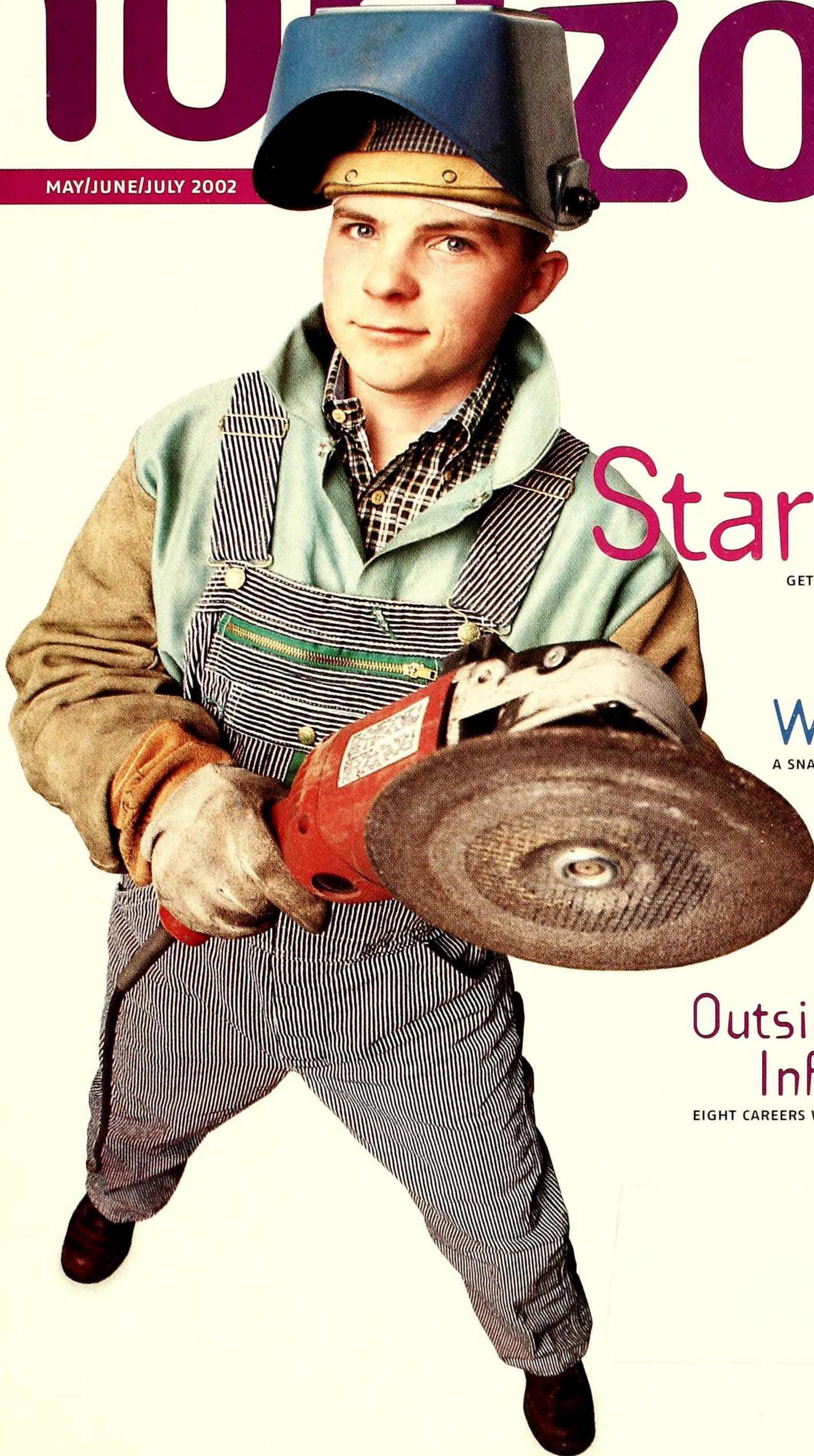


FFA new
horizons

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

MAY/JUNE/JULY 2002



Plus:
Meet Elio Chiarelli,
national FFA officer

How to finance your trip to
the national FFA convention

On the road with Emerson Drive

Start It Up

GET THE SCOOP ON STARTING A BUSINESS
FROM THREE FFA ENTREPRENEURS

Where's the beef?

A SNAPSHOT OF THE U.S. BEEF INDUSTRY

Outside Influence

EIGHT CAREERS WHERE YOU CAN WORK OUTSIDE

Make it an FFA Summer

Greetings FFA members!

The studying is almost over! Soon, there will be no tests to cram for and no homework assignments to complete. School lunches will disappear—at least until this fall. As this school year wraps up, it brings about a season that we all know and love—summer! This is a time to put on the old sunglasses, enjoy outings at the lake or beach and take in all that summer has to offer.

Although the school year is drawing to a close, your involvement in the FFA doesn't have to! The summer months are a perfect time to strengthen supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs, such as landscaping, working at a job or raising livestock.

Some of you might also have the opportunity to ride the rides, eat funnel cakes and discover the excitement at county and state fairs. Here, you can exhibit FFA projects in areas such as horticulture, livestock, welding or woodworking.

Summer is a prime time for your FFA chapter to take an active role in your community. Whether cleaning highways and city parks or volunteering at the local retirement home, use your summer break to make a difference. Although you could use your days to sip lemonade and relax in the hammock, wouldn't it be more fulfilling to know that you have given your precious time to serve others?

Each day is an opportunity for us to make a difference in this world, even if it is during our summer break. So go ahead, slap on the sunscreen and enjoy the great times the summer will bring. Make memories you can cherish for a lifetime by staying involved in FFA. Use your time for a greater purpose, and have an incredible summer!

In blue and gold,
Your national FFA officer team



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EUREKA, CA



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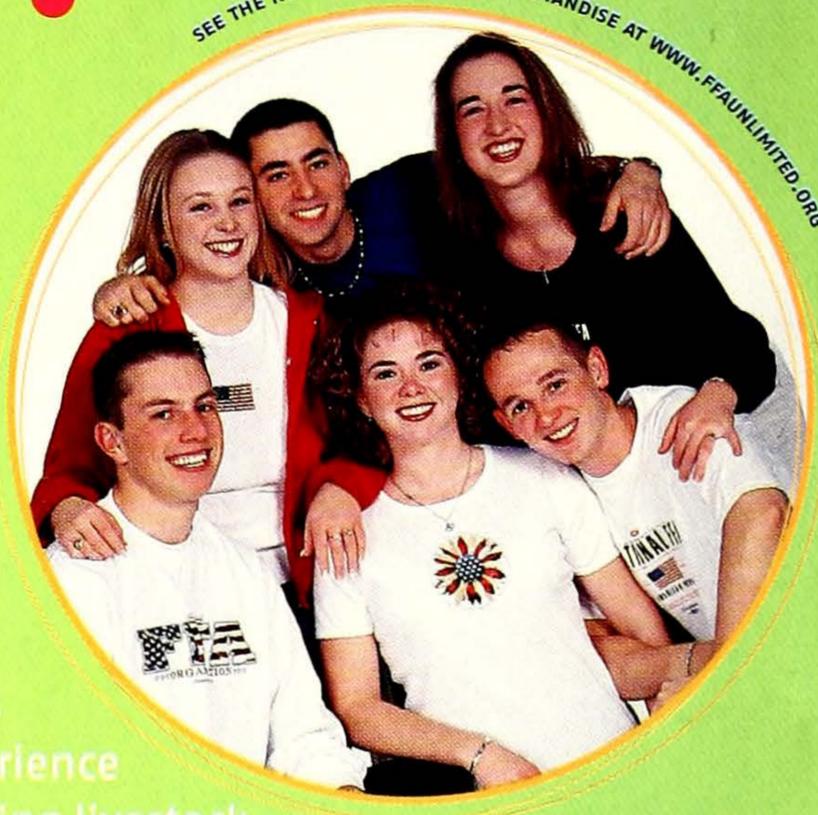
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The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

COVER STORY

10 Start It Up

Rikki Ackerman, Ryan Sweeney and Jill Ulrich all have something in common. They're FFA members who took the leap and started their own businesses. Meet them and get the inside scoop on their startups.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANE MORGAN



FEATURES

6 Outside Influence

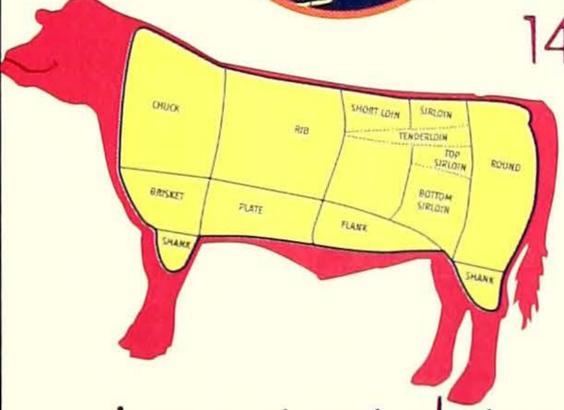
Looking for a career where you can spend a significant amount of time outside? We've come up with eight ideas to get you thinking—everything from zookeeper to outfitter to field sales representative. We'll also answer your career questions.

12 Road Ready

We recently caught up with Brad Mates, singer for Emerson Drive, a Canadian country band that's making its mark here in the U.S. They play music almost every night and they live in an old Greyhound bus. That's life on the road.

14 Where's the Beef?

Did you know that the U.S. produces more than 25 billion pounds of beef per year and that nearly two-thirds of our beef exports go to Japan and Mexico? Find out more in this snapshot of the U.S. beef industry.



important dates to remember

JUNE 14
 DELEGATE RECOMMENDATIONS DUE (SEE PAGE 17 FOR DETAILS)

JULY 1
 DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ESSAYS TO FFA NEW HORIZONS (SEE PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS)

JULY 15
 APPLICATIONS DUE FOR NATIONAL FFA AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD AND AGRISCIENCE STUDENT RECOGNITION

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 2
 THE 75TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

FIND MORE INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL DEADLINES AT WWW.FFA.ORG

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

FFA NEW HORIZONS
 P.O. BOX 68960
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46268-0960

visit: www.ffa.org

DEPARTMENTS

3 National Officer Q&A

Elio Chiarelli, Jr., national FFA eastern region vice president, is big on Japan.

4 FFA Faces

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

13 FFA in Action

The latest happenings from FFA chapters nationwide.

16 Puzzler

This issue's puzzler theme: Phrases heard on the farm.

clue: "Relax!", on the farm

18 Your Money

Coming up with cash for a trip to the national FFA convention.

20 What's Hot

FFA members make their "hot" picks for everything from athletes to school food.

22 Body & Soul

How to shield yourself from the sun's harmful rays.

24 Last Laff

The latest jokes, plus the Agrinuts begin their summer adventures.

Q: Where do zombies live?



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

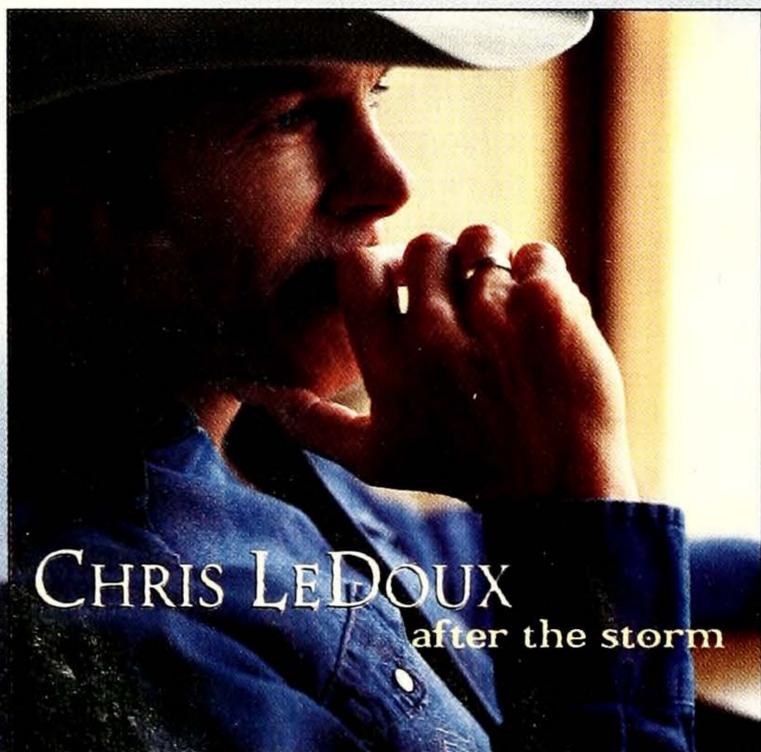
FFA Mission Statement
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

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.

SEE DAVID ON PAGE 6



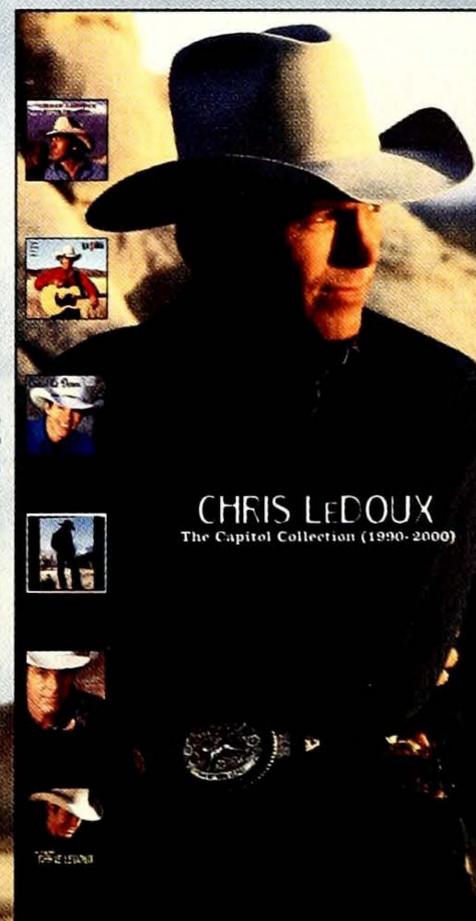
Entertainer, Rancher, Cowboy,.... CHRIS LEDOUX



CHRIS LEDOUX
after the storm

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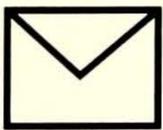
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Q&A



NATIONAL OFFICER Q&A

Elio Chiarelli

Eastern Region Vice President

What's your hometown of McDonald like? And can you buy a Big Mac there?

