

FFA

new horizons

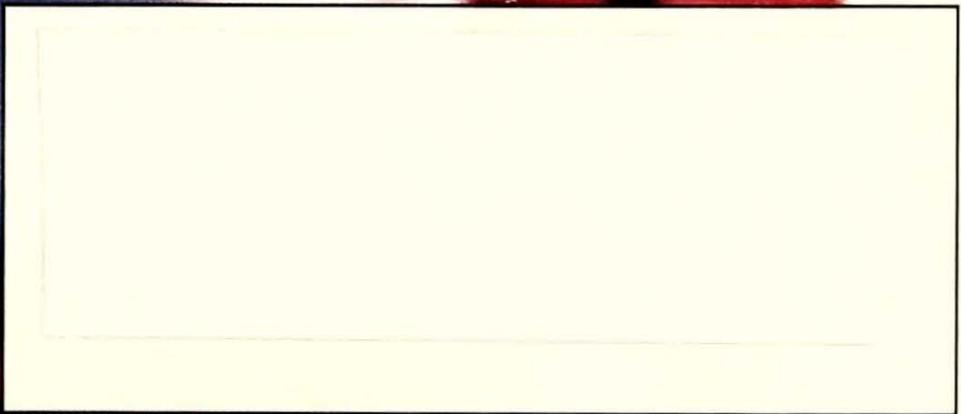
THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

MARCH/APRIL 2002



Turn On
8 AGRICULTURAL CAREERS THAT WILL GET YOUR WHEELS TURNING
the Power

FIVE FFA MEMBERS GIVE NEW LIFE TO TRADITIONAL MUSIC
Unplugged



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The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

COVER STORY

14 Unplugged

Meet five FFA members who make music the old-fashioned way—on acoustic instruments. They're called the Ripplin' Waters Bluegrass Band, and they're rising stars at bluegrass festivals in and around their home state of Missouri.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANE MORGAN



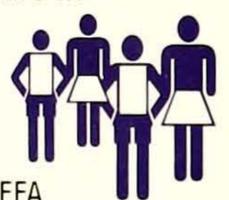
FEATURES

6 Amazing grain

Did you know that rice is used in everything from cereal to desserts? It's also used to make rice flour, rice bran oils, rice milk and rice noodles, among other foods. Learn more in this snapshot of the U.S. rice industry.

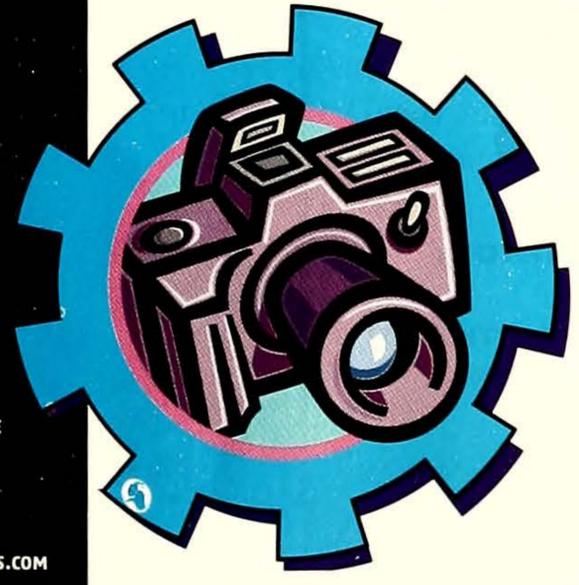
8 Let's celebrate

The best way to conclude a successful year for your FFA chapter is to plan a great banquet, where you can recognize everyone—FFA members, advisors, parents, supporters and friends—who worked hard and helped out.



10 Turn on the power

Wondering what kind of agricultural career you might want to try? We've come up with eight careers—everything from agricultural mechanic to computer programmer—where you can work with machines. We'll also answer your career questions.



important dates to remember

- MAY 1**
INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR FOR STATE OFFICERS (ILSSO)
APPLICATIONS DUE (AUGUST 2002 DEPARTURE)
- OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 2**
NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, STORY IDEAS AND SUBMISSIONS FOR WHAT'S HOT, LAST LAFF, FFA FACES AND FFA IN ACTION TO:
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visit: www.ffa.org

what's up

Robin's favorite breakfast cereal? Cheerios

DEPARTMENTS

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Robin Niehaus, national FFA secretary, talks about music, agriculture and role models.

MEET MEGAN



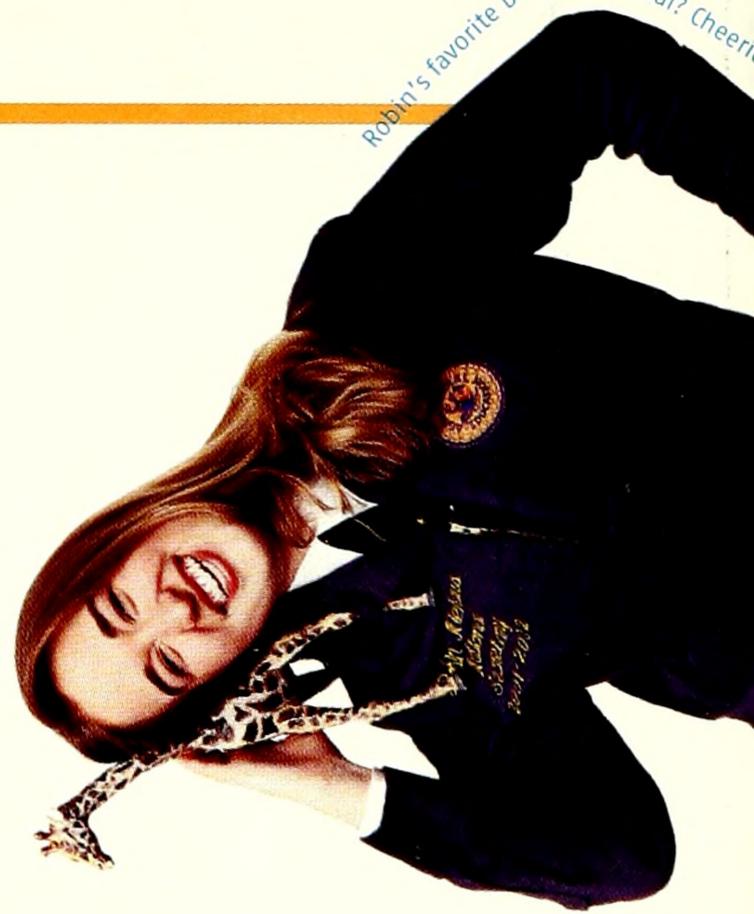
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Meet some FFA movers and shakers from around the U.S.

16 Puzzler

This issue's puzzler theme: Farm Aid.

clue: Part of a fence



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Strategies for saving your cash.

20 What's Hot

FFA members make their "hot" picks on everything from careers to movies.

22 Body & Soul

How getting involved translates into success.

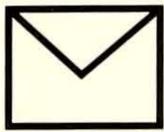
24 Last Laff

Jokes about Eminem, snakes, bees, cats and a gas station.

FFA Motto
Learning to Do,
Doing to Learn,
Earning to Live,
Living to Serve.

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

Agricultural Education Mission
Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.



rniehaus@ffa.org

Q&A



NATIONAL OFFICER Q&A

Robin Niehaus National Secretary

Tell us a little about yourself.

I am proud of my roots in faith, family and agriculture. Life is fun! I love to be with people and share my love for music—singing, playing piano and trumpet, performing with people or just listening. I also enjoy a good workout or team sport.

How did you first get interested in agriculture?

Spending time at my grandparents' farm. It also helps that my dad teaches agriculture, but I found my true love for agriculture when I joined the FFA. I was immediately drawn to the people. I found my passion in communicating the importance of our industry. I love farming with my grandpa, too.

Who are your role models?

My biggest role models are my grandpa and my sister Karla. Grandpa has taught me about hard work and agricultural traditions. His love, compassion and faithfulness encourage me to live with integrity. Karla is one of my best friends, and her example challenges me to make my mark and seek new experiences.

What are your most memorable FFA moments while in high school?

Counting Christmas lights on the way to the state FFA parliamentary procedure career development event (CDE), teaching third graders in the FFA "Food for America" program and making friends and dancing at FFA leadership conferences.

What agricultural issues are important to you?

Agricultural literacy is important to me. We must promote the positive future of our industry so consumers will understand its vitality. Ethanol production is also important. It helps our environment and boosts opportunities for American farmers. Increasing demand for agricultural products is the best way to improve commodity prices.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever had?

