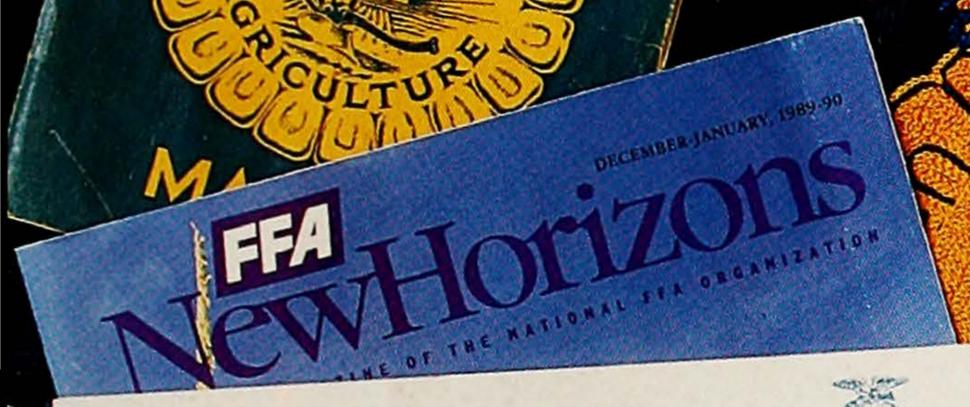
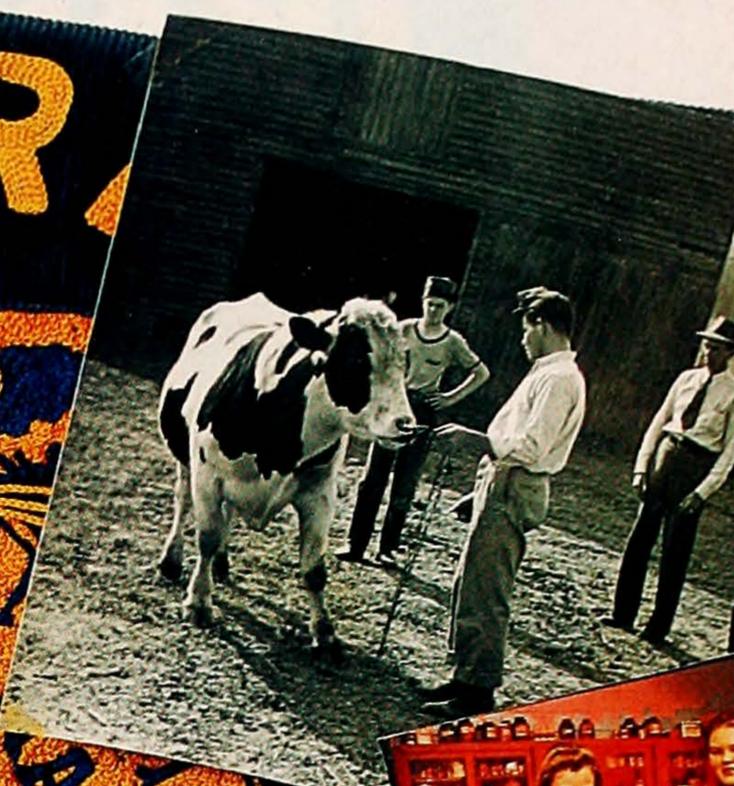