McDonald is small town in southwestern Pennsylvania (sorry, there's no McDonald's restaurant there). I really enjoy my hometown. It's located about 30 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. However, it's still "out in the country," where I can enjoy agriculture and small town life.

Describe agriculture in your home state of Pennsylvania.

Not only do we have many typical agricultural commodities such as dairy, beef, corn and soybeans, but our state also takes pride in several specialty crops. Mushrooms, snack foods and vegetables play a huge part in our total agricultural spectrum. The land ranges from the steep hills of the

Appalachians to the flat fertile lands in the southeast.

As a national officer, you recently returned from Japan. How was that experience?

Diving into other cultures and learning about how agriculture, education and society function in other parts of the world is amazing. Also, meeting many of the Future Farmers of Japan (FFJ) members was an experience that I will cherish and remember forever.

You've had other experiences abroad. Tell us about those.

When I was in high school, I traveled to Belize to visit the rainforest and barrier reef. I also spent a spring break visiting the Ukraine. Both experiences changed my life, and I loved every minute.

How's your golf game?

My golf game is a little rusty, but I still love to play. I was a four-year letterman in high school and played every chance I could get. However, I haven't had much time on the course lately because of college and travels as a state and national FFA officer. I hope to continue playing more in the future. ★

timeline

AGE 15 • JOINED FFA
• LOST BID FOR FFA STAR GREENHAND

16 • ELECTED FFA CHAPTER TREASURER
• PLACED FIRST IN THE COUNTY WILDLIFE CONTEST

17 • ELECTED FFA CHAPTER PRESIDENT
• MEMBER OF SILVER EMBLEM NATIONAL FFA PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TEAM

18 • ELECTED STATE FFA PRESIDENT
• PLACED FIRST IN NATIONAL FFA PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

19 • EARNED AMERICAN FFA DEGREE

20 • NAMED NATIONAL FFA VICE PRESIDENT

ELIO LIVES NEAR THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, FAMOUS FOR ITS DINOSAUR FOSSILS.



vitals

HOMETOWN: MCDONALD, PENNSYLVANIA

AGE: 21

CHAPTER: H.G. PARKINSON FFA

ADVISORS: JODIE CHADWICK AND THE LATE T. LEE CARTER

SAE: COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION, SWINE

AND SHEEP FINISHING, POULTRY PRODUCTION

EDUCATION: SOPHOMORE, THE PENNSYLVANIA

STATE UNIVERSITY

MAJORS: AGRICULTURAL AND EXTENSION EDUCATION

AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

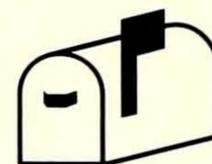
FAVORITE MUSICIAN: GEORGE STRAIT

LAST GOOD BOOK I'VE READ: "DEVELOPING THE LEADER

WITHIN YOU" BY JOHN C. MAXWELL

FAVORITE BREAKFAST CEREAL: GOLDEN GRAHAMS

ffa faces

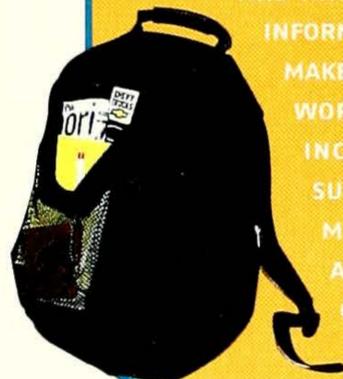


WANT TO SEE YOURSELF,
A FRIEND OR YOUR
ADVISOR ON THIS PAGE?
SEE SUBMISSION
REQUIREMENTS BELOW.

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.



IOWA



Ashley Wendt
COLLEGIATE

This Starmont FFA Chapter member and former Iowa Dairy Princess hopes to become an agricultural lawyer. A former district officer and state FFA degree recipient, Ashley has participated in Washington Leadership Conference and was a member of the state FFA dairy judging team and won the state FFA proficiency award in agricultural communications. ★

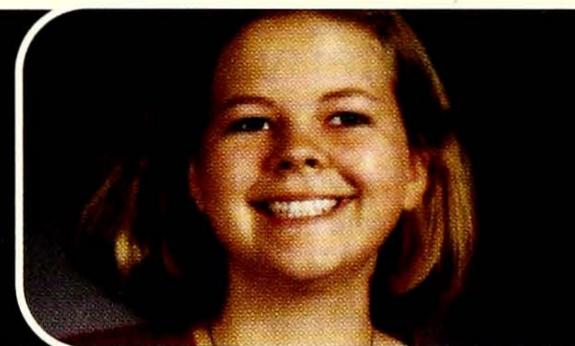
NEW JERSEY



Jennifeur Wilson
SENIOR

The New Jersey FFA Association named Jennifeur the member of the month in September. It's no surprise, when you realize that she is president of the Northern Burlington FFA Chapter and FFA state public speaking winner. Her supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) involves DNA and genetic lab work at two nearby universities. ★

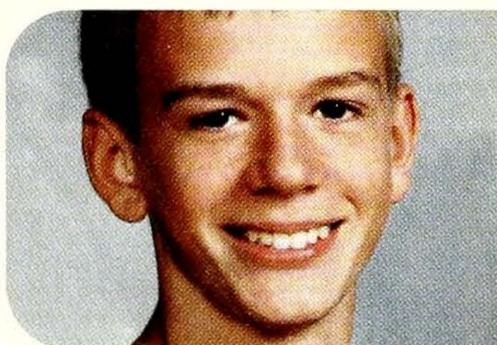
IDAHO



Shannon Ineck
JUNIOR

As the Marsing FFA Chapter secretary, Shannon strives to do her best. She has competed in the parliamentary procedure career development event (CDE) for three years and the dairy foods CDE for two years. She also has participated in the FFA leadership program Made for Excellence (MFE) and is a National Honor Society student council representative. ★

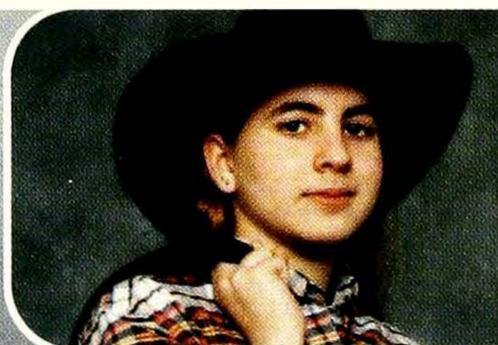
ILLINOIS



David Meier
SOPHOMORE

With his saxophone in hand, David recently played at the state FFA convention. This Orion FFA Chapter vice president also participates in several CDEs, including public speaking and land judging. He's in the process of developing an SAE involving sheep, beef cattle and forage production. David ranks first in his class. ★

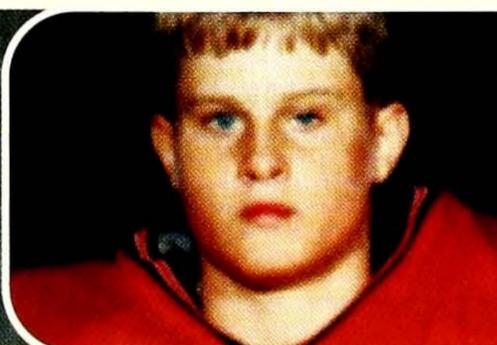
INDIANA



Rose Marie Snyder
FRESHMAN

After living abroad—in such places as New Zealand, Mexico and Australia—Rose is back in the U.S. and is active in FFA. She attended last year's national FFA convention and participated in three FFA leadership workshops. She has won awards showing Appaloosa horses and volunteers at various charitable organizations. ★

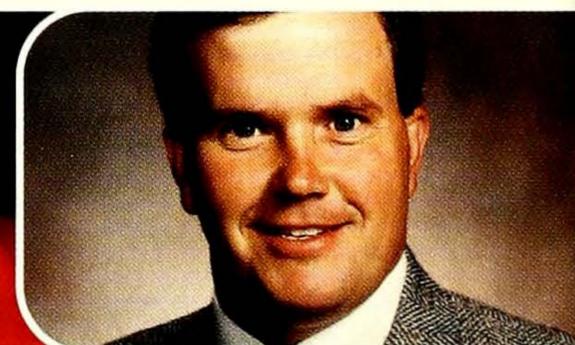
FLORIDA



Brady Jackson
MIDDLE SCHOOL

When he's not wearing a Raider football uniform, this South Sumter Middle School FFA Chapter president competes with the FFA parliamentary procedure team, shows steers and helps organize chapter activities. Even though he's only 13, Brady has been in FFA for three years, and he's been an officer for most of that time. ★

OKLAHOMA



Doug Presgrove
ADVISOR

By stressing the importance of individuality and self-confidence, Mr. Presgrove has gained the respect of the Bethel FFA members. As a former state FFA officer, he has the experience, patience and wisdom it takes to teach and lead young people. He's a graduate of Oklahoma State University, where he studied agricultural education. ★



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†Dependability based on longevity: 1981–July 2000 full-line light-duty truck company registrations. Excludes other GM divisions. © 2002 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!



Outside Influence

As more and more job in agriculture involve full-time work in offices, labs and factories, there are still loads of career opportunities for those who have a strong desire to spend time in the great outdoors



Turf Manager

Golf courses' reputations ride on the quality of the grasses on their fairways, tee boxes and putting greens. For turf managers, the most important thing is to keep the grass green and healthy at golf courses and such places as resorts and athletic fields. To do this, they must be knowledgeable in landscaping, plant science, soil science, equipment operation and business.

EDUCATION: A four-year degree in turf grass management is required. High school classes in agriculture, science and business are recommended.

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

SALARY: Salaries for existing turf managers range from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

EMPLOYERS: Golf courses, athletic fields and resorts.

MORE INFORMATION: Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (www.gcsaa.org); Sports Turf Managers Association (www.sportsturfmanager.com)



Park Manager

You don't notice park managers when you go to parks, but that's part of the job. These behind-the-scenes professionals work hard to make sure guests enjoy their visits. Among other things, park managers supervise staff, plan recreation programs, monitor wildlife, coordinate security, speak to community groups and promote use of the parks.

EDUCATION: A four-year degree in forestry, conservation or environmental studies is required. High school classes in agriculture, science and business are recommended.

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

SALARY: Salaries for existing park managers range from \$35,000 to \$54,000.

EMPLOYERS: Local, state and federal governments.

MORE INFORMATION: Search for "park manager" at the National FFA Organization Ag Career Database: www.ffa.org/careers/index.html



Field Sales Representative

Whether you're selling agricultural equipment, seed, chemicals or feed, you'll be traveling and spending a lot of time on your customers' farms. You need to be a good communicator, but you also need to have a working knowledge of how things work on the farm, particularly as it relates to the products you're selling.

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

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Agricultural sales and/or service SAE; Agricultural sales CDE.

SALARY: Ranges from \$26,000 to \$52,000.

EMPLOYERS: Seed, equipment, chemical and feed companies.

MORE INFORMATION: Search for "sales" at the National FFA Organization Ag Career Database: www.ffa.org/careers/index.html



Production Agriculturalist

Whether you're interested in growing grapes, corn or rice, or whether you have a passion for working with horses, sheep or llamas, production agriculture keeps you close to all the outdoor action. Though the number of farmers in the U.S. has decreased over the years, there will always be a need for young people to get involved.

EDUCATION: A four-year degree in agriculture is strongly recommended, as are high school classes in agriculture and business.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Any SAE and CDE that matches your interests (see www.ffa.org/programs/ for a complete list).

SALARY: Varies widely. Full-time, salaried farm managers had median weekly earnings of \$542 in 2000. The highest paid 10 percent earned more than \$756, and the lowest paid 10 percent earned less than \$187.

EMPLOYERS: Many are self-employed, others manage or work at farms.

MORE INFORMATION: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos176.htm>

8 agricultural careers where you can work outside



Agricultural Journalist

To be an agricultural journalist—for newspapers, magazines, TV or radio—you need to get out in the field to find and research your stories. You'll need to interview people at farms, agribusinesses, county fairs, state fairs and FFA events. In some cases, you might also be called upon to take photographs or shoot video. You must have a solid understanding of agriculture and the issues that affect it.

EDUCATION: A four-year degree in journalism, communications or English is required. High school classes in agriculture, journalism and photography are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Agricultural communications SAE and CDE.

SALARY: Ranges from \$20,000 to \$55,000, depending on experience.

EMPLOYERS: Newspapers, magazines and TV and radio stations.

MORE INFORMATION: Search for "agricultural journalist" at the National FFA Organization Ag Career Database: www.ffa.org/careers/index.htm



Agriculture Teacher

As a middle or high school agriculture teacher, you hold the future of agriculture in your hands. You provide the spark of interest in young people that can ignite a passion for the agriculture industry. By developing hands-on programs, curriculum and activities for your students, you don't just tell students how something works—you show them how it works.

EDUCATION: A four-year degree in agricultural education or a related field is required. High school classes in agriculture are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Any SAE or CDE that matches your interests (see www.ffa.org/programs/ for a complete list).

SALARY: According to the American Federation of Teachers, beginning teachers with a bachelor's degree earned an average of \$27,989 two years ago. The estimated average salary of all teachers was \$41,820. The lowest paid 10 percent earned \$23,320 to \$28,460; the top paid 10 percent earned \$57,590 to \$64,920.

EMPLOYERS: High schools and middle schools.