Just be you! It sounds simple, but it is truly the foundation for success. Sometimes we act in a certain way to fit in, but we must realize that there is no cookie cutter for making successful people. Be true to your beliefs, build on your strengths and let your true colors shine. ★

AGE

14 • JOINED FFA AND WAS ELECTED FFA CHAPTER REPORTER

• FINALIST IN FFA STATE CREED COMPETITION

15 • SANG IN NATIONAL FFA CHORUS

16 • LOST FFA CHAPTER OFFICER ELECTION

• LOST BID FOR SECTION FFA PRESIDENT

• TIED FOR FIRST PLACE IN FFA SECTION LAND USE CDE

17 • NATIONAL FFA PROFICIENCY AWARD FINALIST IN AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS

• NAMED SECOND PLACE CHAIRMAN IN THE FFA STATE PARLIAMETARY PROCEDURE CDE

• NAMED HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN

• ELECTED STATE FFA REPORTER

19 • EARNED AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

20 • ELECTED NATIONAL FFA SECRETARY



vitals

HOMETOWN: HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS

AGE: 20

CHAPTER: HILLSBORO FFA

ADVISOR: MR. MARTY NIEHAUS

SAE: AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS, DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION (PLACEMENT) AND FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

EDUCATION: SOPHOMORE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

MAJOR: AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

FAVORITE MUSICIAN: STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN

LAST GOOD BOOK I READ: THE HOLY BIBLE

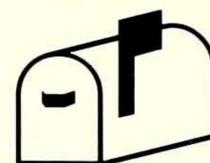
FAVORITE CEREAL: CHEERIOS

FAVORITE FOOD: ICE CREAM AND SWEET CORN (NOT TOGETHER, OF COURSE)

BEST MOVIE I'VE SEEN LATELY: SHREK

DID YOU KNOW THAT REAL GIRAFFES CAN REACH HEIGHTS OF OVER 18 FEET?

ffa faces



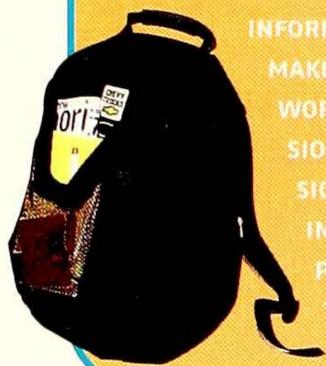
WANT TO SEE YOURSELF,
A FRIEND OR YOUR
ADVISOR ON THIS PAGE?
SEE SUBMISSION
REQUIREMENTS BELOW.

MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A pack for your back!

WE'RE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT 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, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ANY OTHER

INFORMATION THAT MAKES THE NOMINEE WORTHY OF INCLUSION. ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST INCLUDE A COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NOMINEE.



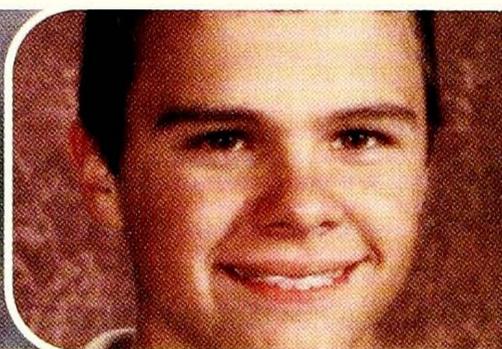
NORTH CAROLINA



Amanda Miller
COLLEGIATE

A freshman at Virginia Polytechnic University, majoring in animal and poultry science, Amanda loves to work with livestock. This former Northwood FFA Chapter president placed in the top ten nationally with her beef production supervised agricultural experience (SAE) and last year received the FFA state star farmer (entrepreneurship) award. ★

INDIANA



Adam Raper
SENIOR

As Liberty FFA Chapter secretary, Adam is known as a team player. In addition to serving on the chapter officer team, Adam has been a successful member of his chapter's soils, meat judging and livestock judging teams. In 2000, he took second place in the state swine production placement and entrepreneurship proficiency awards. ★

MONTANA



Tom McClure
JUNIOR

This Big Sky FFA Chapter vice president excels in music and FFA. As a musician, Tom played in last year's National FFA Band and has made the all-state band twice. A 2001 state poultry proficiency award winner, he continues to work on his SAE, which also includes work with dairy cows, market hogs and employment at a local John Deere dealership. ★

OHIO



Marti Schlatter
SOPHOMORE

Her enthusiasm is contagious. That's what makes Marti a rising leader in the Spaulding FFA Chapter. In addition to encouraging younger members to get involved, she competes in multiple CDEs and serves as FFA chapter reporter. Last year, she was named FFA star greenhand and participated in the state FFA creed competition. ★

NEVADA



Megan Lucke
FRESHMAN

Even though she's new to FFA, Megan is not a newcomer when it comes to horses and hard work. For the past eight years, she has been active in western horse showmanship and training. She plans to start an equine-related SAE and become an FFA chapter officer. Megan's a member of the Reno Rodeo and Flag Team. ★

NEW YORK



Allyson Jones-Brimmer
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Currently a seventh-grader, Allyson already has taken up a leadership role in FFA. She's the Jefferson FFA "junior" chapter president (she was vice president as a sixth-grader). Last year, Allyson's horse judging team took first at the state convention. Allyson also devotes time to her FFA chapter's community service projects. ★

OREGON



John Dimick
ADVISOR

After 20 years as Crater FFA Chapter advisor, Mr. "D" (as FFA members refer to him) continues to work hard for FFA members. Before a big competition, he's been known to calm students by saying, "Do your best and winning will take care of itself." This approach seems to work—he's coached three national champion livestock judging teams. ★



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A snapshot of the U.S. rice industry

Amazing Grain

by Chris Hayhurst



It's probably safe to assume that most Americans, if given the opportunity, would not place rice on their top-ten list of favorite foods. After all, how can a grain of rice—that minuscule, often-gooney, rather bland pellet of starch that it is—compete against the likes of pizza, burritos or hamburgers?

While rice may not be the most popular food here in America, it does have global appeal. Take a look around the world, for instance, and you'll see that rice is the primary source of nutrition for more than half the planet's population. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, average global rice consumption tops 145 pounds per person per year. And while people in Asia generally eat more rice than just about anyone else, even here in the United States the average citizen forks down nearly 27 pounds of the stuff every year.

It may come as a surprise, but the vast majority of rice for sale in U.S. grocery stores today comes not from Asia, where over 90 percent of the world's rice crop originates, but from domestic producers. Growers overseas meet only 12 percent of our rice needs; the rest—including everything from long-grained varieties produced primarily in the South to short-grained "japonica" rice from California—is planted, tended to and harvested right here on U.S. soil.

Not an easy crop

Still, U.S. rice farmers don't exactly have it easy. "It takes a lot of money to get into rice," explains USDA rice expert Nathan Childs. The main

expense? After land, the high-tech equipment. Rice farmers in America use everything from lasers to computers to airplanes to ensure the success of their crop. When seeds are planted in the spring, the work is done not by hand, but by machine-operated "grain drilling" or, in many cases, casting from the air. Irrigation systems are extensive, as even flooding is required throughout the growing season, primarily as a means of weed control.

When it comes time for harvest, the water is drained from the fields and massive combines are put to work. As they move over the land, the combines shear away the rice grass, separate the grains from the stalks and then dump it into nearby trucks. From there the rice is shipped to special drying facilities where moisture trapped in the grains is forced out by warm air. Once the rice is thoroughly dried, it's ready for sale to processors.

Processing takes place at a rice mill. Shelling machines typically take the raw rice kernels and pop off the hard, inedible hull to reveal bran-rich "brown rice." This brown rice can be sold as-is or can be further processed into "white rice." White rice is nothing more than brown rice with the bran rubbed off.

To the consumer

When finished rice leaves the mill, it can take a number of different paths to the kitchen. Much of the rice produced winds up being sold to consumers as, well, rice—in bags, boxes or out of bulk bins in natural-foods stores. A good portion, however, is used to make processed foods. Scan

the supermarket shelves and you'll find rice in everything from cereal to desserts; you'll also see rice flour, rice bran oils, rice milk and rice noodles, among other foods. A huge amount of rice is used in the production of beverages and pet food.

The main challenge for American rice farmers today, say experts, is finding ways to remain competitive with foreign growers. Prime rice-growing land is far more expensive in the United States than it is in many other parts of the world. Water, too, comes at a high price, especially when compared to that in the monsoon-drenched climates of countries like China and Thailand. As a result, most other rice-growing countries can provide the grain at a significantly lower price. In fact, if it weren't for one major difference between foreign-grown rice and the rice grown on U.S. soil—that is, quality—the U.S. rice industry would most likely fall apart.

"Today's rice farmer has to be aware that merely producing a crop isn't enough," says Childs. "While in the past you could just grow anything and people would buy it, now you have to grow what consumers want." And what U.S. consumers want, says Childs, are "specialty" rice varieties—carefully cultivated grains custom suited to American tastes. For now U.S. farmers are providing exactly that. But the competition is catching on, and it won't be long before they have to compete with top-notch yet cheaper varieties from overseas. What to do? "Researchers are hard at work," says Childs. "The future depends on it." ★

Did you know?