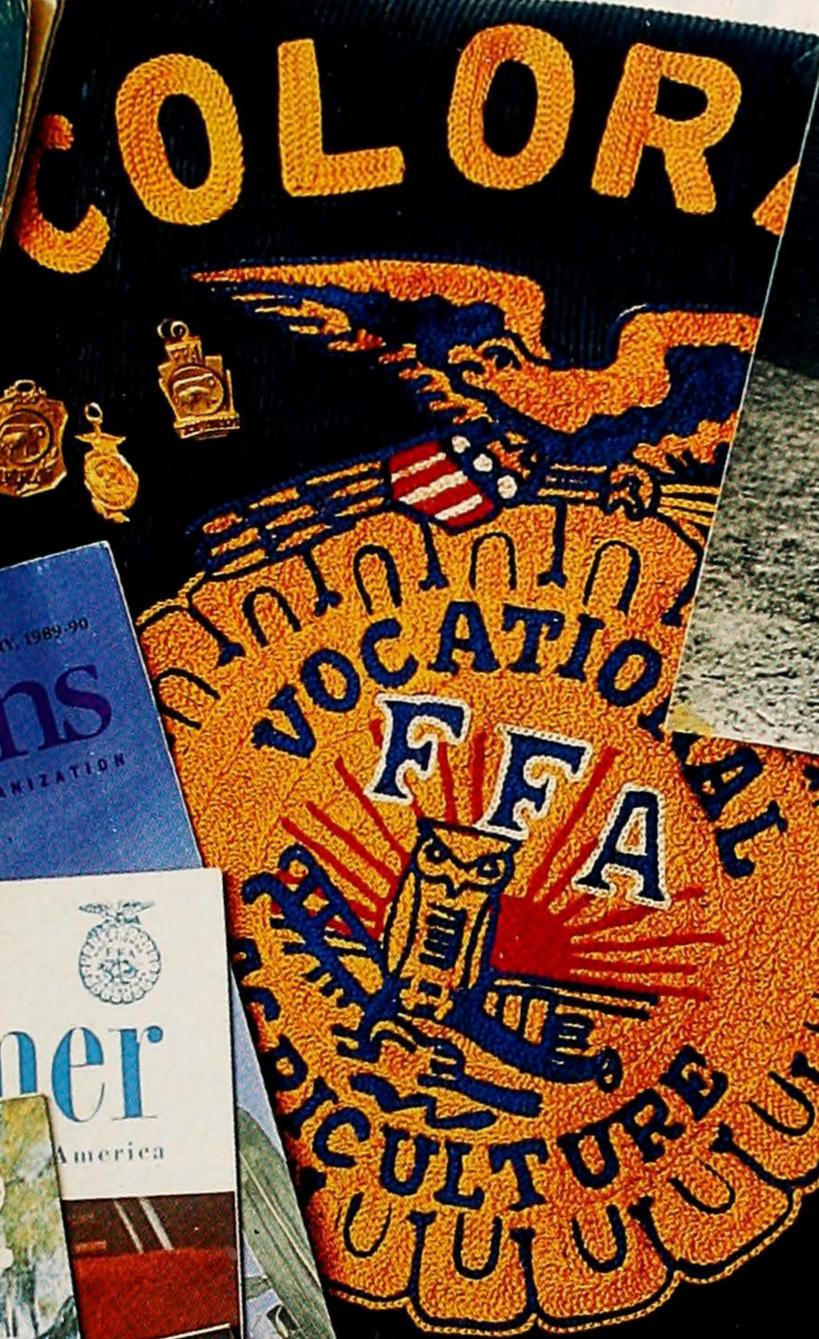
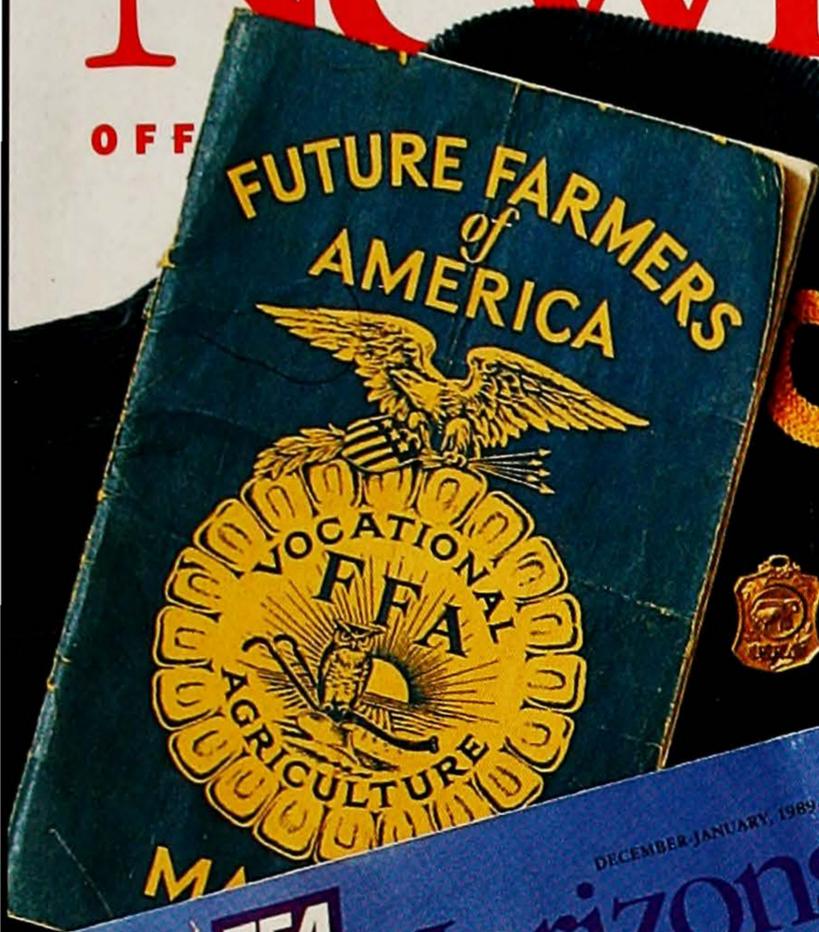