MORE INFORMATION: You'll find a special section devoted to students interested in teaching agriculture at www.ffa.org/careers/aged/index.html



Outfitter

As an outfitter, you'll be equipping, teaching and leading individuals and groups on trips in your area of specialization, whether it's hunting big game in south Texas, fishing for wall-eye in Minnesota's Boundary Waters or climbing rock faces in Utah. Outfitters must be experts at operating and maintaining equipment, dealing with people and knowing the terrain.

EDUCATION: A high school education is the minimum requirement, although two- or four-year degrees are recommended. High school classes in agriculture and business are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Outdoor recreation SAE; Environmental and natural resources or Forestry CDE.

SALARY: Varies widely, depending on length of season, geographic location, experience and other factors, but plan to start at around \$20,000. Income can increase with experience or if you start your own business.

EMPLOYERS: Small, private outfitting companies.

MORE INFORMATION: Find information on the different types of outfitting operations at the Outfitters Association of America website (www.oaoa.net). For specific information on careers, contact local outfitters or those listed on the website.



Zoo Keeper

Zookeepers have direct contact with animals on a daily basis. In a way, they assume roles as parents—they feed, water and groom animals. Zookeepers also play with animals and provide companionship. Their specialized training enables them to detect physical and mental problems in the animals. When zoo visitors are present, zookeepers answer questions and provide information about animals.

EDUCATION: A two- or four-year degree in zoology, biology or an animal-related field is required. High school classes in agriculture and biology classes are recommended.

RELATED FFA PROGRAMS: Specialty animal production, Wildlife production and management SAEs; Horse evaluation or any CDE where you work with animals

SALARY: Starts in the \$15,000 to \$25,000 range. Established zoo keepers, many of whom become managers, can earn over \$50,000.

EMPLOYERS: Zoological gardens and aquariums

MORE INFORMATION: American Association of Zoo Keepers (www.aazk.org); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics job description: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos168.htm>

Career Q&A

FFA New Horizons answers your career questions

Q: Tyler Kimball, vice president of the Serrano FFA Chapter, California, writes: I love all animals. I'm considering joining the Air Force or Army. Would working with canines in the military police be considered an agricultural career or a public safety career?

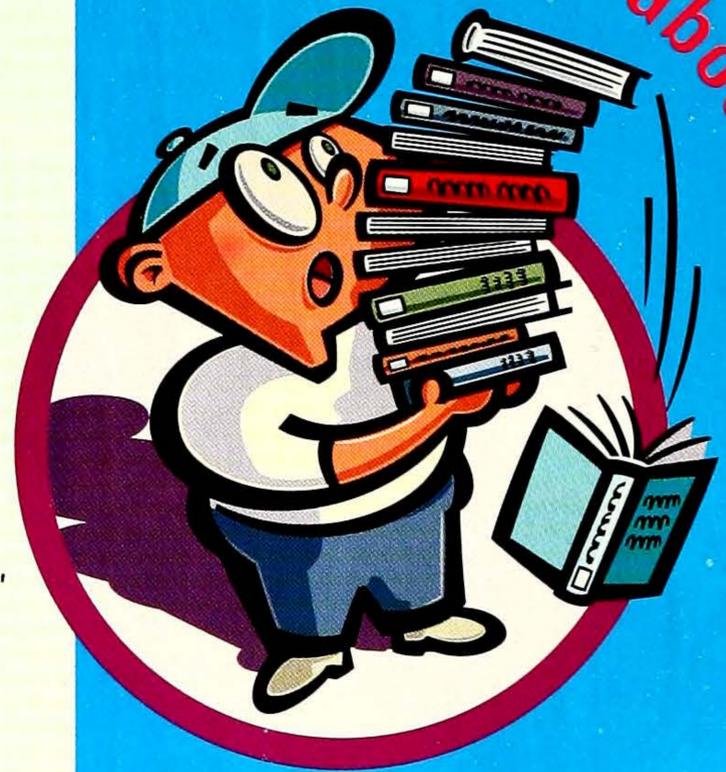
A: FFA New Horizons says: Tyler, Working with small animals is definitely within the scope of agriculture. In fact, as an FFA member, you can start an SAE in small animal care. Working as an MP in the military police also would put you in the scope of public safety. Experience in both fields can only improve your career opportunities after your military service.

Q: Jennifer H., an FFA member from Texas, writes: I'm really good with math and I was

wondering how I could mix agriculture with math. Do you know more on this or other majors that combine these two?

A: FFA New Horizons says: Jennifer, Agriculture is a huge industry that combines technology, science, business and economics. As a result, there are all kinds of ways for you to combine your interests in agriculture and math. In college, you could major in such areas agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, marketing, environmental science, biotechnology, agricultural business or animal science. Check out college websites for information on these majors, then follow up by speaking with college advisors. With all these options, it might be hard to decide which way to go. Just do your research, then follow your interests and instincts.

Read all about it!



CHECK YOUR LIBRARY AND THE INTERNET FOR THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

Books

CAREER INFORMATION CENTER, SIXTH EDITION
VOLUME 2: AGRIBUSINESS, ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

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

FFA CAREER CENTER
THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION'S
AGRICULTURAL CAREERS DATABASE

WWW.FFA.ORG/CAREERS/INDEX.HTML

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK
THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS'
CAREER DATABASE

[HTTP://STATS.BLS.GOV/OCO/HOME.HTM](http://STATS.BLS.GOV/OCO/HOME.HTM)

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

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

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In your own words

As FFA begins celebrating its 75th anniversary at this year's national FFA convention in Louisville, *FFA New Horizons* will devote several pages over the next year to this milestone. As part of our coverage, we will publish essays by current FFA members. We want to hear from you, so grab a computer, typewriter or pencil, then simply choose from any of the four essay topics listed here.

ESSAY TOPICS (CHOOSE ONE)

How has your FFA experience helped you to shape your future plans?

What does FFA mean to me?

What will FFA be like 75 years from now (in the year 2077)?

Describe one (or more, if you wish) event, person or activity in history that you feel has made the greatest impact on the National FFA Organization.

HERE'S THE DEAL

- Essays must be postmarked or e-mailed by July 1, 2002.
- There is a 250-word limit.
- If you send us a handwritten essay, please print clearly.
- The *FFA New Horizons* magazine staff will decide which essays will be printed in the magazine. No prizes will be awarded.
- *FFA New Horizons* reserves the right to edit essays for grammar, content or length.
- When submitting an essay, the following information must be included: Name, address, phone number, name of FFA chapter and FFA advisor.
- The actual number of essays printed in the magazine will likely be less than 12.
- All entries will become the property of the National FFA Organization, which reserves the right to use any submitted essay in other FFA publications, printed materials and websites.



HOW TO SEND IT TO US:

MAIL:

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P.O. BOX 68960
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46268-0960

EMAIL

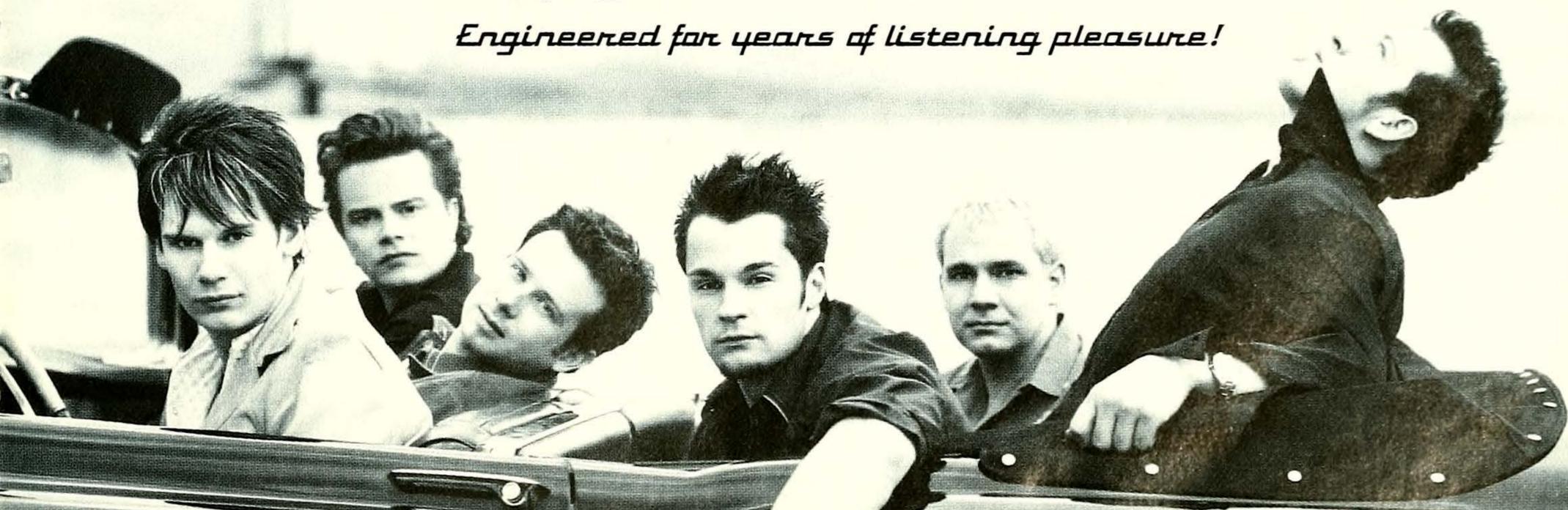
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“The main thing is you need to deal in something that there’s a niche market for and there’s room for growth,”

—Ryan Sweeney

by Chris Hayhurst

Start it Up

Three FFA entrepreneurs give us the inside scoop on their business startups

Like most 16-year-olds, Rikki Ackerman is a high school junior. She's a good student, an FFA member, and she has college plans. All in all, you might say she's a pretty normal kid. But there's something about Rikki that sets her apart: her incredible knack for turning sheep guts into science displays.

Rikki, a member of the North High-Bakersfield FFA Chapter, is one of ten national winners of the 2001 National FFA Agri-Entrepreneurship Awards program, which honors business-savvy students for their ability to put novel ideas into action. Rikki pulled in the prize for her one-of-a-kind, aptly named venture, The Ruminant.

Her business plan was, and still is, quite simple:

1. Remove stomach from sheep.
2. Clean said stomach by hand, then freeze.
3. Remove stomach from freezer, varnish with shellac, label the parts, and sell to agriculture and biology classrooms across the country. "You can either mount it on a ring stand or hang it from the ceiling," Rikki says. "It's basically just a teaching aid."

Rikki is one of a small number of people who not only come up with great business plans, but also find ways to set them into motion—a feat that is by no means easy. Having the entrepreneurial spirit is one thing. Having the heart, patience and persistence to succeed is quite another.

Find a niche

"The main thing is you need to deal in something that there's a niche market for and there's room for growth," says

Ryan Sweeney, the 2001 American Star in Agribusiness from Mason, Michigan, who is now the hard-working 20-year-old owner of a livestock equipment company. Ryan started his business, which specializes in making chutes for holding cattle, in 1997, running it part time while still in high school.

Since then it's blossomed into a full-time job. "Once you have the idea, you just have to make sure it's something you really want to do," Ryan says. "If you don't like what you're doing you won't have the drive to push and make it grow."

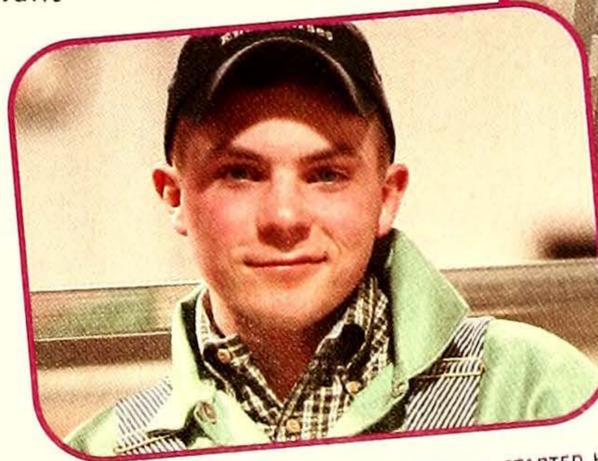
Nineteen-year-old Jill Ulrich from Eaton, Colorado, agrees. She ran a small newsletter called the "Youth Livestock Connection" for students interested in livestock. The paper went out to FFA members and chapters in eight states and included details on everything from livestock shows to breeders to industry news and events.

Challenges

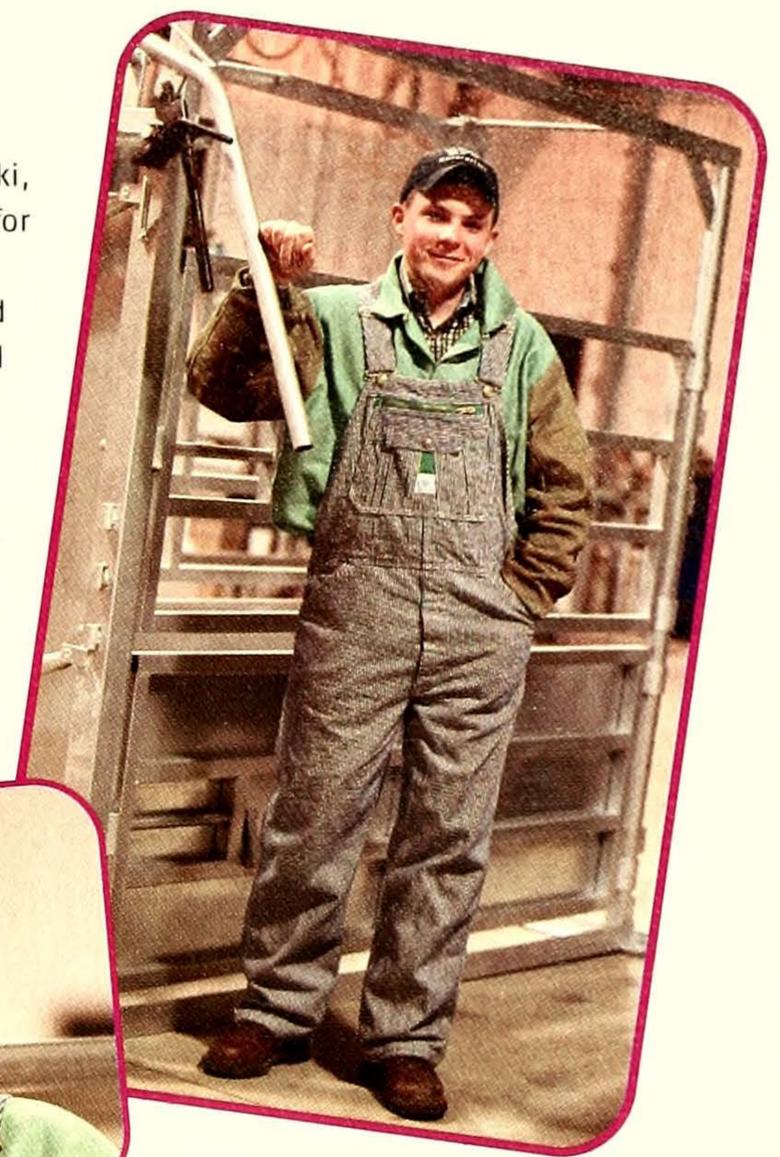
The biggest challenge, she says, was keeping up with the work. "It was a matter of finding the time," says Jill. "I would just have to take a good week to sit down and get everything laid out. It was hard, but I enjoyed it." Jill currently has the business on hold, as she's planning to attend cosmetology school in the fall, but she does hope to get things rolling again in the near future. "I'd like to make it bigger," says Jill. "I love working with kids and helping

them get more involved."