- ASIA BOTH PRODUCES AND CONSUMERS NEARLY 90 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S RICE.
- THE UNITED STATES TYPICALLY PRODUCES BETWEEN 1.5 AND 2 PERCENT OF THE WORLD RICE CROP.
- THE TOP RICE-PRODUCING STATES ARE ARKANSAS, CALIFORNIA, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, TEXAS, AND MISSOURI. ARKANSAS IS HOME TO MORE THAN 45 PERCENT OF THE U.S. RICE CROP.
- RICE ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 1 PERCENT OF TOTAL CROPLAND IN THE UNITED STATES.
- RICE IS THE EIGHTH-BIGGEST MONEY-PRODUCING CROP IN THE UNITED STATES. FINISHING AHEAD OF RICE ARE CORN, SOYBEANS, HAY, WHEAT, COTTON, TOBACCO AND POTATOES.
- ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE U.S. RICE CROP IS EXPORTED TO OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA, CANADA, JAPAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.
- ALMOST 75 PERCENT OF THE U.S. RICE CROP IS LONG GRAIN RICE.
- ONLY 12 PERCENT OF THE RICE CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES EACH YEAR IS IMPORTED, AND 75 PERCENT OF THAT RICE IS JASMINE RICE FROM THAILAND.
- NEARLY 70 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S RICE IS PRODUCED IN JUST FOUR COUNTRIES: CHINA, INDIA, INDONESIA AND BANGLADESH.

SOURCE: USDA ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Let's Celebrate

Now that school year's end is approaching, it's time to start planning your FFA chapter banquet

As the FFA banquet season rolls in, it's time to start thinking about how your FFA chapter will approach this highly anticipated event, where people are recognized for the good things they've done during the year.

With parents, supporters and friends in attendance, the chapter banquet is a magical moment for those who have worked so hard and have won awards throughout the year at local, regional, state or even national competitions.

For those who didn't win the awards, but worked hard on their supervised agricultural experiences, career development event teams, community service projects and other worthy projects, there are plenty of ways to recognize them. ★

Put it in writing

MUCH OF YOUR BANQUET'S SUCCESS HINGES ON WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE AND AFTER: THE INVITATIONS AND "THANK YOU" NOTES

INVITATIONS

Nothing fancy required here. Just make an list of everyone you'd like to invite. Then, using a computer, create a basic invitation with all the necessary information: date, time and location. You'll probably want to ask invitees to RSVP in advance, especially if you will be serving food. Mailing the invitations

might cost more because you'll have to buy envelopes and postage. To save a few bucks, have chapter members hand-deliver invitations. Download a sample banquet invitation letter at: www.ffa.org/programs/gaspforairr/html/ask.html

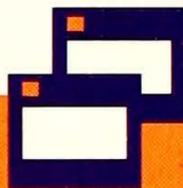
"THANK YOU" NOTES

If there are individuals, business

or corporations that have helped make it possible for you to be involved in FFA activities, now is the time to acknowledge their support. "Thank you" notes are most effective when they are personalized and handwritten. Part of the challenge is making a list of people to whom you should send them. Make your own list and show it

to your FFA advisor, who can add names in case you missed anyone.

Did you know that you can order FFA stationery (letterhead and envelopes), banquet supplies (balloons, placemats, decorations and more) and plaques and trophies from the National FFA Organization? Just log on to www.ffaunlimited.org



slide show

One of the best ways to recognize everyone is to put together a slide show of photographs taken throughout the year. First, get a copy of your FFA chapter roster from your FFA advisor. Then, scour your chapter's stockpile of photos and try to get at least one photo of every chapter member. If you can't find one, try to get your hands on a camera and take one, or ask that person for one. Place a checkmark after that person's name when you have the photo in your hands.

Next, it's time to create a slide show. The most effective way to do this is using a computer. With a scanner and program such as PowerPoint, it won't take long to put it together. Recruit the most computer-savvy person in your chapter to help out.



fun awards

Another way to make sure no one escapes recognition at the banquet is to give specialized awards for various deeds and actions that helped the chapter: If you have a school farm, give awards to those who help with chores. If you have a chapter website, give an award to the people who keep it going.

Don't be afraid to have a little good-natured fun with this. "We often give gag gifts and prizes, and embarrass many students, but it's all in good fun," says Amber Swenor, an FFA member from Birnamwood, Wisconsin. "Our entire community has the understanding that if you're picked-on at the FFA banquet, then you're a loved community member."



other members who make a difference

Without the help of FFA advisors, parents, local businesses, friends and others, FFA chapters would cease to exist. The banquet is your opportunity to show those folks how their efforts have helped your chapter over the course of the year.

You have lots of options when it comes to recognizing these important contributors: you can print their names in a program, ask them to stand or create special awards just for them.

It takes leadership skills and a lot of time to coordinate and stage a successful banquet. If you're part of the team that makes it happen, don't forget to reserve an award for yourself—you'll have earned it.

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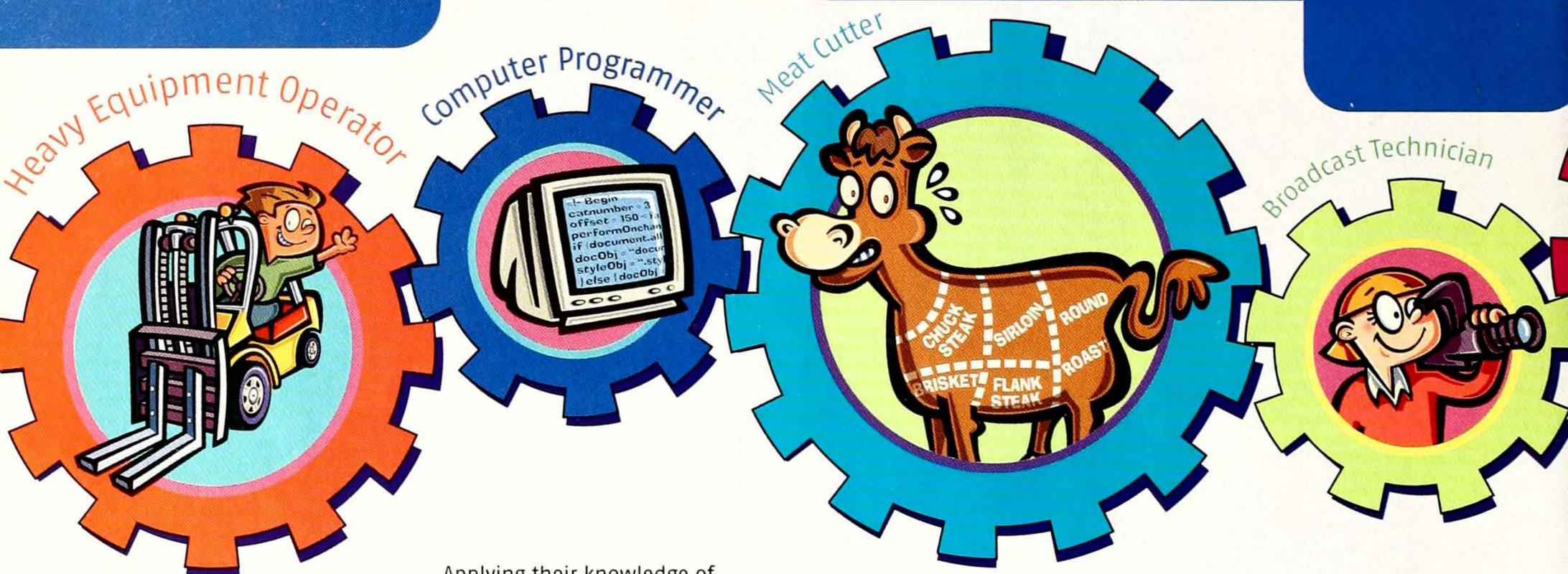
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WORK WITH MACHINES

turn

on the

power



Whether they're operating excavators, farm tractors, forklifts or cranes, heavy equipment operators work in a wide range of situations—everything from agriculture production to manufacturing and environmental projects. These professionals must have excellent coordination and should be able to perform light equipment maintenance.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma is required. High school classes in agriculture, math, business and computers are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Any of the three different Agricultural mechanics SAEs; Agricultural mechanics CDE.

SALARY: In 1998, the median annual earnings for heavy equipment operators was roughly \$28,000. The highest paid 10 percent earned more than \$45,000 annually.

EMPLOYERS: Construction, landscaping and manufacturing companies and farms.

MORE INFORMATION: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos243.htm>

Applying their knowledge of computer languages such as COBOL or C++, programmers design and create applications that tell computers what to do. Many agricultural companies hire these professionals to create new, custom-made programs or to modify and update existing programs. Programmers are in high demand because they are usually knowledgeable in networking, system maintenance and other computer specialties.

