer software specifically designed for the purpose.

After one full month of expense recording, add everything up and see where you stand. Did you go over your monthly budget (divide your annual budget by 12), or is there room to spare? If there's money left over you can put it toward savings. If not, go back to the budget drawing board. "Most students don't realize how much it costs to live," says Allen, whose office teaches money management, budgeting and credit classes to high school kids. "There's no better time to start thinking about it than now." ★

Web links:

The personal finance site for teens by the National Council on Economic Education (www.ItAllAddsUp.org); Another useful site, this one devoted to issues relating to families (www.FamilyEducation.com)



Once you learn the discipline, you never forget.

As part of our commitment to promoting financial literacy, GM & GMAC, in cooperation with the American Financial Services Association Education Foundation, have created YourPathwaytoVehicleFinancing.com. This self-teaching Web site can help you stay on your toes.



AFSA EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
Brightening Your Financial Horizon



body & soul

TIPS FOR HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

More than the blues

One out of eight teens has been diagnosed with clinical depression. The good news—it's very treatable

It's human nature to feel sad about certain things. The loss of a pet, an argument with a friend, poor test grades—things happen all the time that bring us down. Over time we learn to cope with these bumps in the road and hopefully move on with our lives.

Sadness, however, has a tougher, uglier older cousin named depression, which can be far more difficult to overcome. Depression, considered by health experts to be a clinically diagnosable illness, is recognized by its symptoms.

A depressed person feels sad, but that's just the beginning. They also might feel that life is meaningless, that nothing good ever happens and that nothing is worth their time or attention.

They might stop doing the things that used to make them happy, like playing sports or hanging out with friends. They may wish to be left alone, when before they were typically social and friendly. A person with clinical depression may sleep more than usual, change eating habits, have a short temper or begin abusing drugs or alcohol.

In extremely serious cases, he or she might become suicidal.

Two-week rule

According to Michelle Pruett, director of public education at the National Mental Health Association (NMHA), you're depressed if several symptoms of depression last for more than two weeks.

At that point, she says, if you haven't spoken to someone already, it's time to get help. "Talk with an adult you trust or go to someone at school," says Pruett. "You can go to a school counselor, a teacher, a coach. Or talk with a

parent, clergy or doctor."

Her advice applies not only to the person who is depressed, but also to that person's friends—people who might recognize something is wrong. "You might feel that confidence is really important," says Pruett, "but you'd rather break that confidence than have a friend hurt himself."

Depression in teens is similar to depression in adults, except in the way the symptoms show up. Adults who are depressed typically have jobs. They work for the day and then go home where they can shut the door and disappear. When a young person withdraws from friends and family and stops participating in the usual activities, it's usually not long before someone notices.

How it starts

The causes of depression vary. Some causes are purely situational—like the loss of a friend, a move to another part of the country or the death of a loved one. Others become depressed due to a chemical imbalance in the brain. Some research has even shown depression to be hereditary.

Facts About Depression

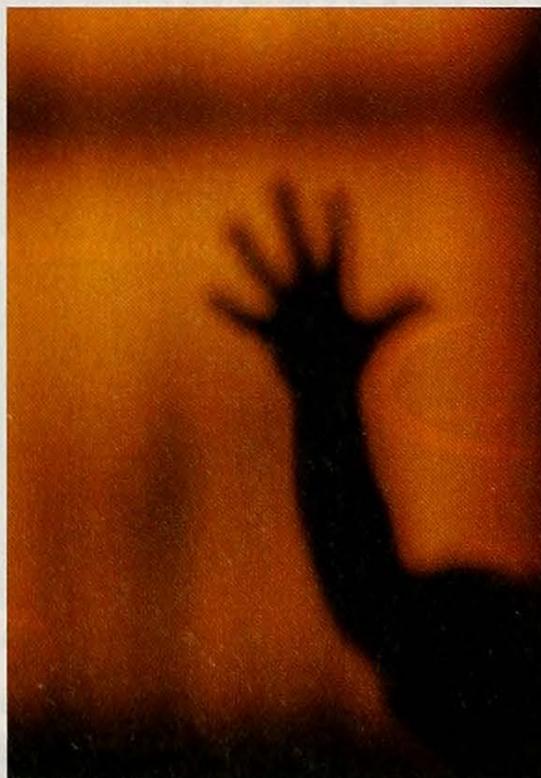
- ✗ An estimated 9.5 percent of the population (18.8 million Americans) suffer from depression
- ✗ Two-thirds of people suffering from depression do not seek treatment
- ✗ 80 percent of clinically depressed people who receive treatment significantly improve their lives
- ✗ Girls are twice as likely to be depressed as boys
- ✗ Nearly 5,000 people ages 15 to 24 commit suicide each year because of depression