Like Jill, Rikki, too, has plans for the future. She hopes to attend college next fall and major in agricultural business. Considering the challenges she has faced so far in the world of small



RYAN SWEENEY, SHOWN HERE IN HIS SHOP, STARTED HIS OWN LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT COMPANY IN 1997



business—including networking at the national FFA convention, marketing her product and, essentially, doing everything herself from day one—it's hard to imagine

she won't achieve her goals. In fact, it seems her experience as an entrepreneur has prepared her perfectly for the future. "You have to have a positive attitude," Rikki says. "You have to be ready to be a leader and to be creative. If you are, anything will go." ✨

FFA can take you there

IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO KICK OFF YOUR OWN BUSINESS, CHECK OUT THE NATIONAL FFA AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM WILL NOT ONLY HELP YOU GET STARTED, BUT IF YOU'RE LUCKY, IT CAN ALSO PUT SOME CASH IN YOUR POCKET. TOP PARTICIPANTS WITH ONE-OF-A-KIND BUSINESS PLANS CAN WIN AWARDS RANGING FROM \$100 TO \$1,000. WINNERS ARE HONORED AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS. YOU CAN ALSO EXPLORE ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEAS BY STARTING A SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (SAE). DETAILS ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.FFA.ORG OR BY CALLING 317-802-4255.

THE AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD PROGRAM IS A JOINT ACTIVITY OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THE PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AT THE EWING MARION KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION (WWW.EMKF.ORG), KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AS A SPECIAL PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION, INC.

They play music almost every night and they live in an old Greyhound bus. That's life for Emerson Drive, the Canadian band that's taking its show on the road in the states

Road Ready

FFA New Horizons recently caught up with Brad Mates, Emerson Drive's singer, on the phone as he and the band headed from El Paso, Texas, to Phoenix, Arizona.

With six guys in the band, how do you keep everyone working together as a team?

Part of the reason we've been able to stay together and have success is that four of us grew up together and have known each other since junior high school. That's a big thing. If you know someone from childhood, you know the person inside out. So it's easy to know when to back off or when you can tease somebody. We're on the road together 300 days a year, so you have a lot of respect for what they do and the decisions they make from day to day.

That must mean there's good chemistry in the band.

Totally. The four of us that grew up together—we're like brothers because we come from a small town and everybody knew everybody. Danick and Mike, our guitar player and drummer, are from Montreal. And they come from great families, too. The first day we played together with those guys, we found out that we all have the same goals in mind and it clicked.

How did the band get its name?

I'll give you a little history first. We started out in high school as a band called 12-Gauge. We had that name for a couple years, then the shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado happened, so we decided that wasn't a great name to have. We used to wear cowboy hats and boots and

buckles—the whole bit.

Overnight, we pretty much decided we'd change everything. We got a new name, a new look and from that day on we became Emerson Drive. That name comes from a road back home called Emerson Trail. It's a unique road that opens up the West and connects to the Alaska Highway.

Do you live in Nashville now?

We've been there for just about three years now. I think the longest amount of time we've spent there, though, is three months and that's when we were recording our new CD. Since then, we get back for maybe four or five days at the most—and that's every few months.

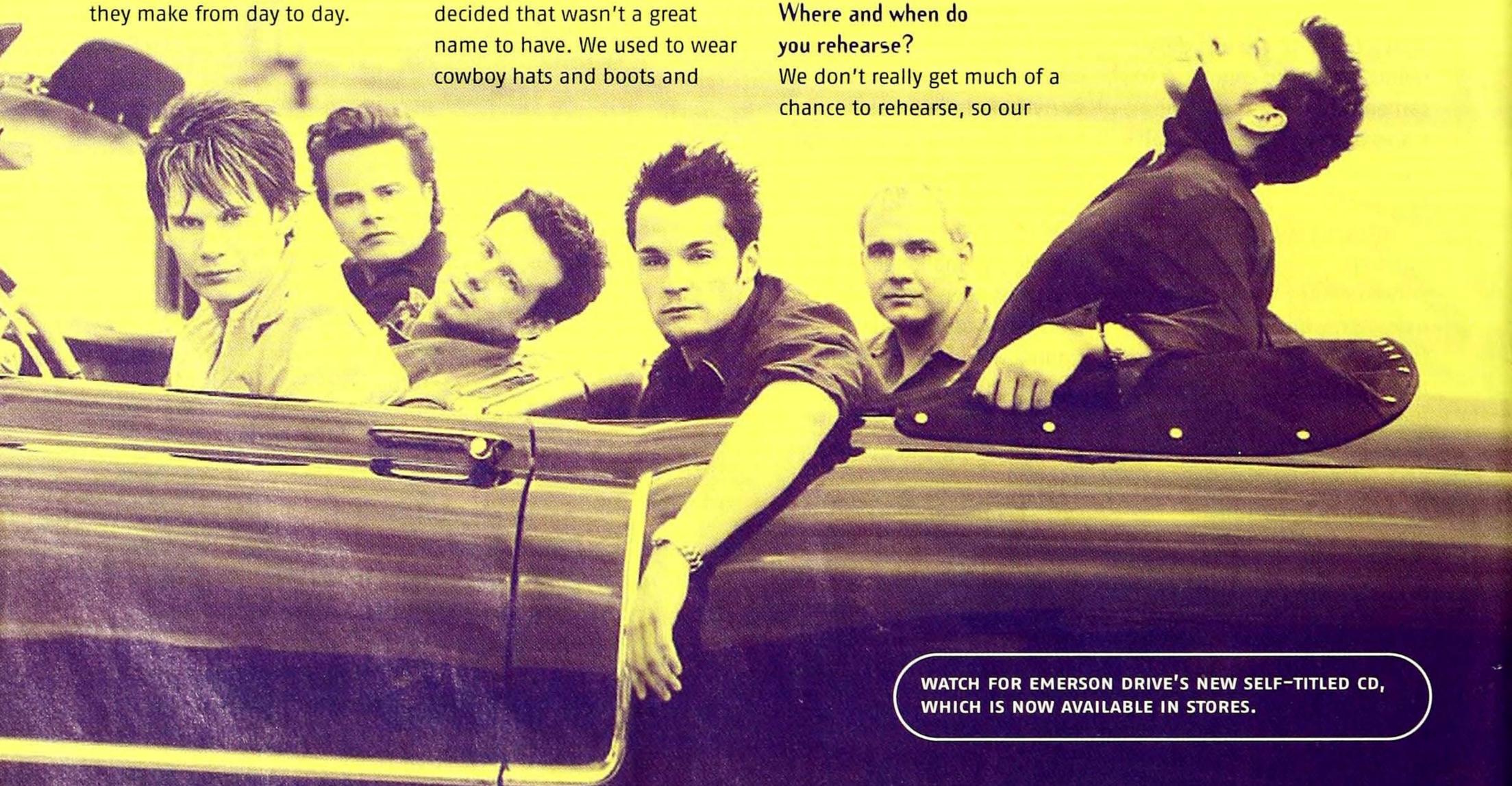
Where and when do you rehearse?

We don't really get much of a chance to rehearse, so our

rehearsing is just playing in front of people every night. If we want to work up new stuff, then we'll all sit down and burn six CDs of a song we want to learn. We'll learn the parts over the next couple days, then work on it during a sound check before a show.

What has kept the band going strong for six years?

There were times when we talked about calling it quits, but something kept us going. We never took a step backwards—we were always going forward. With momentum like that, you never want to give up. If we ever walked away from it, we would have always wondered what could have been. ✪



WATCH FOR EMERSON DRIVE'S NEW SELF-TITLED CD, WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE IN STORES.

Virginia

may / june / july 2002

FFA News

Presented by the Virginia FFA Association, the Student Organization of students studying Agricultural Education in Virginia.

Inside...

State officers go to
Richmond...

Arlington County FFA
activities...

A Time to Remember...

FFA Leadership Camp...

Reserve your space for
the 75th National
Convention...



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA FFA WEEK

WHEREAS, agricultural education through the FFA and other sources helps provide a solid foundation of knowledge for young Virginians and Americans concerning the future of food, fiber, and natural resource systems; and

WHEREAS, the FFA develops leadership skills, fosters personal growth, and promotes career success in agricultural and other industries; and

WHEREAS, the FFA strives to ensure a steady supply of young professionals entering the workforce with a proper education and background to meet growing needs in the science, business, and technology of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the FFA motto, *Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve*, gives direction of purpose to these students who take an active role in pursuing agricultural education; and

WHEREAS, the FFA promotes active citizenship, volunteerism, civic duty, and cooperation in communities in Virginia and throughout our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark R. Warner, do hereby recognize February 17-23, 2002, as **FFA WEEK** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Mark R. Warner
Governor

Anita A. Rindler
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Governor Mark Warner declares FFA Week in Virginia.

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Blacksburg, VA 24061-0343
Andy Seibel, FFA Specialist
gseibel@vt.edu



State Officers go to Richmond....



Governor Mark Warner meet with State Officers during the CTE week.



State officers visit with Carlton Courter, Commissioner of Agriculture.



State President Todd Sadler presents All-State medals to Junior Team. Signal Knob Middle School won the State Junior Parliamentary Procedure Contest.



Upcoming Events

- June 24-27 76th Annual State Convention
- July 8 6th Annual Golf Tournament
- July 15-20 Recreational & Middle School Leadership Camp
- July 22-26/July 29-Aug 2 High School Leadership Camp



Buffalo Gap wins...



State Winning Team members were Emily Conroy, Tina Wilson, Zach Waldron, Audrey Fuller, Elizabeth Fuller, Gina Smith, and Coach Shirley Kaufmann.

Buffalo Gap wins State Parliamentary Procedure Contest. Eleven teams competed in the State contest held on March 23, 2002.

Buffalo Gap, Riverheads, George Wythe, and Turner Ashby all received a gold rating.



Arlington County FFA Chapter

With a new slate of FFA and 4-H officers, we are busy with a long list of activities. Most of our projects are started and cultivated on our web page discussion board at www.animalbiology.net (click on "Discussion"). Currently, we're helping a local middle school build box gardens for their life science classes, planning construction of signs to label micro-watershed throughout Arlington County.

Our longer-term plans include building a new Prairie dog exhibit for our animal science laboratory, and collaborating with Frying Pan Farm Park to provide goat-milking opportunities at our County Fair. In April, we will be removing invasive plants and adding trees along our largest watershed, and the Arlington Rotary Club is assisting with a Potomac Riverbank cleanup on nearby National Park land on Roosevelt Island.

Among our upcoming fundraisers, we are most excited about selling pet first aid kits, and also coordinating dog washes at a local pet store and a gourmet food store. For more information, contact Jenna Beckwith (jenna@animalbiology.net) or Natalie High (natalie@animalbiology.net), or our advisor, Jim Egenrieder (mre@animalbiology.net or 703-527-3643).



BOAC GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Louisa - \$500
- Carroll County - \$500
- Stuarts Draft - \$500
- Sherando \$500
- Wilson Memorial- \$500
- Strasburg - \$300
- Frederick County Middle- \$500
- CS Monroe - \$300
- Turner Ashby \$300
- Dan River - \$200
- Drewry Mason \$ 150
- Central - \$500
- Christiansburg - \$300
- Signal Knob - \$300

FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

A Time to Remember

I pledge allegiance to the flag...

September 11: Two large commercial airliners crashed into the World Trade Center in the worst terrorist attack in our nation's history.

Of the united States of America...

A third large airliner crashed into the Pentagon within minutes of the first two: innocent workers and more innocent passengers were killed.

And to the Republic for which it stands...

Shocked Americans from coast to coast remember and mourn the loss. People donate blood, drop coins in jars and pledge millions to help the families of the victims.

One nation, under God...

As Americans' Veterans Day approached, thousands of U.S. Troops traveled half way around the world in a military response to the terrorism.

Indivisible...

On a hillside at Prince Edward County High School in Farmville, Virginia, a massive 60x90 foot American Flag shines brightly, day and night.

The creation of the flag involved the precise placement of 5,864 red, white and blue wooden stakes, each representing the lives of those lost on the September 11, 2001.

"Over a hundred students were involved in it," explained Dennis Torrence, whose FFA and Agriculture III class engineered and designed the flag.

The project was a cooperative effort of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Air Force Junior ROTC, and Building Trades classes at the high school.