EDUCATION: A four-year degree, preferably in computer science, is required. High school classes in agriculture, computers and math are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Emerging agricultural technology SAE.

SALARY: In 1998, the median annual earnings for computer programmers was \$47,550. The lowest paid 10 percent earned less than \$27,670; the highest 10 percent earned more than \$88,730.

EMPLOYERS: Private companies and government agencies.

MORE INFORMATION: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos110.htm>

Animals are one of our primary sources of food. Meat cutters play a key role in getting it to us. Working primarily in meatpacking plants, they slaughter cattle, hogs, goats and sheep, then use power tools, conveyors and hand tools to divide carcasses into large cuts that can later be used for retail sale. The job is physically demanding and can be dangerous if workers do not strictly adhere to safety procedures.

EDUCATION: A high school diploma is required. High school classes in agriculture and business are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Agricultural processing and Food science and technology SAEs; Meats evaluation and technology CDE.

SALARY: In 1998, the median annual earnings for meat cutters was \$20,420. The highest paid 10 percent earned more than \$34,460 annually.

EMPLOYERS: Meatpacking and food processing plants.

MORE INFORMATION: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos219.htm>

Whether they're working in TV, radio or the Internet, broadcast technicians use a multitude of machines—microphones, video cameras, computers and lighting systems, just to name a few—in getting agricultural news reports on the air. With new advances in digital and satellite transmission, broadcast technicians must know the latest technology.

EDUCATION: A two- or four-year degree in telecommunications or broadcasting is required. High school classes in agriculture, physics, electronics and math are recommended.

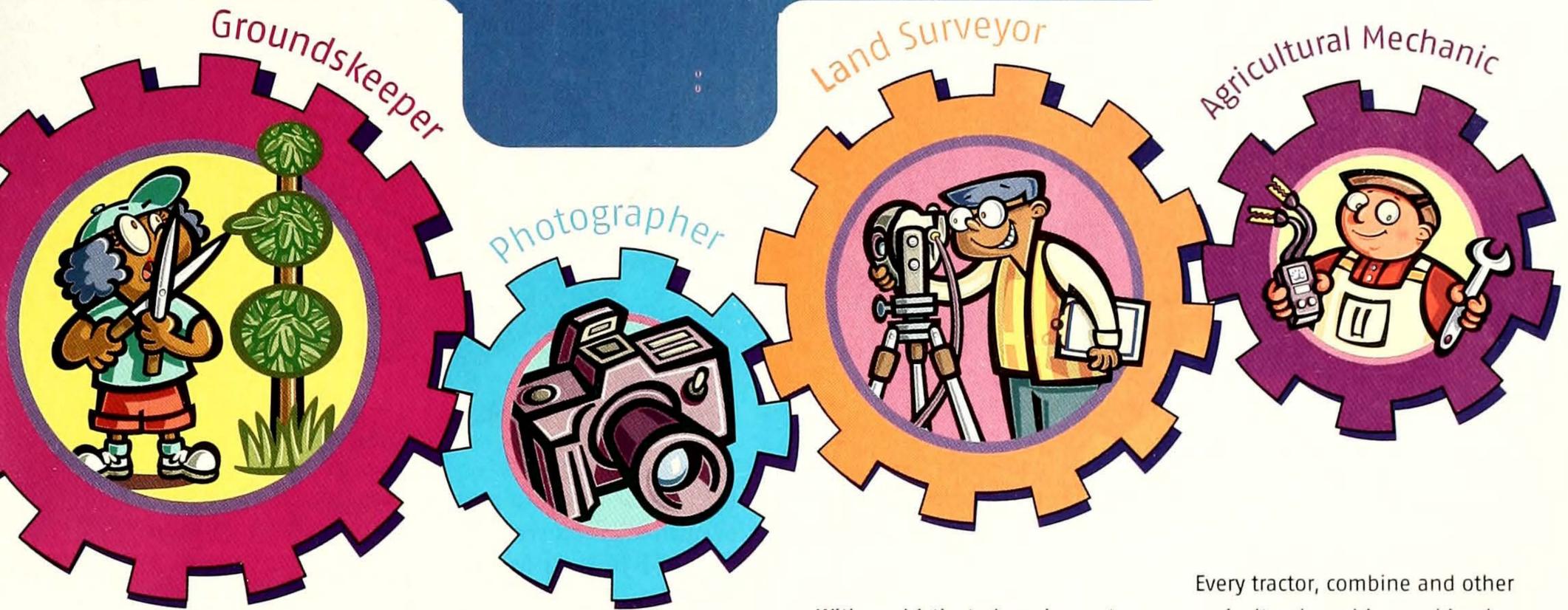
RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Agricultural communications SAE and CDE.

SALARY: In 1998, the median annual earnings for broadcast technicians was \$25,270. The lowest paid 10 percent earned less than \$12,620 and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$67,020.

EMPLOYERS: TV, radio and Internet broadcasting organizations.

MORE INFORMATION: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos109.htm>

A quick look back at history shows how important machines are to agriculture. The cotton gin, gasoline engine and the computer are just a few of the machines that sparked revolutions in the industry. Today, there are all types of agricultural careers where you can work with machines. Here are eight that will get your wheels turning



Using such equipment as mowers, irrigation systems, trimmers, backhoes, edgers and small tractors, groundskeepers maintain lawns and landscaping at golf courses, athletic fields, cemeteries, parks and private and public green spaces. They also do light construction on retaining walls, paths, and other structures.

EDUCATION: The minimum requirement is a high school diploma, but in some cases a two- or four-year degree in turf management is required. High school classes in agriculture, business and science are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Turf grass management and Landscape management SAEs; Nursery/Landscape CDE.

SALARY: Varies widely depending on education, position and experience. Ranges from minimum wage to more than \$20 per hour for management positions.

EMPLOYERS: Local governments, golf courses, athletic fields and cemeteries.

MORE INFORMATION: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos172.htm>

Using cameras, lighting equipment, darkroom equipment and computers for digital processing of photos, photographers capture images for agricultural magazines, newspapers, product advertising, fine art and websites. Some photographers are salaried staff members, but more than half are self-employed.

EDUCATION: A four-year degree in photography, journalism or a related field is required. High school classes in agriculture, photography, art and journalism are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Agricultural communications SAE and CDE.

SALARY: In 1998, the median annual earnings for photographers was \$20,940. The lowest paid 10 percent earned less than \$12,490 and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$43,860.

EMPLOYERS: More than half are self-employed. Most others work for news gathering organizations.

MORE INFORMATION: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos091.htm>

With sophisticated equipment, ranging from the traditional theodolite to electronic surveying instruments to GPS, surveyors establish air space, water and land boundaries. In addition to extensive on-site field work, surveyors also spend time doing research on properties and preparing reports that will be used in making maps and determining land use.

EDUCATION: A four-year degree in surveying, forestry or civil engineering is increasingly required. High school classes in agriculture, computers, math and science are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Environmental science and natural resources management and Forest management and products SAEs; Environmental science and Forestry CDEs.

SALARY: In 1998, the median annual earnings for surveyors was \$37,640. The lowest paid 10 percent earned less than \$21,510 and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$76,880.

EMPLOYERS: Mining, architectural and construction companies and government agencies.

MORE INFORMATION: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos040.htm>

Every tractor, combine and other agricultural machine and implement needs maintenance on a regular basis. The use of sophisticated electronics, computer-driven yield monitors and variable rate applicators in today's equipment means more owners rely on dealer mechanics for service and repairs. That keeps mechanics in high demand.

EDUCATION: A two-year degree in agricultural mechanics or a closely related field is required. High school classes in agriculture, math, business and computers are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Any of the three different Agricultural mechanics SAEs; Agricultural mechanics CDE.

SALARY: The median hourly earnings for farm equipment mechanics in 1998 was \$10.94. The lowest paid 10 percent earned less than \$6.96 and the top 10 percent earned more than \$16.01. Overtime during the planting and harvesting generally pays time and one-half.

EMPLOYERS: Equipment dealers, independent repair shops and farms.

MORE INFORMATION: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos190.htm>



Agricultural career resources

Career Q&A

FFA New Horizons answers your career questions

QUESTION

CONSTANCE SAXON, A MEMBER OF THE OGLETHORPE COUNTY FFA CHAPTER, GEORGIA, WRITES:

I'M VERY INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN JOURNALISM. COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME AS MUCH INFO AS POSSIBLE ON AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS?