The national suicide hotline number (to connect to a local crisis center and a person who can help) is 1-800-SUICIDE

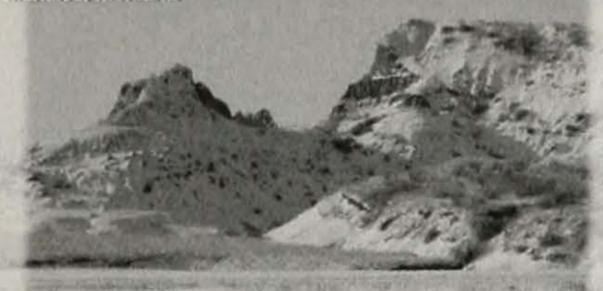
Source: NMHA and the National Institute of Mental Health

One out of every eight teens may suffer from depression, says Pruett, and these are the fortunate ones because they receive help. Depression is very treatable. Special medications can help, as can support groups where people come to work out their problems together.

The important thing to understand, says Pruett, is depression can be beaten. "A lot of people feel hopeless, like there's nothing they can do," she says, "but there's always a way to get better." ★



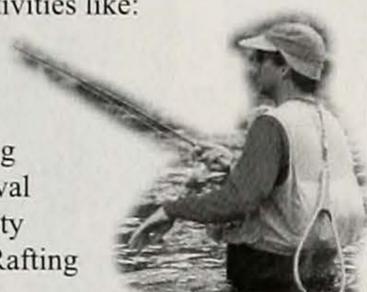
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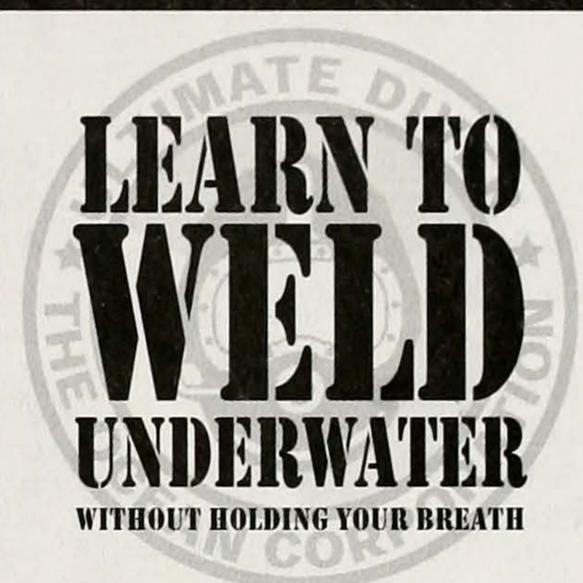


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Watch for our new look!

During the past several months, the staff of FFA New Horizons magazine have been working hard to implement changes to the magazine that we feel will improve its usefulness to FFA members. When the next issue of the magazine arrives in your mailbox in May, we think you'll like what you find.

Here are a few items to watch for: The first thing you'll notice is a redesigned cover. To make the magazine instantly recognizable as the FFA magazine, we've made "FFA" more prominent in the title and added the FFA emblem. Inside the



magazine, we've beefed up the content by adding more stories about FFA members and more information that will help you succeed in FFA, agriculture and life.

Our readers' input helped shape the new look of the magazine. We hope you'll continue to let us know what you think in the future.

Last Laff

Q: What kind of magazine does a leopard read?

A: Spots Illustrated.

Whitney Andrews
MARTIN, GEORGIA

Q: Why was the math book sad?

A: Because it had so many problems.

Hallie Root
LAWRENCEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Q: What American had the largest family?

A: George Washington. He was the "father" of his country.

Adria Stamm
WASHINGTON, KANSAS

Q: What paper makes you itch?

A: Scratch paper.

Daniel Spivey
WOODVILLE, TEXAS

Q: Why did the man run around his bed?

A: He wanted to catch up on his sleep.

John Keane
DEFIANCE, IOWA

Q: What do you put in a barrel to make it lighter?

A: A hole.

Joselyn Marie Gregory
ELLENBURG CENTER, NEW YORK

Q: What is a cheerleader's favorite drink?

A: Root beer.

Johnny Thompson
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA

Q: What goes up and never comes down?

A: Your age.

Blaire Burley
YOUNGSRVILLE, LOUISIANA

Q: Who is the leader of all the tools?

A: The ruler.

Sarah Lubin
OLD TOWN, FLORIDA

Q: What did the ground say to the sun?

A: You're cracking me up.

Jennifer Boyko
WORLAND, WYOMING

Q: What has teeth but no mouth?

A: A comb.

Chelsey Runia
CLARA CITY, MINNESOTA

Q: What runs around a pasture but never moves?

A: A fence.

Erika Brooks
MARENGO, OHIO

Q: Why did the squirrel look at me when I climbed the tree?

A: It thought I was nuts.