FFA

MAY-JUNE, 1994

New Horizons

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION



FFA
Then
&
Now
p.14

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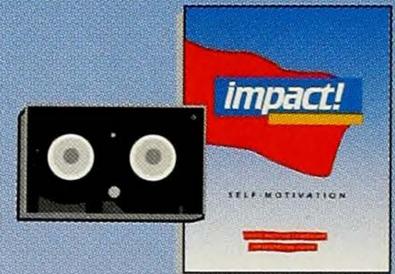
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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

May-June, 1994

Volume 42 Number 5



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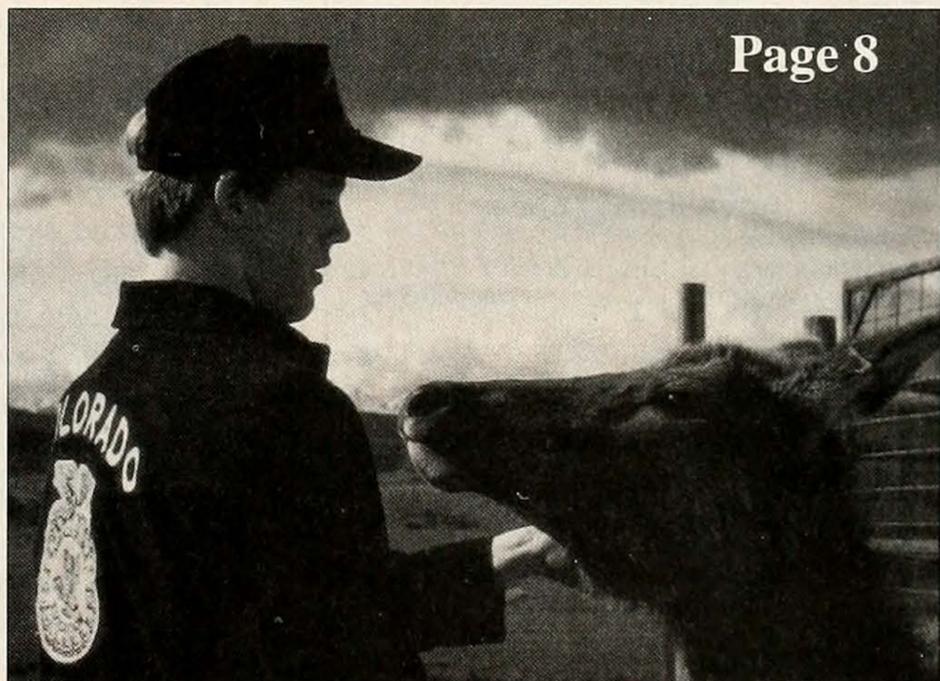
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FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth** and **career success** through agricultural education.