ANSWER

FFA NEW HORIZONS SAYS:

CONSTANCE, THERE ARE MANY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FFA MEMBERS INTERESTED IN JOURNALISM. WITH A COLLEGE DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISM OR A RELATED AREA SUCH AS ENGLISH, JOURNALISM OR COMMUNICATIONS, YOU COULD PURSUE A CAREER WORKING FOR A NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE, RADIO STATION, TV STATION OR AN INTERNET NEWS PROVIDER. WHILE THE PAY FOR BUDDING JOURNALISTS ISN'T HIGH (EXPECT TO START IN THE \$20,000 TO \$24,000 RANGE), YOU CAN QUICKLY INCREASE YOUR PAY AS YOU PROVE YOUR ABILITIES. FOR NOW, TAKE LOTS OF AGRICULTURE, ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM CLASSES. THEN, CONSIDER STARTING AN SAE IN AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS. THIS WILL GIVE YOU VALUABLE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE. YOU MIGHT ALSO TRY TO

ARRANGE A VISIT TO YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER TO TALK TO JOURNALISTS ABOUT THEIR JOBS.

QUESTION

MEG CAMPBELL, A MEMBER OF THE EDGEWOOD FFA CHAPTER, TEXAS, WRITES:

THOUGH I AM ONLY A FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL, I AM INTERESTED IN SCHOLARSHIPS. I AM LOOKING AT GOING TO TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY TO GET A DEGREE IN AN AGRICULTURAL FIELD. I NEEDED TO KNOW IF YOU KNOW ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SCHOOL AND ANY INFORMATION ABOUT ANY SCHOLARSHIPS I MAY APPLY FOR.

ANSWER

FFA NEW HORIZONS SAYS:

MEG, WE'RE GLAD TO SEE THAT, AS A FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL, YOU'RE ALREADY THINKING AHEAD TO COLLEGE. WHILE IT'S PROBABLY TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO BE APPLYING FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING SCHOLARSHIPS WHEN IT COMES TIME TO GO TO COLLEGE. FIRST, START GETTING GOOD GRADES RIGHT NOW BECAUSE THE BETTER YOUR GRADES, THE MORE PROMISING A STUDENT

YOU'LL BE IN THE EYES OF PEOPLE WHO DECIDE WHO GETS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY. SECOND, GET INVOLVED IN FFA AND OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION TO HELPING YOU GROW AS A PERSON, THESE WILL LOOK GOOD ON COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS. THIRD, ASK YOUR ADVISOR ABOUT THE FFA SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS IN YOUR AREA, AND THEN DO SOME RESEARCH AT THE LIBRARY ON OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS. YOU SHOULD ALSO CALL THE FINANCIAL AID DEPARTMENT AT TEXAS A&M AND ASK ABOUT AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURE. CHECK OUT THE "YOUR MONEY" DEPARTMENT IN THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2001 ISSUES OF *FFA NEW HORIZONS* FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID.

YOU CAN FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET AND AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.

BOOKS

CAREER INFORMATION CENTER, SIXTH EDITION
Volume 2: Agribusiness, Environment and Natural Resources and Volume 6: Engineering, Science and Technology

By MacMillan Library Reference USA

THE AMERICAN ALMANAC OF JOBS AND SALARIES

By John Wright

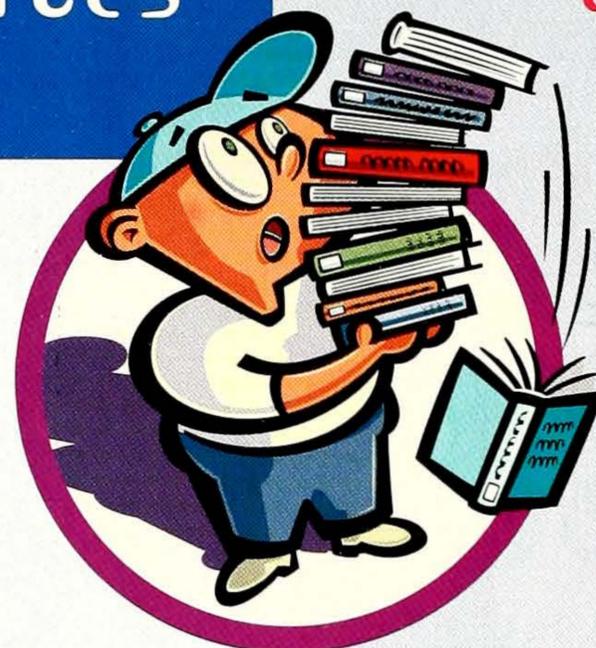
OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

By the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics

WEBSITES

THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION'S AGRICULTURAL CAREERS DATABASE
www.ffa.org/careers/index.html

THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS' CAREER DATABASE
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>



Read all about it!

HAVE A CAREER QUESTION?
SEND IT TO:
CAREER Q&A
FFA NEW HORIZONS
P.O. BOX 68960
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46268-0960
E-MAIL: EGAUKE@MINDSPRING.COM

INFORMATION SOURCES INCLUDE THE WEBSITES AND PUBLICATIONS LISTED THROUGHOUT THE ARTICLE.

ILLUSTRATION BY PATTY O'FRIEL

Washington Leadership Conference



Ultimate adventures ahead at WLC

Are you ready to embark on an adventure that can change your life? Then Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) is for you!

This is no ordinary leadership experience. You will spend a week putting these skills into practice as you make new friends from across the United States, tour our nation's capital and visit with members of Congress. This action-packed week will help you gain self-confidence and leadership skills to take back to your FFA chapter and share with other members!

Everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner at WLC, because we use highly interactive program methods rather than classroom lectures. You will sometimes learn in a large group, and at other times, you will work with your small

group. The small group work provides a supportive, safe environment that promotes learning and the development of new skills and attitudes.

Now, are you ready for an exciting experience? Seven, one-week premier leadership conferences are offered June through July. Just choose the week that fits your summer schedule. Conferences can fill up fast! Guarantee your week by registering today. It's simple—just fax or mail the registration form. And, pass one along to a friend! After your registration arrives at FFA, you will receive a confirmation card and additional information. **Sign up now for the WLC student or advisor programs. June 4-July 28.**

Washington Leadership Conference



2002 Registration Form (Mail this completed form along with payment to the National FFA Organization: 6060 FFA Drive, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 or fax (317) 802-6061)

Conference Dates

Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices.

June 4-9

June 11-16

June 18-23

June 25-30

July 9-14

July 16-21

July 23-28

Bill to Chapter # _____

*Individual student registrations must be accompanied by full payment or it will not be considered.

Payment Method:

- Visa MasterCard
 Discover Am. Express

CC Account # _____

Expiration Date _____

Cardholder's Name _____

Signature _____

- Check Enclosed** Payable to: National FFA Organization
 School Purchase Order Fax or mail with registration form.

Package (Check One):

- Student Package (quad occupancy) \$495
 Advisor Package (double occupancy) \$525
 Advisor Package (single occupancy) \$700
 Advisor/Guest Package \$875
 **Room Only Individualized Package \$430

Prepaid*

Scholarship: All scholarship forms must accompany registration.

- Scholarship amount \$ _____
 National FFA Foundation
 Multiple student discount taken

Name _____ Male Female

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

FFA Chapter _____

Advisor Name _____

School Phone _____

School Fax _____

Is an advisor or chaperone attending with you? Yes No

Advisor/Chaperone Name _____

Do you have special needs? _____

Rules and Regulations: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

*Late payments are subject to a 2% finance charge. For chapters with four or more students attending, half the group may be registered at each hotel to ensure students receive the maximum benefits of a national experience, unless otherwise requested by a school advisor or due to a documented medical reason. For general conference information, please call 1-888-332-2668. For specific information regarding payments and registration, please contact Kassie Lucero at (317) 802-4319 or Tina Paris at (317) 802-4309. **CANCELLATION POLICY:** There will be a \$225 cancellation fee for registered participants who do not attend.

**For more information on the Room Only Individualized Package, please visit www.ffa.org or contact Kassie Lucero or Tina Paris at the numbers listed above.

Please copy this registration form and pass it on to others interested in attending WLC. To avoid billing duplication, either mail or fax this form only one time per attendee.

You and your chapter are worth the investment!

Unplugged

Five FFA members give new life to traditional music

by Erich Gaukel

Kyle Burnett learned everything he knows about playing guitar from his grandpa, a well-known musician in the Ozarks region of Missouri and Arkansas. Chad Graves started playing music when a relative gave him an old dobro (a type of guitar that's held horizontally to the ground and played with a slide) that had been collecting dust in an attic. Katie Scott started playing the fiddle at age four. When he was in the fifth grade, Joey Stokes went to the local music store to buy a trumpet, but came home with a banjo. Soon after, his brother Dusty started playing the bass fiddle.

Put it all together and you get the Ripplin' Waters Bluegrass Band. Made up entirely of FFA members from southeastern Missouri, this group charmed enthusiastic crowds at the

national FFA convention in October.