Keri Ensley
CHATSWORTH, GEORGIA

Q: What did one knife say to the other knife?

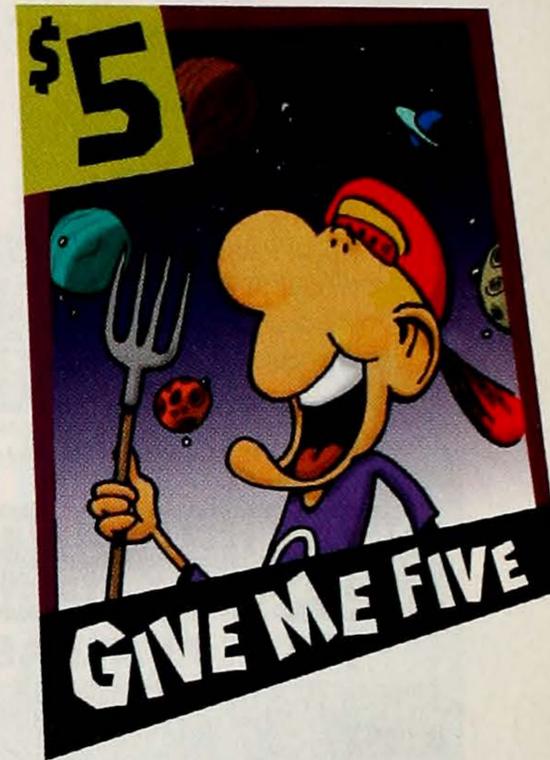
A: You're looking sharp tonight.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood FFA
WITTENBERG, WISCONSIN

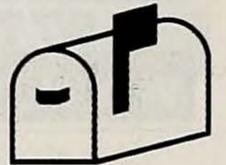
Q: How do you scratch your brain?

A: Think of sandpaper.

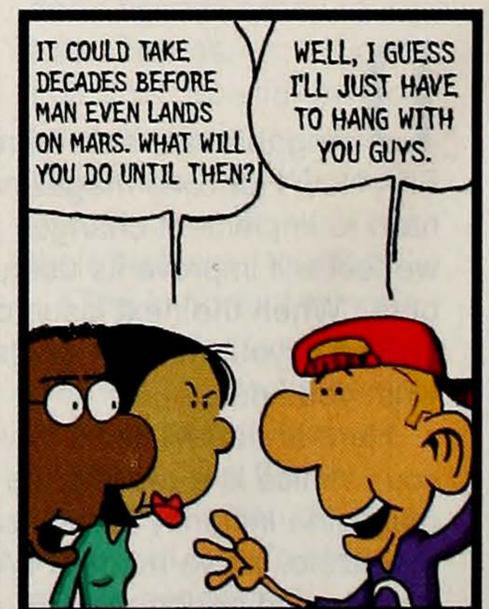
Ryan Atenhan
GENEVA, NEBRASKA



WE'LL PAY FIVE BUCKS FOR EACH JOKE SELECTED ON THIS PAGE. IF WE RECEIVE DUPLICATE JOKES, THE PERSON WHO SENT IT IN FIRST GETS THE CASH. BECAUSE WE RECEIVE SO MANY JOKES, WE CAN'T ACKNOWLEDGE OR RETURN YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. WRITE YOUR JOKE ON A POSTCARD OR SHEET OF PAPER AND MAIL IT TO US (YOU'LL FIND OUR ADDRESS ON PAGE 3).



Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw



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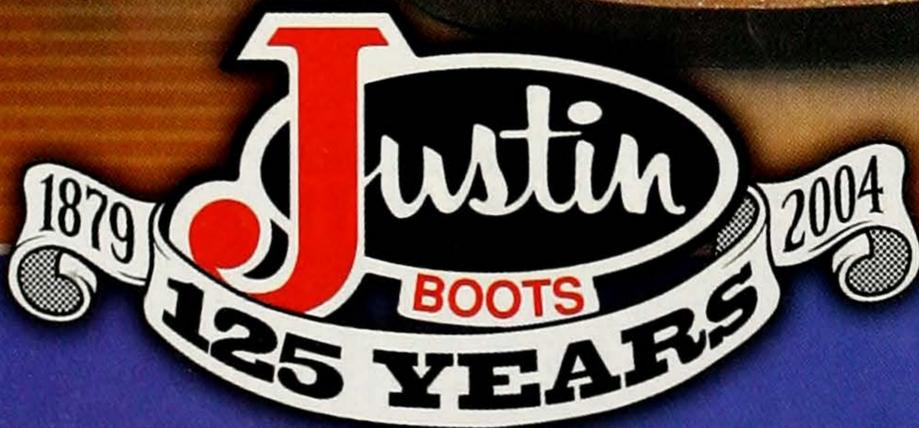


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