Several community members and businesses including Ayers Lumber Company, The Lumber Yard, Torrence Farms, C.H. White Constuction

Comapny, The Town of Appomattox, and The Farmville Herald contributed to the project.

"This flag means a great deal to me and our class," commented senior FFA member Ashley Fulcher. "We developed it to show respect for those who died and to show how much we care about America. We hope our work will send a message that young people care about our country and will do whatever it takes to defend it."

"I am proud of our teachers and students for coming up with that idea and carrying it out," commented Division Superintendent Dr. Margaret Blackmon.

The project will remain on display for a while as a lasting tribute and a reminder that those who lost their lives have not been forgotten.

With liberty and justice for all.

Article by Dennis Torrence, Agricultural Instructor, PECHS and Rob Chapman, Reporter, the Farmville Herald
Picture taken by Tatum Clements, PECHS Yearbook Staff; Article Design by Ryan Neuraunter, PECHS student.

The Grenta High School FFA Chapter has started an experimental Christmas Tree Farm on

land recently purchased by the county Board of Supervisors. Advisor Gary Thomas plans to plant an acre of White Pine trees this spring and hopes to have his classes utilize the 100 acres tract for other class projects.



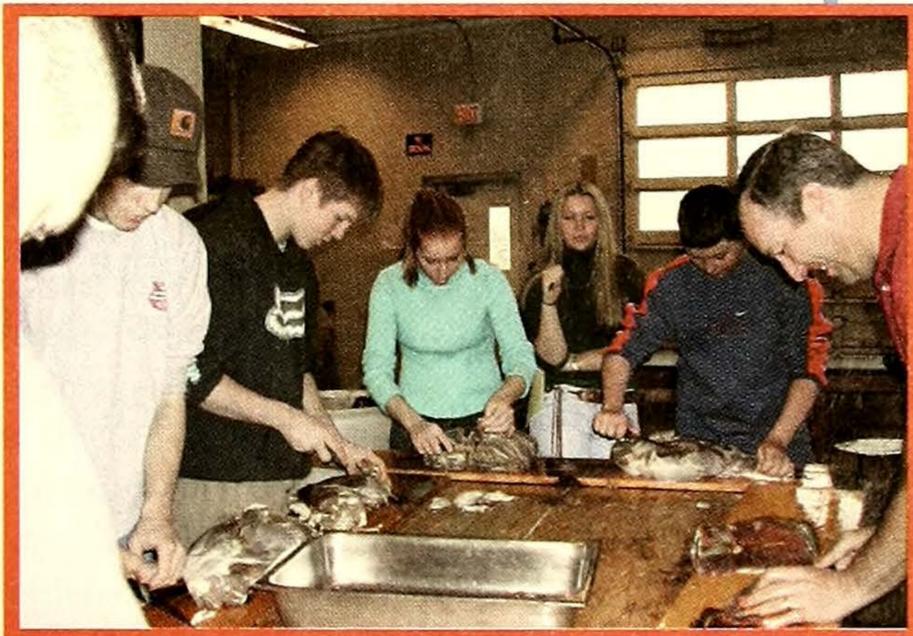
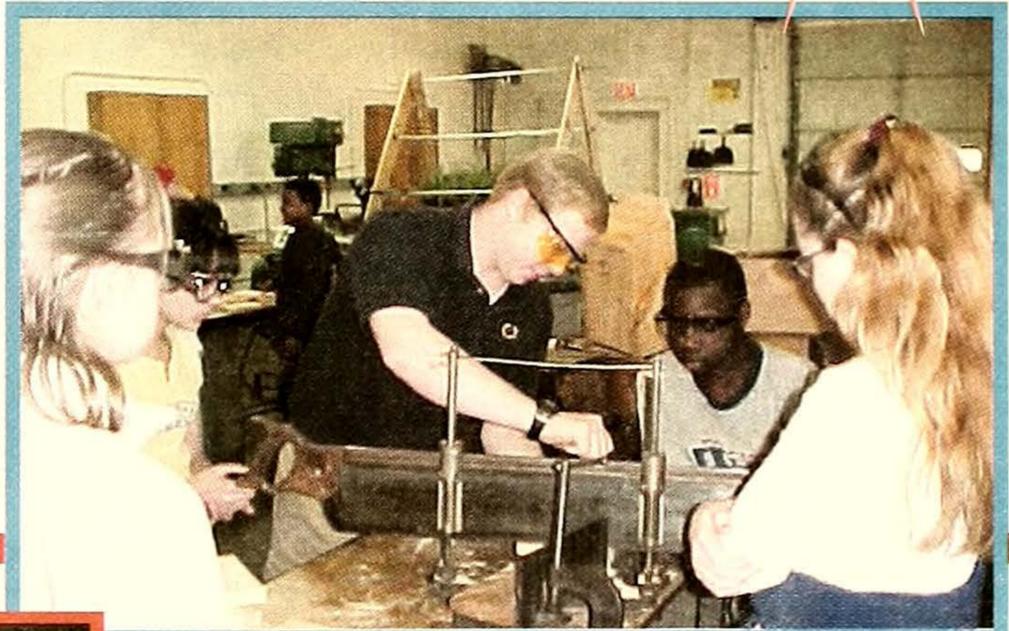
Leadership Weekend

The Virginia Association held it's

leadership weekend at the Lynchburg Ramada Inn and conference center. 300 members from across the State attend the kick off luncheon/State Senior Parliamentary CDE finals. The luncheon was held at a former FFA member's restaurant, Cattle Annie's. Students then attended the EDGE, MFE, and ALD leadership workshops presented by the national FFA staff.



Will Pettus, Agricultural Education teacher at Appomattox Middle School, adjusts a miter saw with students. (Left to Right) Lindsay Stanley, Alvin Mosley and Tamara Thomas as they construct Bluebird houses as part of the wildlife management curriculum. The houses will be placed in the local community to insure habitat for the Eastern Bluebird.



During FFA Week, Fort Defiance FFA members sliced venison for the annual venison feast which members enjoyed at lunch one day.

Agricultural Historical Projects at Signal Knob

Signal Knob Middle FFA members are presently working on community service projects designed to preserve local agricultural history and traditions. One project includes the restoration of old farm equipment, researching the proper use and skills involved in using the equipment, and organizing a demonstration group to travel to area festivals and perform the demonstrations. So far various members have restored equipment and researched areas such as rail fence building, rail splitting, long bow carving and construction, seed cleaning, log rolling and others. We have performed at several local festivals and have been invited to other festivals this spring.

We are also working on a FFA historical project, which includes the preservation of the history of the FFA in Virginia as well as history of our local FFA chapter. This project will be a collection of historical information which includes, research of historical events important to the



Signal Knob Middle FFA members Travis Hodson, Matthew Weatherholtz, Jason Offman, and Kirby Keller demonstrate the art of rail fence building at Belle Grove Plantation.

FFA, biographies of people who have impacted the FFA, and pictures of memorabilia. Biographical interviews and research have been conducted on the both the local and state levels. If any chapter would like to submit

information to the project or assist in conducting interviews in your area, please write to Hilary Gum, Signal Knob Middle School, 687 Sandy Hook Road, Strasburg, Virginia 22657

WORKING

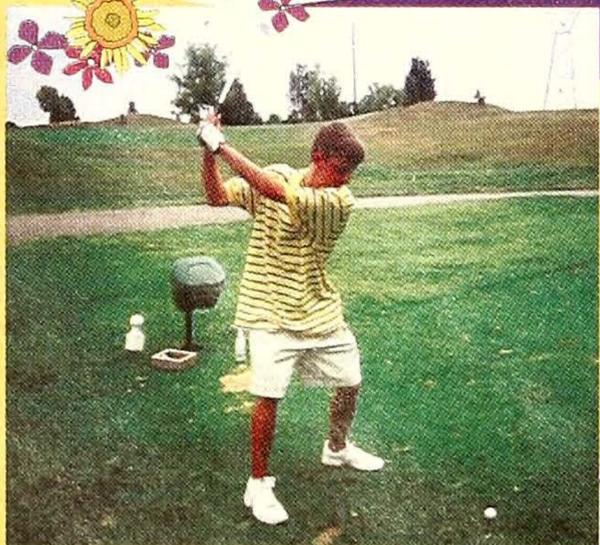
6th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, July , 2002

10am	Warm-up
11am-12:15pm	Lunch
12:30pm	Tee-Time
5pm	Awards

For information please contact:

Cathy Hughes
Virginia FFA Foundation
540-477-9620



Brandon Shivley last July, at the Annual Golf Tournament

FFA NEW HORIZONS

FFA Leadership Camp



Leadership activities are stressed during FFA leadership camp. Members of the the advanced class raise the American flag at morning flag raising ceremonies.

This year's FFA Leadership Camp promises to be a fun-packed week that includes swimming, boating, fishing, volleyball, softball and outstanding leadership classes! Camp dates this year are July 15-20 for Recreational and Middle School Leadership Camp, July 22-26 and July 29-August 2 for High School Leadership Camp. The camp is located at Morgart's Beach, near Smithfield, Virginia. The 26 acres of the camp includes a boy's and girl's dorm, recreation hall, about 1000 feet of beach and the rest in woodland. Activities during the week include a trip to nearby Busch Gardens and team events. Your chapter advisor will receive registration materials by mail around the first of May. The cost of participation is just \$90.00 per member for leadership camp and \$80.00 for recreational camp. State officers teach classes and coach athletic activities. Talent shows, contests and games make for an exciting week! Hope to see you there!



Members of the Aylor Middle FFA Chapter in Stephens City recently sponsored an educational program for 200 first graders at Hill High, a local farm. Eighth graders taught the students about apples, pumpkins and dairy products using interactive games, crafts and stories. Hill High is an Honorary Member of the chapter and annually sponsors many activities for the FFA. This is a kick-off for introducing the SAE Program, encouraging community development, communication and leadership skills.



MAY/JUNE/JULY

National FFA Convention 2002



Virginia FFA Association is planning to take a Bus Trip to the 75th National FFA Convention. Lodging and transportation are included in the package price. The bus will pick up the participants early Tuesday morning, and the return trip will be leaving Louisville on Saturday afternoon. Sixty rooms are available for the Association beginning April 1. The rest of the state block will be held for the State CDE winners. Reservations will be accepted starting April 1, 2002.

State Hotel

This year we were able to secure a block of rooms at the Galt House. The Galt House is one of the premier



hotels in the Louisville Area. If you would like to find out more information about the hotel go to www.galthouse.com or call 800.626.1814

Charter Bus

Six charter buses have been contracted, and they will pick up students at

designated locations in Virginia. Once in Louisville, we will have a shuttle service from the hotel to the convention center on the half hour. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity to see the 75th National FFA Convention.

State CDE Winners

Each sponsored State Winning CDE Team will receive hotel accommodations and transportation to the convention. Rooms for the State winning teams will receive first priority and other rooms/transportation will be based on the date they are received but not before April 1, 2002.

National FFA Convention Packages

Sign up for	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Double	\$375.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Quad	\$245.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Person Suite	\$220.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Advisor Double	\$325.00

Subtotal: _____
 Tax: _____
 Total: _____

Chapter Name _____
 Room List _____

 Phone _____

A \$50 per room deposit is required with your request.
 Date Received by State office _____
 Signature _____

Applications Accepted
 Starting April 1, 2002

Andy Seibel
 VA FFA Specialist
 266 Litton Reaves Hall
 Blacksburg, VA 24061-0343

Phone: 540-231-3823
 Fax: 540-231-3824
 Email: gseibel@vt.edu

Virginia FFA Association

ffa in action

THE BUZZ FROM FFA CHAPTERS ACROSS THE U.S.

OHIO

Walking for a cure

Each year the Miami Trace FFA Chapter does its best to help in the fight against cancer. The chapter's event, called the Scarecrow Festival Walk Against Cancer, is held in conjunction with the town's annual Scarecrow Festival. This year, 54 walkers, each of whom paid \$10 and received a T-shirt, walked for a cure. Additional contributions brought their total donations to \$1,800.

MIAMI TRACE FFA CHAPTER MEMBERS, ALONG WITH THEIR HOLSTEIN COW MASCOT, MARCH DOWN THE STREET AS PART OF THEIR WALK AGAINST CANCER.



IOWA

An FFA-FFJ summit

When members of FFJ, the Japanese equivalent of the FFA, expressed interest in visiting the U.S. during summer, the Harlan FFA Chapter members volunteered to take their Japanese counterparts into their homes for a week. Among the things their guests got to see: 10,000 bicyclists riding through the area as part of RAGBRAI (The Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa). The Japanese students and their hosts also spent a couple of days at the state 4-H camp, where they worked together to scale a climbing wall.

AN FFJ MEMBER FROM JAPAN PREPARES TO ASCEND THE CLIMBING WALL AS PART OF HIS GROUP'S STAY WITH IOWA FFA MEMBERS.

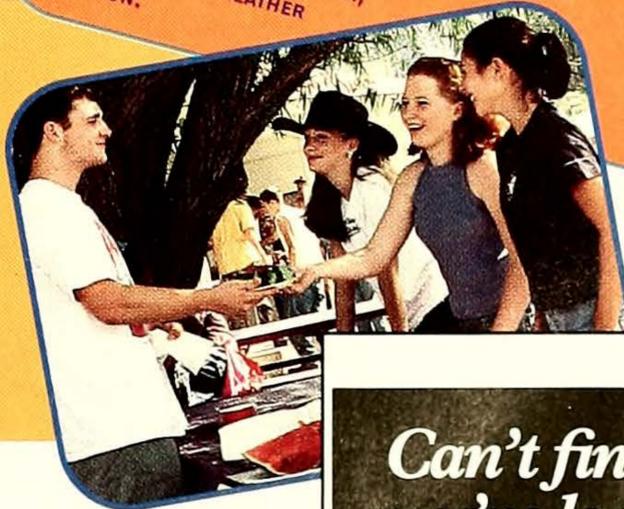


OKLAHOMA

Alumni celebration

When it was time to throw a celebration for Burlington FFA Chapter alumni at a local park, current members from the seventh, eighth and ninth grade agriculture classes decided to spruce up the place first. With paint brushes in hand, they repainted aging picnic tables. On the day of the event, Burlington FFA members sold donated watermelons and FFA alumni memberships.