Ripplin' Waters played at the FFA food court one afternoon, wearing cowboy hats and matching denim shirts with red and white stripes. After a few songs, the band ripped into "A Man of Constant Sorrow," a song recently made famous in the movie "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" that starred George Clooney as a convict-turned-bluegrass singer.

As the group jumped head-first into the song, with its rich vocal harmonies and intricate instrumental work, a crowd of approving FFA members and adults quickly congregated to get a better view of the magic flowing from the stage. A few FFA members whistled, while another FFA member's grandmother got up from a chair to dance all by herself.

Going back in time

In this day and age, when you can get a dose of everything from Madonna to Brad Paisley to Slipknot with the flick of a wrist on the TV remote, it's uncommon to see young people—in this case, ranging in ages from 14 to 20—recreating music that caught the nation's attention way back in 1946 when Bill

Monroe, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs made some of the best bluegrass music ever.

The Ripplin' Waters band got its start at a music store called Childress Music Studio, where Joey, Katie, Chad and Dusty took lessons. Their teacher introduced them to each other and suggested they form a group to compete at a junior competition. And that's where it all began. Kyle, who's been in the band for a year, is the newest member.

While Ripplin' Waters hasn't yet earned a national reputation, the band surely has caught the eyes and ears of bluegrass fans in the region. Throughout the year, and especially during the summer, the group plays weekly at festivals and events in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma. In 1999 and 2000, the group took first place in the competition at the fiddlers' jamboree in Smithville, Tennessee.

On the road

Prior to their performance at the national FFA convention, Ripplin' Waters had performed three times at their state FFA convention. They've also made some unusual appearances. Once, they played for a convention of Honda Goldwing motorcycle riders. Joey, recalling the event with a laugh, admits it wasn't business as usual. At one point, he says, "They got to

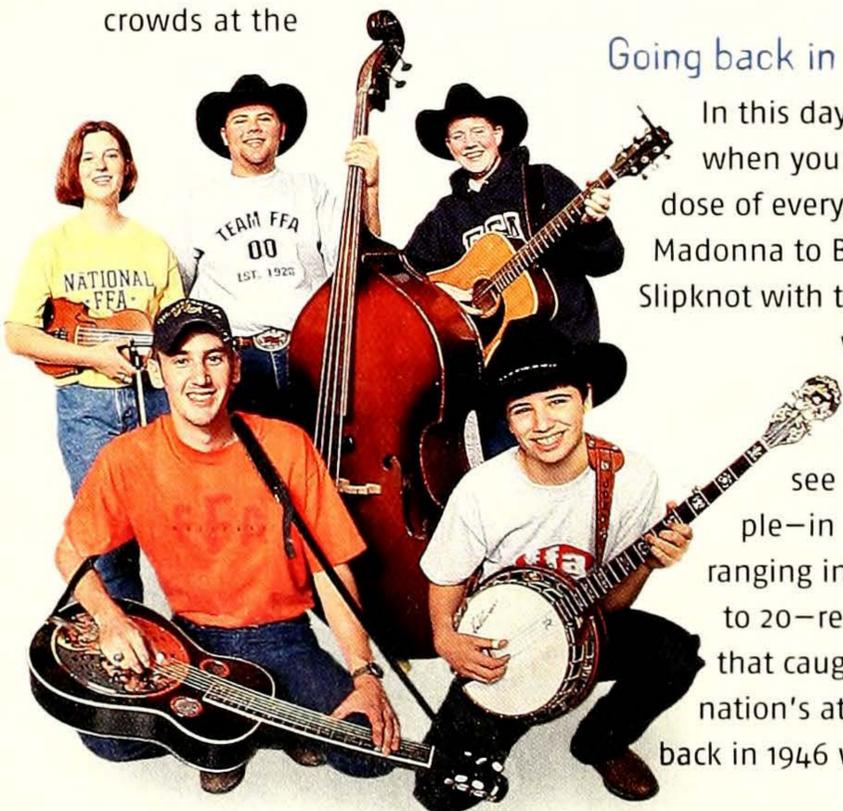
throwing T-shirts to the crowd, so we kept playing the same song over and over." That went on for 15 minutes.

On another occasion, the group drove several hours to play at a United States Department of Agriculture conference in Kansas City. What the band members recall more than playing music was listening to endless lectures. In the end, they played for less than an hour, then loaded up the van and drove back home.

Home, for this band, is the entire southwest corner of Missouri. It's a long drive from one member's home to another's, but they still manage to make it work. "We get together and practice every Tuesday and Thursday," says 14-year-old Kyle, who is the youngest member of the band. He also notes, with a laugh, that because he lives "out in the boondocks," the band has only practiced at his house—near the Arkansas border—once.

For Kyle and the other members of the band, things could be worse than driving through the scenic Ozark hills to get to band practice, where they get to make great music with some of their very best friends. ★

PHOTO AT LEFT: THE RIPPLIN' WATERS BLUEGRASS BAND, WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) KATIE SCOTT (FIDDLE), DUSTY STOKES (BASS FIDDLE), KYLE BURNETT (GUITAR), JOEY STOKES (BANJO) AND CHAD GRAVES (DOBRO, GUITAR AND WASHBOARD).





Help Is on the Way: Farm Aid

Across

- 1 Part of a fence
- 5 Billy Baldwin's big brother
- 9 Jerk
- 13 "I can't believe ___ the whole thing!"
- 14 ___ further (stop)
- 15 ___ Hawkins dance
- 16 Illinois city that hosted the first Farm Aid concert in 1985
- 18 Copy, as a Scottish scientist did with a sheep named Dolly
- 19 Break the record
- 20 Seafood platter item
- 22 They're worth six pts.
- 23 New York congressman Houghton
- 24 See 12-down
- 32 Sign of a broken-down car
- 33 It may say "Kiss the Cook"
- 34 "What ___ look like?"
- 35 Wrestling needs
- 36 Form of the name "Abraham"
- 37 Gets on the tractor
- 38 Cable channel that shows old films
- 39 Not real outgoing
- 40 He's loyal, faithful, and trustworthy
- 41 Indiana rocker who helped start Farm Aid
- 44 Word before "sir"
- 45 Head attachment
- 46 Put packets together
- 50 Actress Bertinelli
- 54 ___ all of the above
- 55 "Harvest Moon" rocker who helped start Farm Aid
- 57 Ovens for ceramicists
- 58 Art-___
- 59 It's seen more often after Sept. 11th
- 60 Compass points: abbr.
- 61 Word after buck or bear
- 62 With "up," admit guilt

Down

- 1 Photos, for short
- 2 Island where macadamia nuts are grown
- 3 Kansas City's biggest newspaper
- 4 Those who apply peer pressure
- 5 U.S. Open champ, 1994 and 1999
- 6 Lane of comics

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57						58						59		
60						61						62		

- 7 High school subj.
- 8 Arguments against
- 9 Like uncultivated fields
- 10 41-across, to many
- 11 El ___ (weather phenomenon)
- 12 With 24-across, Farm Aid's motto
- 15 Pull a ___ (hoodwink)
- 17 Father, south of the border
- 21 Bounce off a wall
- 24 Texas tourist attraction
- 25 Campfire starter
- 26 Secret group of plotters
- 27 Rainy month
- 28 ___ up (improve an animal by crossing with a pure breed)
- 29 "Till the cows come home" is one
- 30 Still in bed
- 31 Core of meaning
- 32 Key of some musical compositions: abbr.
- 36 "This is only ___"
- 37 Frighten, as crows in a field
- 39 Applies suntan lotion
- 40 Like lizards
- 42 Stockings
- 43 Kevin of "Saturday Night Live"
- 46 Birthday food
- 47 "Come right ___!"
- 48 Lovett who once wore his FFA jacket at a Farm Aid concert
- 49 Some football players
- 50 "Veni, vidi, ___" (Julius Caesar's boast)
- 51 Part of a game
- 52 Not ___ many words
- 53 Hen output
- 56 "It's a mouse!"

You'll find the solution to this issue's "Puzzler" on page 23



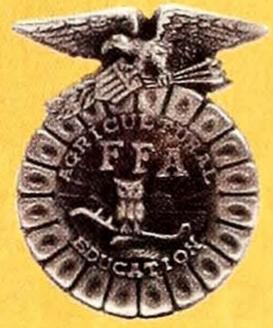
Dedication

TEACH AGRICULTURE

Are you the kind of person who is looking for a career with purpose and that will allow you to make a real difference? Everyday, thousands of agriculture teachers across the nation enter their classrooms with the dedication and determination needed to prepare stu-

dents for success in education, careers and most importantly, in life.

It takes dedication. It takes determination. It takes commitment. It takes a special kind of person to be an AGRICULTURE TEACHER. This special person is you!



your money

TIPS ON MANAGING YOUR CASH

BY CHRIS HAYHURST

Saving Money It Makes Cents

Save, save, save. You've heard it said a thousand times before, and financial pros agree: The key to "big-ticket" purchases—whether you're in high school and hoping to pay for college, or you're married with children and eyeing your first house—is savings.