JACOB GORDON BUYS A WATERMELON SLICE FROM BURLINGTON FFA CHAPTER MEMBERS JONI PUFFINBARGER, JULIE DAVIS AND HEATHER JOHNSON.

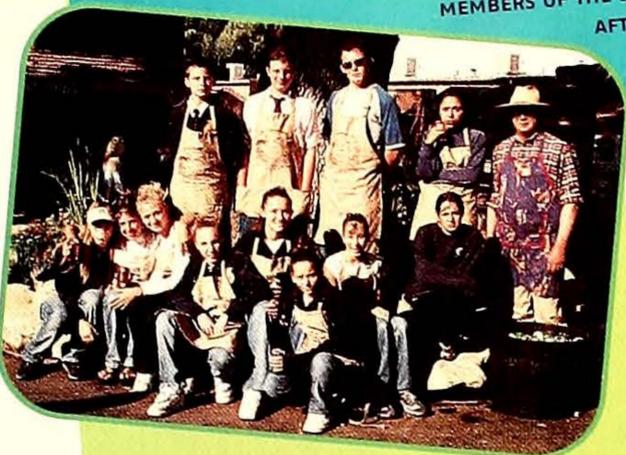


CALIFORNIA

Food for thought

As a community service project, several members of the Shandon FFA Chapter headed over to the Paso Robles Mid States Fairgrounds to donate their time at an event sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Farm Bureau. The members had a great time preparing and serving food for guests and representing their FFA chapter.

MEMBERS OF THE SHANDON FFA CHAPTER TAKE A BREATHER AFTER A LONG DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK.



Get in on the Action!

We want to know about your chapter's activities. Grab those photos from your recent events—fundraisers, community service projects, special events, etc.—and put them in an envelope, along with a quick write-up with all the essential details: who, what, when, where, why and how. Put a stamp on it and mail it to us today (our address is on page 1.)



Can't find the job you're looking for?

The best place to find the best careers in Agriculture and Natural Sciences is at www.jobhog.net. Check it out today.

jobhog.net

A snapshot of the U.S. beef industry

Where's the beef?

The Meat of the Matter

Lean beef consists of about 20 percent protein; 5 percent fat, carbohydrates and minerals; and about 75 percent water.

The Meat of the Matter

There are nearly 50 different breeds of beef cattle, but most beef comes from just 10 of these breeds.

The Meat of the Matter

A full-grown steer weighs in at about 1,000 pounds and can yield about 450 pounds of edible meat.

The Meat of the Matter

Exports account for less than 10 percent of total U.S. beef production.

The U.S. produces more than 25 billion pounds of beef per year.

Nearly two-thirds of U.S. beef exports go to Japan and Mexico.

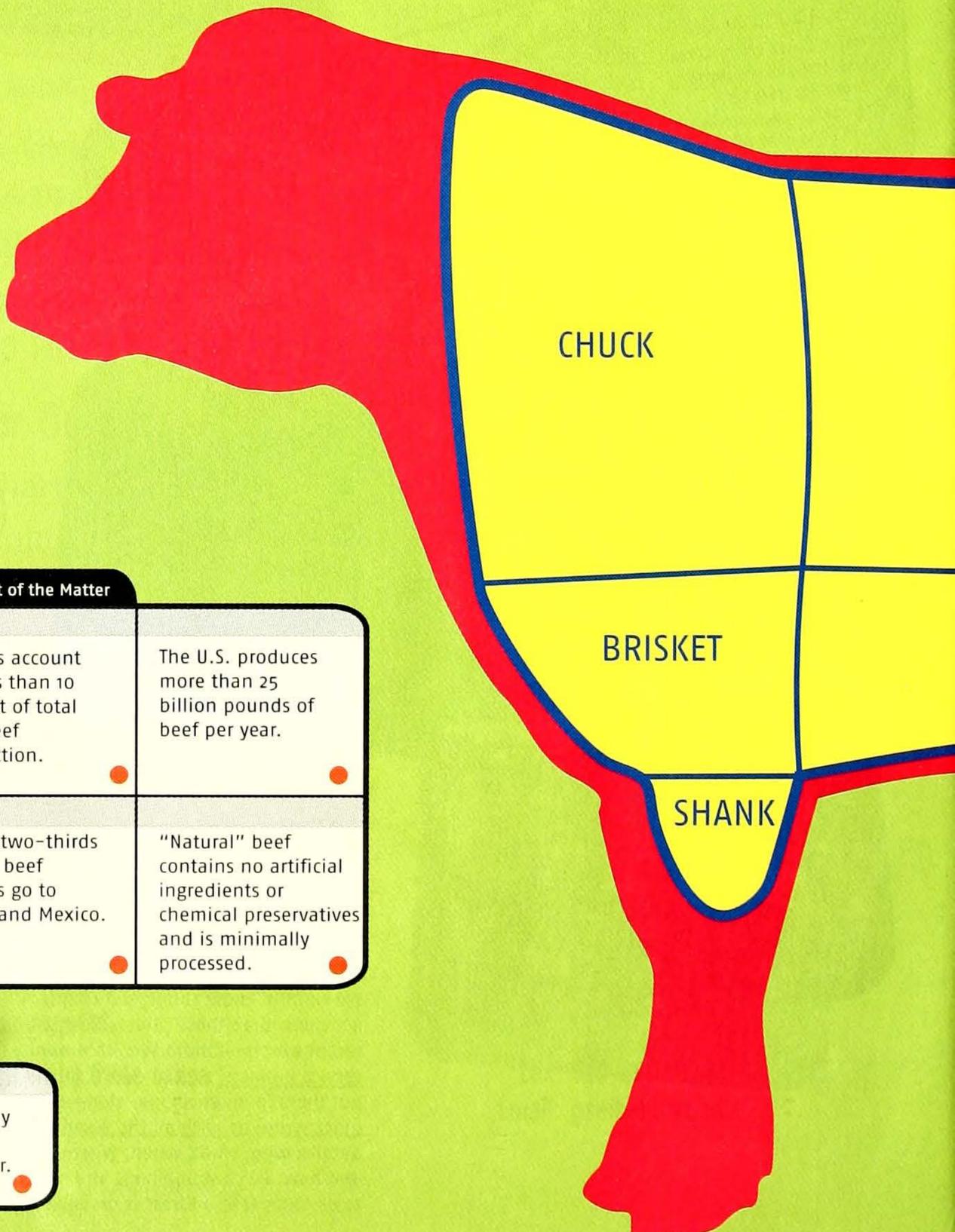
"Natural" beef contains no artificial ingredients or chemical preservatives and is minimally processed.

The Meat of the Matter

Australia, Canada and New Zealand supply nearly 85 percent of the three billion pounds of beef the U.S. imports each year.

The Meat of the Matter

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) "grades" most beef depending on its fat content, flavor and tenderness. Grades you might see in the supermarket include prime (the best), choice and select.



Hold on tight. This may come as a shock. The evidence is shaky, but rumor has it that the hamburger—that all-beef patty on a bun so synonymous with American cuisine—may not have originated on U.S. soil.

Indeed, the current consensus is that a culinary wizard in Hamburg, Germany, invented this grillable sandwich in the 1800s, long before the backyard barbecue invaded American culture. But another theory is also up for debate. Historical documents show that the domestication of cattle for food dates all the way back to 6500 B.C. in the Middle East.

The question is this: If an ancient farmer was innovative enough to kick off the beef industry more than 8,000 years ago, isn't it also fair to assume he had the wits to slap a chunk

of meat between two pieces of bread and call it a meal?

On the rise

Either way, in the 21st century, beef in all its various forms—from meatballs to strip steaks to the hamburger—has taken America by storm. Chew on this: According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the average American eats more than 60 pounds of beef per year. The U.S. beef cattle industry, to meet that demand as well as that of hungry consumers elsewhere in the world, processes more than 25 billion pounds of beef annually.

And statistics show that consumer demand for beef is now, for the first time in two decades, on the rise. "The beef industry is finally starting to turn the corner," says Lynn

Cornwell, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "The future looks more promising than ever."

That's good news if you're a cattle rancher. It's also good news if you're involved in any of the many other stages of beef production, whether as a feedlot operator, a beef processor or, for that matter, a large-animal veterinarian.

From field to filet mignon

The production process is fairly straightforward. All beef cattle—major breeds include Angus, Hereford, Charolais, and Brahman—begin life in the field. They munch grass, drink milk and generally live blissfully free of any worldly concerns, unaware that each pound they

put on brings them that much closer to market.

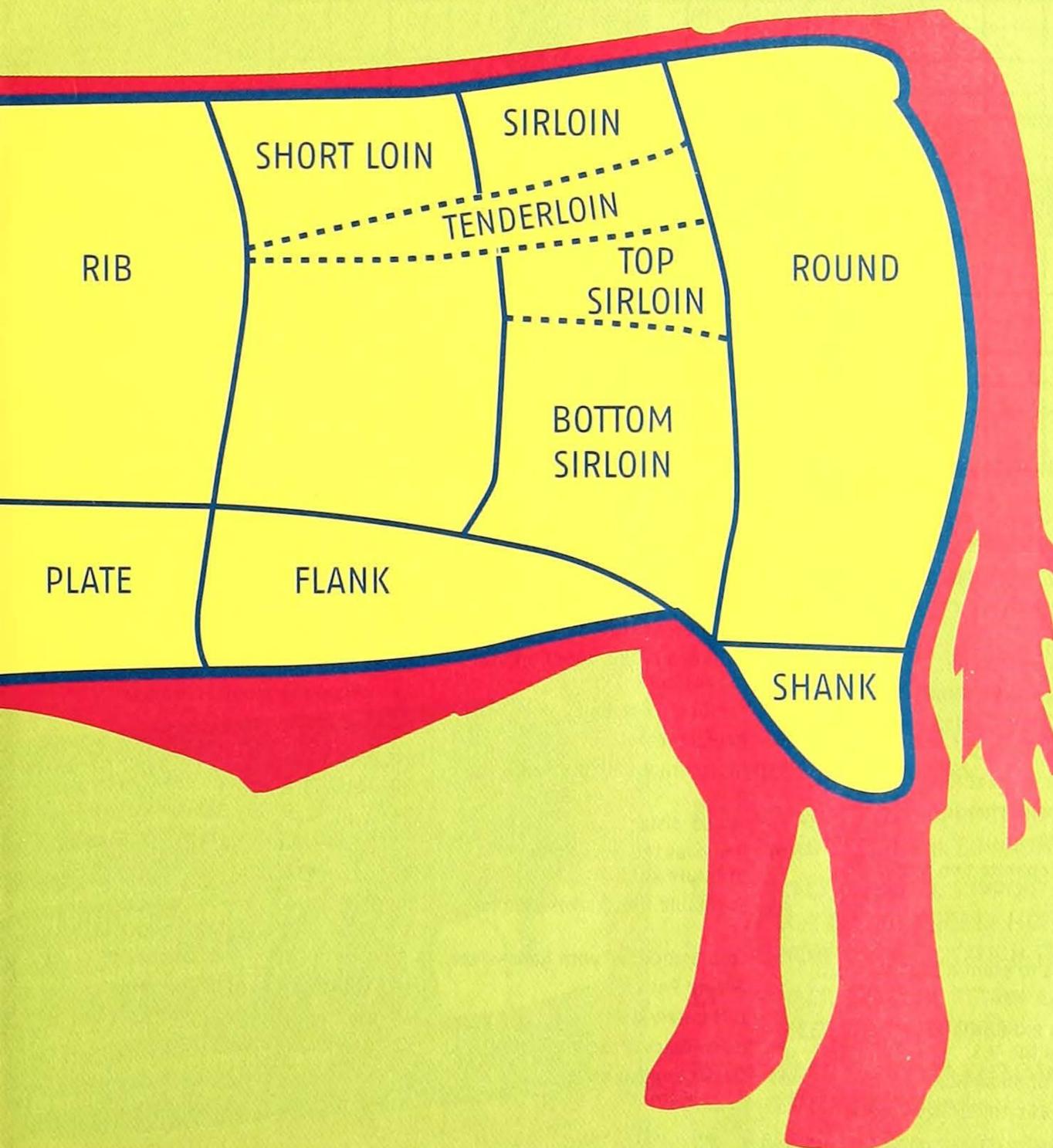
Many cattle continue grazing right to the end, roaming free on large plots of land and fattening up just as fast as their appetites permit. The majority, however, are sold and "finished" in feedlots. That is, they're shipped from the fields to fenced-in pens where, along with hundreds or thousands of other cattle, they're fed grain specially formulated to pack on the pounds in a short period of time.

Feedlot operators bring the cattle up to market weight, then sell them to packers for slaughter and processing. From there the meat is inspected for quality and shipped to retailers and foodservice operators, who in turn put on the finishing touches before the beef is sold to consumers. The entire process takes years, but the end result is the same: Rare, medium or well done.

Great expectations

According to those in the industry, the goal is to increase consumer demand for beef by an additional six percent in the next several years. That's a lot of burgers, but experts like Shelle Taylor, executive director of the American National CattleWomen, Inc., an organization that serves as the voice for women in the U.S. beef cattle industry, believe anything is possible. Especially, that is, with the right attitude.

"The beef industry is making changes," Taylor says. "You can't run things the way grandpa did. It takes a progressive outlook—you need to be willing to seek out new ideas, to keep up with technology." That, of course, must have been the philosophy of the world's first cattle farmer. And considering how much the industry has grown since, that bodes well for the burger. ★



puzzler

BY MATT GAFFNEY

"You're an Animal!" – phrases from the farm

Across

- 1 Who "someone's in the kitchen with," in a song
- 6 An ox may pull it
- 10 Woman of the house
- 14 State famous for its potatoes
- 15 State where many of the farmers are Mormons
- 16 "So be it!"
- 17 Annoy, on the farm?
- 20 ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 21 Little goat
- 22 They work on keyboards
- 23 Your and my
- 24 Fond du ___, Wisconsin
- 25 "Never!", on the farm?
- 31 Prefix with nob or goblin
- 34 "___ but known..."
- 35 Opera song for only one singer
- 36 Not moving at all
- 38 Therefore
- 39 Buildings where flour is ground
- 41 Not ___ many words
- 42 "___ you glad?"
- 44 Nebraska-to-Iowa direction
- 45 Paradise
- 46 Baseball star Cobb and football star Detmer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17					18					19				
20				21				22						
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25	26	27				28	29	30			31	32	33	
34					35					36	37			
38					39				40		41			
42				43		44					45			
46				47	48					49				
			50							51				
52	53	54				55		56				57	58	59
60							61				62			
63					64						65			
66					67						68			

- 47 Have some fun, on the farm?
- 50 One, to Germans
- 51 Some roofs are made of it
- 52 Excited
- 56 It kisses
- 57 "___ Yankee Doodle..."
- 60 "Relax!", on the farm?
- 63 "___ of Green Gables"
- 64 Fisherman's tools
- 65 Eat a lot of great food
- 66 Tract of open land
- 67 "Darn it!"
- 68 It may separate two farms
- 6 Gave the signal
- 7 From ___ Z (totally)
- 8 Start screaming about something
- 9 "___ never catch me!"
- 10 Pulling a rabbit out of a hat, for example
- 11 "Famous" cookie guy
- 12 Beef or veal
- 13 Insects that like to invade picnics
- 18 Moses' sister
- 19 Removes the possibility of future kittens
- 23 Vegetable that makes people cry
- 25 Crop associated with Kansas
- 26 Wizard Potter
- 27 Just barely defeats
- 28 "Mars Attacks!" actress Pam
- 29 Classic English novel "___ Marner"
- 30 Not true
- 31 Resident of India, probably
- 32 Mary-Kate or Ashley of TV fame
- 33 Like many people from Sweden
- 37 Attach, as a cowbell
- 40 Sign of poor radio reception
- 43 Where the femur is located
- 48 Not at sea
- 49 Cheat
- 50 Word on some doors
- 52 Sandler of "Big Daddy"
- 53 ___ avail (uselessly)
- 54 ___ way (not at all)
- 55 At any time
- 56 Final
- 57 Jazz tune "___ Old Cowhand"
- 58 Not feminine or neuter: abbr.
- 59 Start out the poker game
- 61 Greek letter
- 62 Small

Down

- 1 Prepares to plant a sapling
- 2 Notion
- 3 Defense group that includes the U.S.
- 4 Sounds of relaxation
- 5 Attach, as a trailer to a tractor

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

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Alan Kight Jr.
FFA-Talihina, OK

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Speak Out!

A new delegate process involves all FFA members

As part of a new FFA delegate process, any FFA member can now make recommendations for consideration at the delegates' meeting at the national FFA convention. In the past, delegates gathered to discuss specific FFA programs. Delegates will continue to play an important role. Now, however, the process will involve all FFA members and will focus on issues and will mirror how state and federal governments use hearings to shape legislative bills (or in this case, your recommendations).

Then, starting in 2003 (the soonest date at which we'll have extra meeting rooms at the convention site in Louisville), FFA members and advisors can actually present testimony on issues on Wednesday of the convention. Watch for details about the new process in the coming months at www.ffa.org and in future issues of FFA New Horizons.

TO THE RIGHT IS A FORM WHERE YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS. AFTER FILLING IT OUT, TEAR OUT THIS PAGE AND MAIL IT TO:

DELEGATE ISSUES
NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION
P.O. BOX 68960
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46268-0960

FAX: 317.802.5362

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED OR FAXED BY
JUNE 14, 2002



NAME: _____
CHAPTER: _____
YEAR IN SCHOOL: _____
STATE: _____
STATE FFA ADVISOR: _____

RECOMMENDATION: _____

LIST WHY THIS IS A CRITICAL AND EMERGING ISSUE FOR FFA:
(UP TO THREE SUPPORTING PTS.)

THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION HAS IDENTIFIED 9 KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION. PLEASE CHECK, IF THIS TOPIC SUPPORTS ONE OF THESE AREAS.

- DEVELOP, DELIVER AND IMPROVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF VERIFIABLE VALUE, WHICH MEET THE PRIORITY NEEDS OF FFA'S CUSTOMERS
- SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP IN FFA
- IMPROVE FFA'S PERFORMANCE AS A DIVERSE ORGANIZATION
- INCREASE THE ACCEPTANCE AND SUPPORT OF FFA BY STATE AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS
- COOPERATIVELY SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP MODELS FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS
- ATTRACT, DEVELOP, SUPPORT AND RETAIN AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF WELL-TRAINED, HIGHLY MOTIVATED STATE LEADERS AND LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION TEACHERS
- ATTRACT, DEVELOP, RETAIN AND EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE HUMAN RESOURCES TO MEET FFA OBJECTIVES
- ATTRACT, EARN AND EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MEET FFA OBJECTIVES
- DEVELOP EFFECTIVE MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Cash for the Convention

FFA begins celebrating its 75th anniversary at this year's national FFA convention. You won't want to miss the celebration. Here are 5 ways to finance your trip to Louisville

Once again, like clockwork, the national FFA convention is just around the corner (this year's dates are October 30 through November 2). And again, the time has come to figure out how in the world to get to Louisville, Kentucky. The directions, of course, are obvious. Anyone with a map can find the way. What's not so apparent, especially if you're new to the game, is where to find the cash to pay for the journey.

As any fundraising expert will tell you, there is nothing mysterious about how to raise money for a specific cause, including convention. The keys to success are a good attitude, a solid team effort and the understanding that nothing is possible without hard work. That said, following are a few basic tips, culled from, among others, the folks who run the National FFA International Program. They work with FFA members whose ability to raise money can mean the difference between staying at home and embarking on a truly life-changing experience.

1. Talk to friends and relatives.

Send a letter to as many people as possible explaining why you want to go to convention and the costs associated with the trip. Ask for a specific—and reasonable—amount of money, depending on the person you're writing to. A \$25 or \$50 average is not too much to ask.

2. See if your parents will chip in.

After all, the convention is an important part of your education. Ask your parents if they'd be willing to match any convention money you make yourself through part-time work (see # 4).

3. Hit up local businesses.

Again, start with a detailed letter. Later, follow up with a phone call. Local businesses are often eager to help out students if they believe the cause is just.

4. Get a part-time job.

Find a job you can do after school, on weekends or during vacations. Put a portion of the money you make into a savings account established specifically for the trip. Decide ahead of time how much

money you need to save and then budget accordingly. If you contribute to the account on a regular basis, the money will add up fast.

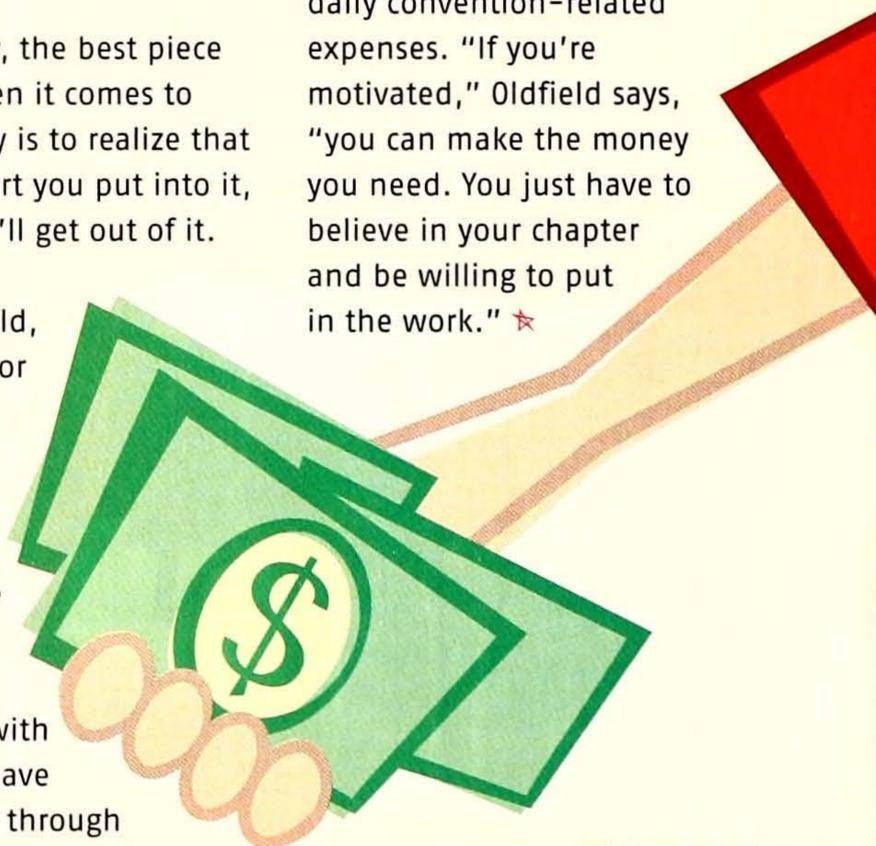
5. Put together a chapter fundraiser.

The sky's the limit here. Bake sales, candy sales, T-shirt sales, cow-chip bingo . . . you name it, it's been done. Talk to your chapter advisor about ideas, and decide as a group exactly what you want to do. Then, once the decision has been made, go at it with everything you've got.

Ultimately, the best piece of advice when it comes to raising money is to realize that the more effort you put into it, the more you'll get out of it. Take it from Brenda Oldfield, chapter advisor for the Scott County FFA Chapter in Georgetown, Kentucky. She and her students, in cooperation with FFA alumni, have raised money through

everything from ribeye-and-hotdog cookouts to bulb and fruit sales to proceeds from the chapter's very own crop.

Before the convention moved to nearby Louisville, chapter members relied on this money to pay their way. Now, with the festivities staged just a bus ride away, expenses are significantly less, but money raised through fundraisers still comes in handy. This year nearly \$1,300 went to more than 20 FFA members to pay for registration fees and other daily convention-related expenses. "If you're motivated," Oldfield says, "you can make the money you need. You just have to believe in your chapter and be willing to put in the work." ★



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 chapters that sent in the most surveys:

Fulton County
FFA Chapter, Kentucky

Reedsburg
FFA Chapter, Wisconsin

TOP 5 DREAM VACATIONS

hawaii
cancun
bahamas
france
california

TOP 5 TV SITCOMS

the simpsons
friends
just shoot me
everybody loves raymond
south park

TOP 5 AGRICULTURAL CAREERS

farmer
veterinarian
agriculture teacher
lawyer
banker

TOP 5 FFA ACTIVITIES

livestock judging
showing animals
national FFA convention
car wash
other fundraisers

TOP 5 SCHOOL LUNCH FOODS

pizza pockets
pizza
hamburgers
fries
chicken

TOP 5 NON-AG CLASSES

biology
science
math
english
history

TOP 5 FEMALE SINGERS

britney spears
jennifer lopez
faith hill
mariah carey
pink

TOP 5 MALE SINGERS

garth brooks
tim mcgraw
fred durst
nelly
ja rule

TOP 5 BANDS

limp bizkit
blink 182
metallica
linkin park
lonestar

TOP 5 MOVIES

harry potter & the sorcerer's stone
monsters inc.
shallow hal
corky romano
13 ghosts

TOP 5 VIDEOS

shrek
save the last dance
bring it on
coyote ugly
happy gilmore

TOP 5 FEMALE ACTORS

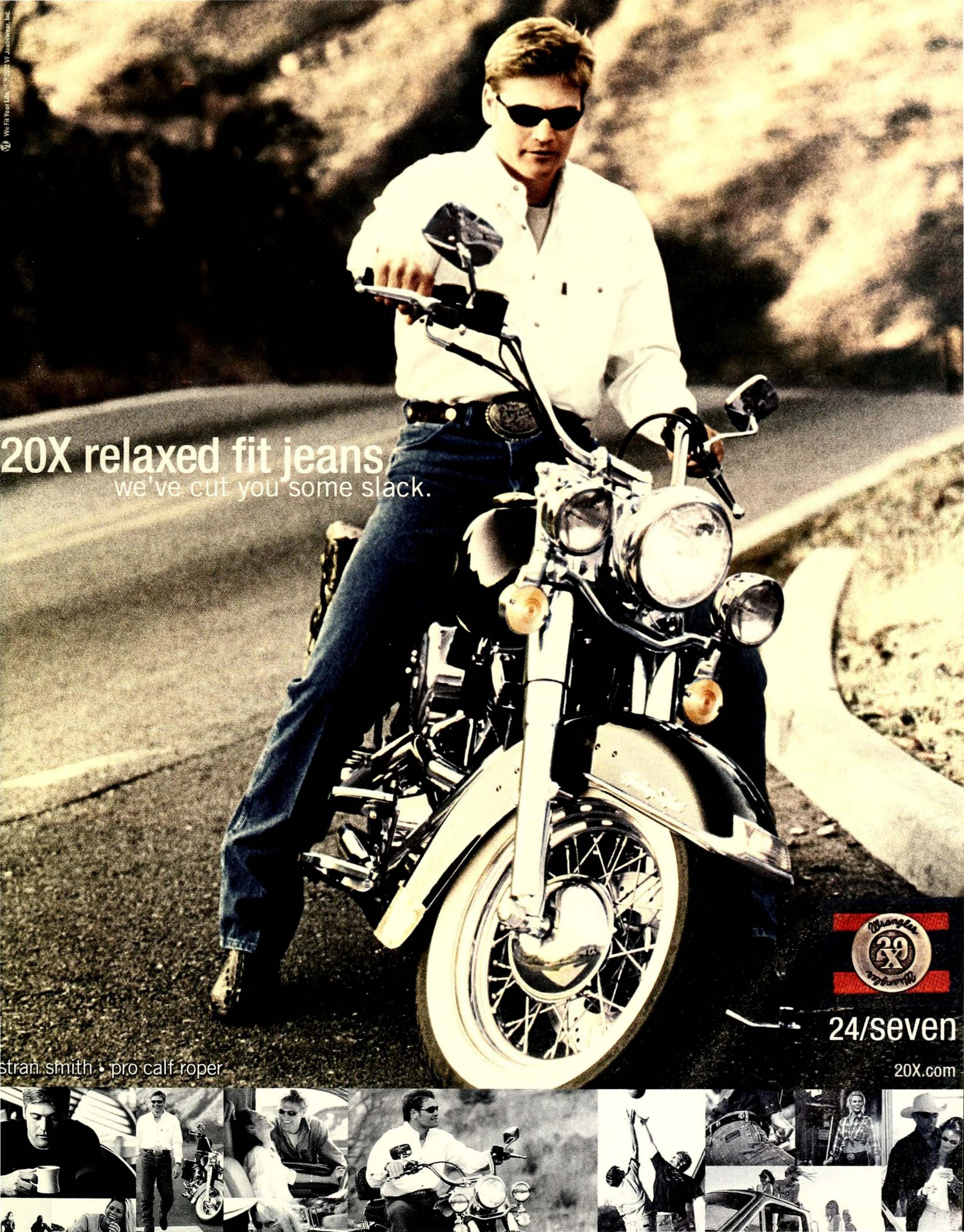
julia roberts
sandra bullock
pamela anderson
angelina jolie
julia stiles