"The sooner you start saving, the better off you'll be," says Elizabeth Schiever, director of the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE). "If you haven't done so already, get started now."

Getting started, of course, is easier said than done. After all, you have to have money to save money, and once you do have it, it's often more fun to spend it than it is to sock it away for a rainy day. But if you have a source of income—from an allowance, a part-time job, summer work or gifts from relatives—you're headed in the right direction. All it takes from there is discipline.

"Set goals," recommends Schiever. "Determine exactly how important it is for you to save money, and then commit to putting that money away. If you're motivated, you'll be amazed by how quickly your money can add up."

Let it grow

Schiever says to begin by saving just a small portion of all the money you make—say, 10 percent, or a dime for every dollar. You can start by dropping any change left in your pocket at the end of the day into a jar. Up the



ante over time by chipping in a little bit more. And when you get that first paycheck of the summer, resist the temptation to blow it all at once by giving your savings a cut first.

Once the money starts to accumulate, you should consider opening a checking or savings account at a bank or credit union. Most banks offer free accounts for teenagers, but the benefits don't stop there. Thanks to the power of interest, any money you put in the bank will earn you even more money over time.

To get an idea how much money, consider what financial planners have dubbed the "Rule of 72." If you divide 72 by your bank's interest rate, the

result is the number of years it will take for your money to double. For example, if you invest \$100 in a bank savings account with an interest rate of six percent, in 12 years you'll have \$200. That's a 100 percent increase in your savings—just for being patient.

Still, you may not have that long to wait before you need the money you've saved. If you're saving for a car, for instance, you might want to buy it long before your money has the chance to double in a savings account. But that's okay. Just having the discipline to save money as a teenager is a valuable lesson. By learning to do it now, you'll set yourself up for a lifetime of financial security. ★

More Savings Tips

- IDENTIFY YOUR SAVINGS PRIORITIES BY ESTABLISHING WRITTEN GOALS.
- DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO MEET THOSE GOALS, THEN CELEBRATE WHEN YOU DO.
- DEVELOP A BUDGET AND STICK TO IT.
- BE A SMART SPENDER AND OVERCOME THE PRESSURE TO BUY, BUY, BUY.
- DON'T TRY TO SAVE EVERY LAST DOLLAR YOU MAKE. YOU HAVE TO TREAT YOURSELF SOMETIMES.
- IF YOU THINK THEY CAN AFFORD IT, SEE IF A PARENT WILL HELP YOU BY MATCHING EVERYTHING YOU SAVE.
- ONCE YOU'VE GOT THE HANG OF THINGS, TRY NEFE'S "70-20-10 RULE": SPEND 70 PERCENT, SAVE 20 PERCENT FOR NEAR-FUTURE, BIG-TICKET ITEMS AND SAVE 10 PERCENT FOR THE LONG HAUL.

Imagine there's a drought in the Southwest.

Imagine FFA members in Oklahoma having trouble buying hay for their animals.

Imagine the Franklin Center FFA Chapter transporting free hay to their fellow members in need.

Imagine this is just one of the stories that makes us proud to sponsor organizations like the FFA.



GMAC is a sponsor of the National FFA Foundation.

GMAC

what's hot

Here's how FFA members from across the U.S. voted in our last poll. You'll find our survey on page 23.

The three chapters that sent in the most surveys:

Chowchilla FFA
Chowchilla, California

Latta FFA
Latta, South Carolina

Pomeroy FFA
Pomeroy, Washington

TOP 5 MALE ATHLETES

michael jordan
kobe bryant
emmitt smith
allen iverson
barry bonds

TOP 5 FEMALE ATHLETES

venus williams
mia hamm
serena williams
anna kournikova
lisa leslie

TOP 5 AGRICULTURAL CAREERS

farmer
veterinarian
agriculture teacher
rancher
florist

TOP 5 FFA ACTIVITIES

chapter trips
raising animals
chapter cookouts
county and state fairs
chapter meetings

TOP 5 SCHOOL LUNCH FOODS

pizza
mexican
sandwiches
fries
burgers

TOP 5 NON-AG CLASSES

math
english
p.e.
history
science

TOP 5 SINGERS

nelly
tim mcgraw
faith hill
jennifer lopez
ja rule

TOP 5 MOVIES

monsters inc.
shrek
american pie 2
the fast and the furious
harry potter & the sorcerer's stone

TOP 5 FEMALE ACTORS

julia roberts
jennifer lopez
sandra bullock
julia stiles
angelina jolie

TOP 5 MALE ACTORS

freddy prinze, jr.
jim carrey
tom cruise
adam sandler
josh hartnett

TOP 5 WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

hang out with friends
play sports
shop
sleep
go to parties

TOP 5 WEBSITES

yahoo.com
hotmail.com
ffa.org
aol.com
msn.com

TOP 5 TV SHOWS

friends
the simpsons
e.r.
c.s.i.
seventh heaven

TOP 5 DREAM VACATIONS

hawaii
bahamas
mexico
france
australia



VF

Wrangler Jeans. Made with flat copper rivets.
So you can leave an impression on your competition, not your saddle.

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body & soul

TIPS FOR HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

BY CHRIS HAYHURST

Get Involved!

It's a proven road to success, whether you're into agriculture, sports, music, chess or cheerleading

There was a time, not too long ago, when a majority of people believed "extracurricular activities" were exactly that: extra. They thought things like sports, music, dance and drama were better saved for the summer or the weekends when they wouldn't interfere with the standard school curriculum.

Today, of course, attitudes have changed. Now, thanks to a slew of studies showing just how important those "extracurricular" components of a high school student's life really are, sports participation is higher than ever. Musicians are budding like flowers. The competition for seats in student government is intense.

And parents, who a few decades ago may have discouraged their children from doing anything but study, are now pushing schools for more

"co-curricular" funding. Indeed, it seems the very word "extracurricular" is now taboo. Activities are now an integral part of a complete education, equally important as math, science or English.

Why the change of heart? Consider this: According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, students—both boys and girls—who play sports are 40 percent less likely to smoke than those who do not, and female athletes are far less likely to be depressed than their non-sports-playing counterparts.

The proof is in the numbers

A study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that students who don't participate in any extracurricular activities are 57 percent more likely to drop out of school, 49 percent more likely to have used drugs, 37 percent

more likely to become teen parents and 27 percent more likely to have been arrested than those who do. And in a survey of students chosen for USA Today's All-USA High School Academic Teams, it was found that 75 percent took part in sports, speech, music or debate.

"Certain educational opportunities just can't be gained in an educational setting," says John Gillis, the assistant director of the National Federation of State High School Associations, which oversees high school athletic, speech, debate and music programs in all 50 states. Gillis lists leadership ability, the knack for working as part of a team and increased self-confidence as just a few of the critical skills students pick up and perfect when they get involved outside the classroom. "Those are practical life skills," says Gillis. "You can't learn those things by reading a textbook."

Time and time again, it's been shown that kids who bolster their classroom work with participation in clubs, teams and other groups find that upon graduation they're ready to face life's many challenges. "They're better people," says Gillis. "And that's what it's all about." ★

Did you know?

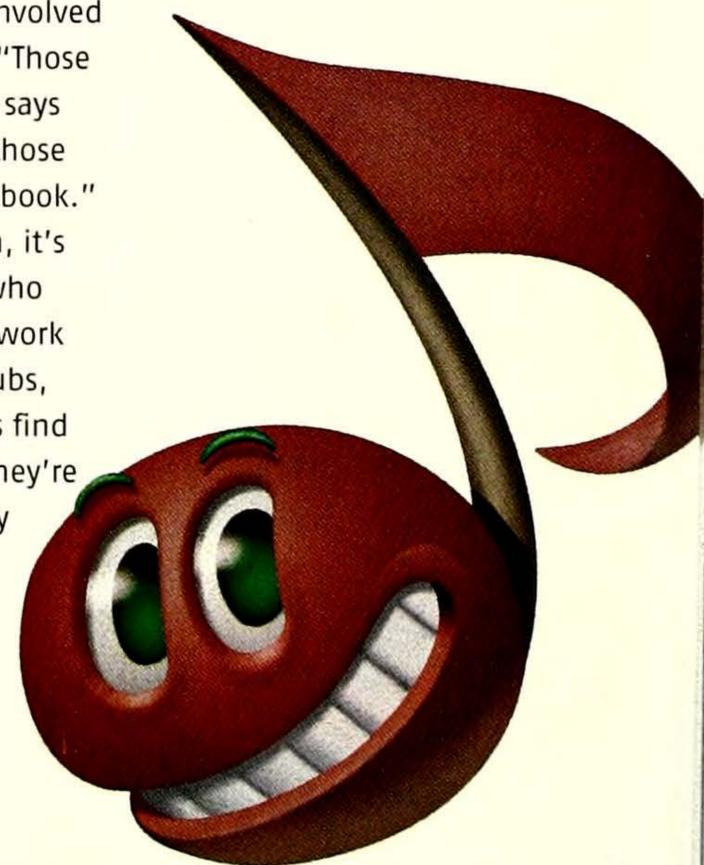
- 90 PERCENT OF FFA MEMBERS TAKE PART IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
- 73 PERCENT PLAY SPORTS
- 53 PERCENT ARE MEMBERS OF CHURCH YOUTH GROUPS
- 87 PERCENT HOLD DOWN JOBS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR
- 73 PERCENT PLAN TO PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

(SOURCE: NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION)

FIND MORE INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT HOW FFA MEMBERS COMPARE WITH TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT WWW.FFA.ORG/NEWS/ALGER/INDEX.HTML

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Mail in your  What's Hot survey today.
Our address is on page 1.