TOP 5 MALE ACTORS

adam sandler
brad pitt
nicolas cage
tom hanks
jim carrey

TOP 5 WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

hang out with friends
play sports
work
ride four-wheelers
sleep



20X relaxed fit jeans
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body & soul

TIPS FOR HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

BY CHRIS HAYHURST

Made in the Shade

How to protect yourself this summer against the sun's harmful rays



Sunshine. Plants thrive on it. The world depends on it. Some people even worship it. But while a little sun is definitely a good thing, too much can be deadly. Recent statistics show that skin cancer, which is most often a result of overexposure to the sun's rays, is now the most common form of cancer in the United States. Nearly 10,000 Americans die from skin cancer every year.

That's the bad news. The good news is that skin cancer is easy to prevent. While genetics do play a part in determining your likelihood of developing a malignant melanoma—the dangerous skin tumor that causes more than 75 percent of all skin cancer deaths—the biggest factor is sun exposure.

If you take steps to limit your body's exposure to direct sunlight, you can reduce your chances of becoming a statistic. "It's something you have control of," points out Joyce Ayoub, a spokesperson with the New York City-based Skin Cancer Foundation. "You can either ignore the risk, or take control."

So what can you do?

Begin by covering up. You're obviously not going to stay inside the rest of your life—nor should you. So when you do go outdoors, especially on sunny days, seek shade and wear protective clothing. Long pants, long-sleeved shirts and broad-brimmed hats fit the bill. Also, pick up a pair of UV-protective sunglasses. Shades designed

for UV protection reflect the sun's invisible, yet dangerous, ultraviolet rays before they get to your eyes.

If it's too hot for long sleeves, or if a day at the beach is in order, slather on the sunscreen. Experts recommend using sunscreens with sun protection factor (SPF) ratings of 15 or higher. Apply more sunscreen at regular intervals, according to the directions on the bottle. If possible, avoid hanging out in the sun altogether between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the peak hours for deadly UV radiation, and never sunbathe.

Ban the tan

You might think a tan looks good now, but down the road it can mean wrinkled and blotchy skin and can

increase your risk for cancer. "Tanning is a sure indication that damage has been done to your skin," Ayoub explains. "It can come back to haunt you later in life."

Most importantly, pay attention to your body. If you have fair skin and tend to burn easily, it's a particularly good idea to stay out of the sun. In addition, no matter what your skin color, doctors recommend doing a full-body skin scan every few months to catch any suspicious moles before they become cancerous.

Normal moles are small, round and symmetrical. If you see any that are bigger than a pencil eraser, have uneven borders or have varying colors, talk to your physician. It just might save your life. ★

Did you know?

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF UV RAYS: UVA, UVB AND UVC. UVA AND UVB RAYS ARE THE ONES TO WORRY ABOUT. UVC RAYS ARE ABSORBED IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND NEVER MAKE IT TO THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

UV RAYS CAN DAMAGE SKIN ANY TIME OF THE YEAR, EVEN WHEN IT'S CLOUDY OUT, BUT THEY'RE STRONGEST DURING LATE SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER.

YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ABOUT AGRICULTURE SAFETY FOR YOUTH FROM THE NATIONAL FARM MEDICINE CENTER (WWW.MARSHFIELDCLINIC.ORG/NFMC).

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 _____

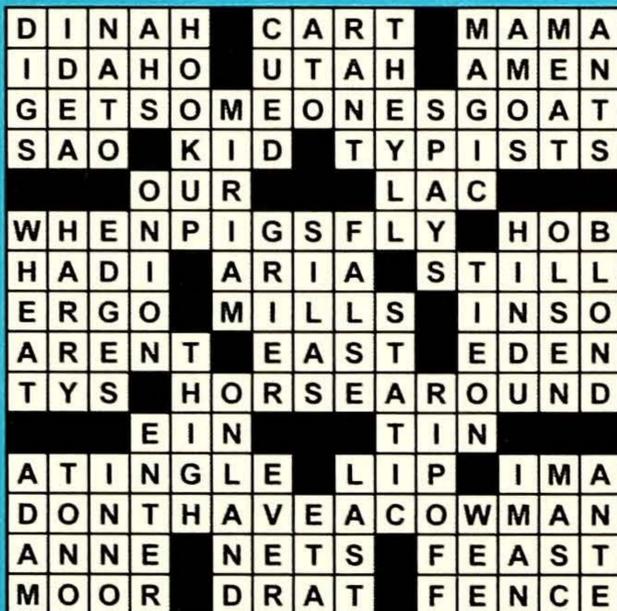
DREAM VACATION LOCATION _____



Mail in your
What's Hot survey today.

Our address is on page 1.

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



SURVEY

WHAT'S HOT

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BORDERS

Last Laff

Q: What do you call shoes made out of bananas?

A: Slippers.

Nathan Beckom
THOMASVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Q: What do you see when the smog lifts in Los Angeles?

A: U.C.L.A.

Nancy Burger
CLAYTON, WISCONSIN

Q: Why is a pine tree so good at sewing?

A: It always has a needle.

Linn Andersskog
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Q: How are gymnasts and sagebrush alike?

A: They both like to tumble.

Mysti Rose
PLEASANT GROVE, UTAH

Q: Why did the White House cut all the trees down?

A: To make room for all the Bushes.

Steph Sullivan
PEKIN, INDIANA

My dad told my mom he wanted a quarter horse, and she said she would rather have a whole horse.

Donna DeWitt
BERRYVILLE, VIRGINIA

Q: Where do zombies live?

A: On a dead end.

Victoria Puente
LAREDO, TEXAS

Q: What do you call sheep sideburns?

A: Lamb chops.

Ray Sebastian
SANGER, TEXAS

Q: Why should you never iron a four-leaf clover?

A: You might press your luck.

Timothy Gillette
MORTON, ILLINOIS

Q: What do you give a sweet person who needs help walking?

A: A sugar cane.

Zia Vue
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Q: Where did the mayonnaise jar go when it broke?

A: To the Mayo Clinic.

Benay Breyfogle
ANCHOR POINT, ALASKA

Q: What word did Einstein always pronounce wrong?

A: Wrong.

Curtis Payne
ST. MARTINVILLE, LOUISIANA

Q: What kind of breath does a sheep have?

A: Baaa-d breath.

Chelsey Ahrens
LAMAR, ARKANSAS

I would tell you a joke about peanut butter, but then you might spread it.

Amy Lippert
VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY

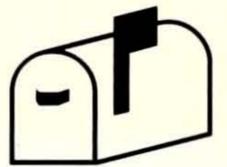
Q: Why did the Pilgrims bring a guitar, a drum and a piano on the Mayflower?

A: They wanted to see Plymouth ROCK!

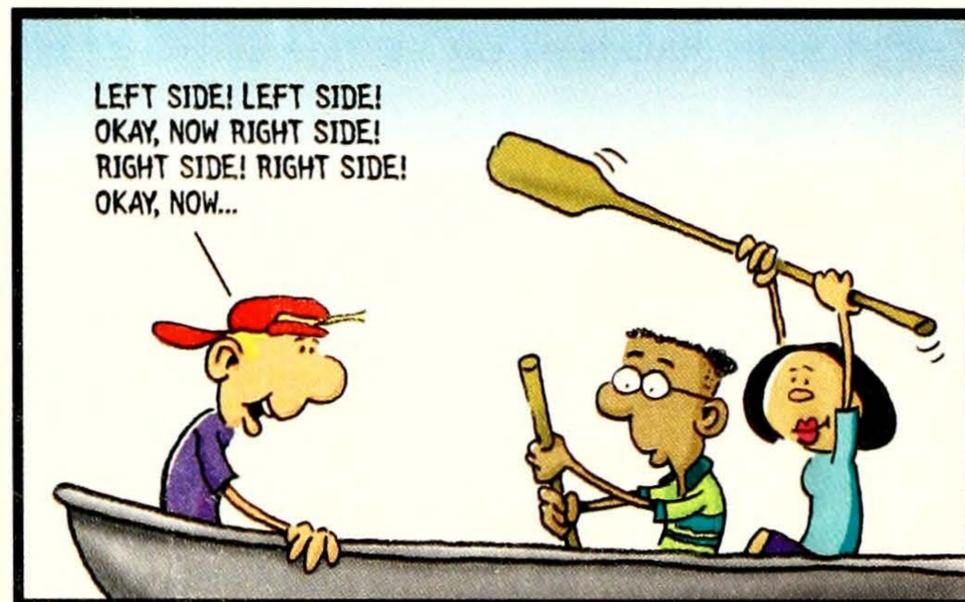
Corrine Schlages
WINTERS, CALIFORNIA



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 1).



Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



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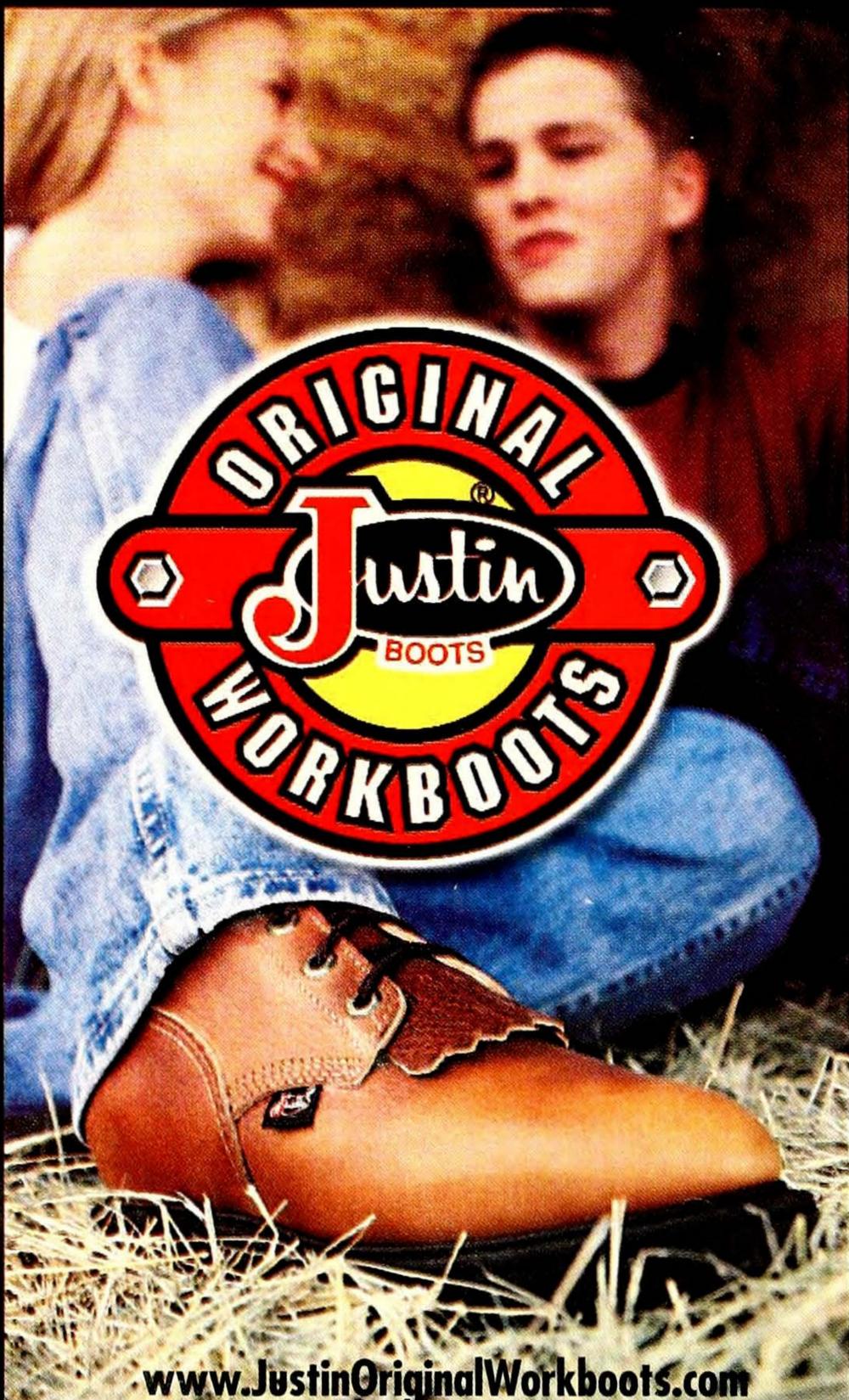
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