Survey

Vote once for each category.

When we print the results, we'll show the top five vote-getters in each category. In our next issue, we'll recognize the FFA chapters that send in the most surveys.

agricultural career

ffa activity

school lunch food

school subject (besides agriculture)

female actor

male actor

band

singer

song

professional male athlete

professional female athlete

website you use most

tv show

weekend activity

dream vacation location

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

Here is the solution from the **puzzler** on page 16 of this issue.

Have a great joke?

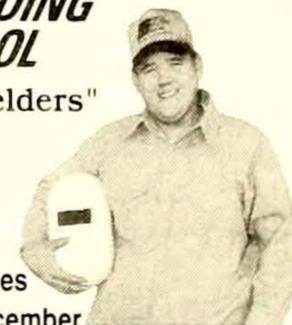
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jobhog.net

Last Laff

Q: What sings and also comes in a small paper bag?

A: Eminem.

Jessica Branscum
PINEVILLE, ARKANSAS

Q: What do you call a piece of wood with nothing to do?

A: Bored.

Lena Brock
DAY, FLORIDA

Q: Which is braver—a stone or a stump?

A: A stone, because it's a little boulder.

Rachel Wulf
HANCOCK, MINNESOTA

Q: What did the duck say to the salesperson when she wanted to buy lipstick?

A: Just put it on my bill.

Jacqueline Hernandez
BEAR, DELAWARE

Q: What did one gopher say to the other?

A: I dig you.

Becky Wilson
TONASKET, WASHINGTON

Baby rattlesnake: Mom, are we poisonous?

Mama rattlesnake: Yes.

Why do you ask?

Baby rattlesnake: Because I just bit my tongue.

Sandee Castle
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA

Q: Why was 19 telling 20 to calm down?

A: Because he was two tens (too tense).

Bridget Pronschinske
COCHRANE, WISCONSIN

Q: Why did the cat climb the tree?

A: Because the tree had a friendly bark.

Juan Piñon
RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS

Q: Did you hear about the boy that stayed up all night wondering where the sun went?

A: It finally dawned on him.

Chassity DeBorde
MT. VERNON, KENTUCKY

Q: Why did the turtle cross the road?

A: He needed to get to the Shell station.

Logan Lanzisera
MIRA LOMA, CALIFORNIA

Q: Why is the letter "A" like a flower?

A: Because a bee comes after it.

Melba Duval
WELLBORN, FLORIDA

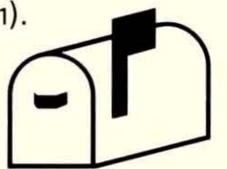
Q: What lives in a haunted house and loves the world series?

A: A baseball-bat

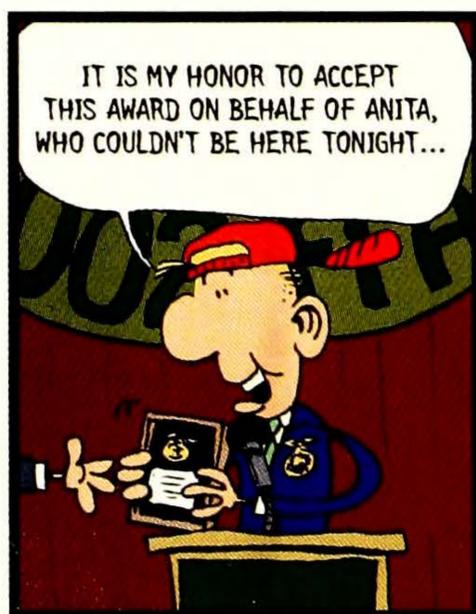
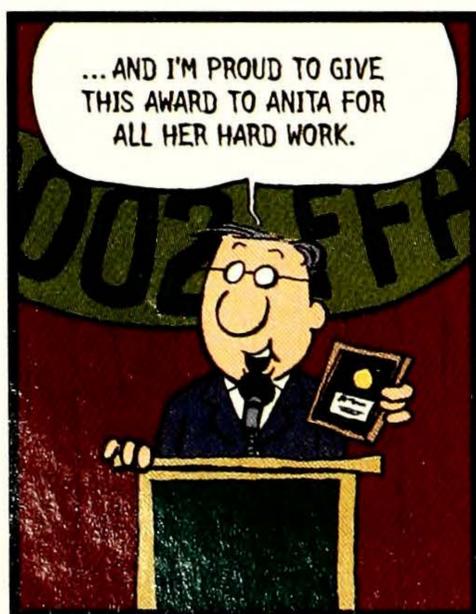
Lou Wages
REYDELL, ARKANSAS



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, SHEET OF PAPER OR IN THE SPACE PROVIDED ON THE WHAT'S HOT SURVEY ON PAGE 23, AND MAIL IT TO US (YOU'LL FIND OUR ADDRESS ON PAGE 1).



Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



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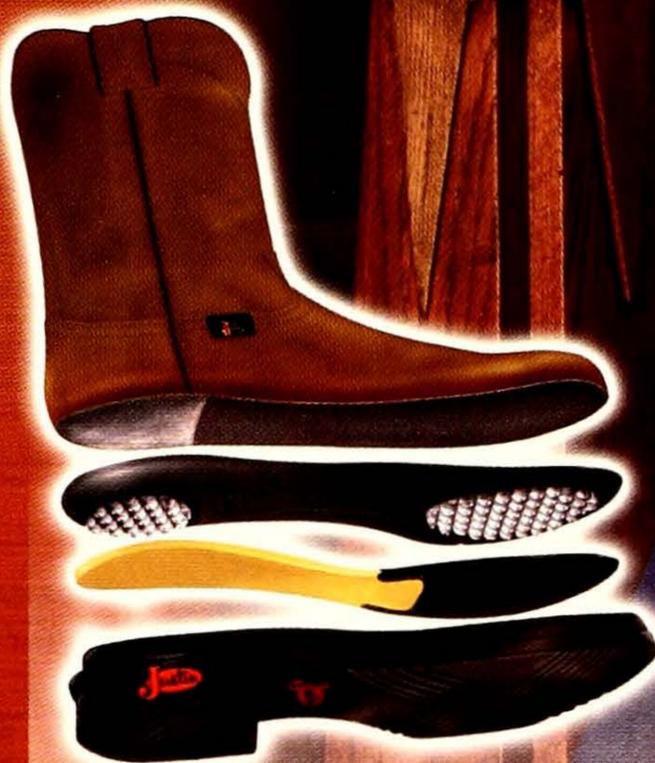
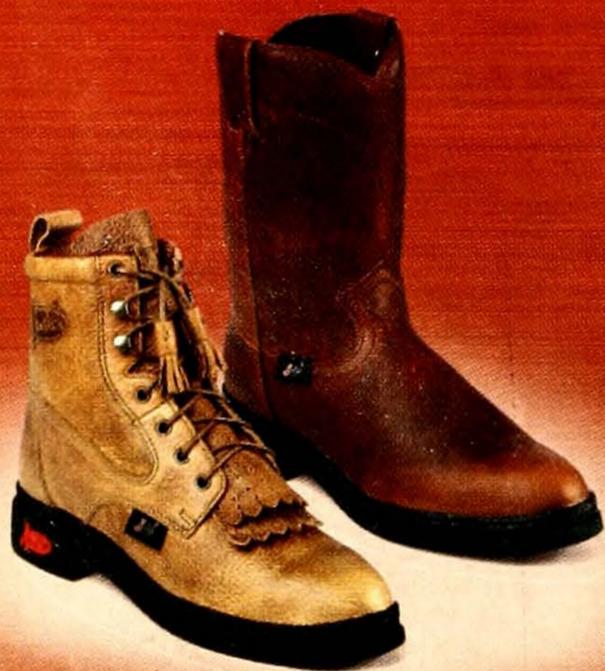


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