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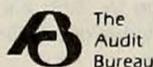
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THE FRONT LINE

You will have to deal with more change in your life than your parents ever did.

Here's why. In the mid-1980s, a number of economic blows came together at one time and thousands of farmers went out of business. Their way of life came to a screeching halt. In the late '80s and early '90s, corporate America went through "downsizing." In English, that means huge groups of people lost their jobs so their companies could survive through tough financial times. Executives who had been climbing the "corporate ladder" got the ladder kicked out from underneath them through no fault of their own.

In a world where job security is about as dependable as the weather, how do we avoid getting blind-sided?

Plan for it.

Most Americans will change careers seven times in their lives. Those who expect this to happen will be able to make the changes work for them rather than being worked over by the changes.

There are some key areas that will sort out people who will thrive in this crazy world from those who will feel like victims.

- Understand you are in charge of your career survival. Think of yourself as a private business or a product. Is there a need for what you have to offer? Are you making improvements to the product to keep it competitive? If you've got a great product, then how do you best communicate that to others? Your challenge is to convince an employer why you are more valuable to them than the other people they are interviewing.

- Focus on building specific skills rather than putting all of your eggs into one career basket. Skills transfer from job to job, career to career. Many of the farmers and corporate executives were devastated until they realized they could transfer skills they gained through the years to another career.

- Expect to learn and be taught your entire life. Leading edge computers from five years ago are collecting dust today. If you feel like you know it all, somebody, somewhere, is passing you by.

- Understand how to use computers. They touch every person in America in countless ways. If you wind up in a busi-



ness that isn't using them, you're behind the competition. According to management author Tom Peters, whole companies will exist in what is called "cyberspace" where people with specific skills will be linked together by their computers to work on a particular project. For example, what if an AgriDisney was being planned and they needed people who understood agriculture to help them create the park? You could do a lot of the work by sending information (text, photos, video, blueprints, etc.) over phone lines from your home to Orlando.

- Be flexible. Be willing to work in an entirely different part of a company or a different business altogether. You will be amazed at what you will learn.

- Develop personal skills. It will take high self-esteem to live in this world. As you move from one job to the next, it will be crucial to keep your head up and feel confident through those times. How does your personality work with others different from you? Teamwork is becoming more important. Do you know how a top-performing team works?

One of the great advantages you have as an FFA member is that you can pick up many of these skills and experiences right now! It will be years before a lot of your friends catch on to these ideas. Use FFA to explore your interests. Try ideas, make mistakes, *anything* to help you get an edge in your quest for personal success.



During their 10-day tour of Europe, the Star Farmers and Stars in Agribusiness encountered a group of children on the streets of Brussels, Belgium, headquarters of the European Union. The Stars studied international marketing of agricultural products in Germany, France and Belgium.

Adventures In Premier Leadership

Intense training in personal development, motivation, leadership, teamwork, citizenship and goal setting is waiting for you at the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) in Washington, D.C. At the conference, you will build self-confidence and make new friends from all over the United States.

There are six week-long sessions, June 14-19, June 21-26, July 5-10, July 12-17, July 19-24 and July 26-31. The registration fee is \$450 per student in advance or \$495 if you pay at the conference. For more information contact Tabatha Scruggs, National FFA Center, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160 or by phoning 703-360-3600, ext. 251.



The Hard Rock Cafe is just one stop on the tour WLC participants take of our nation's capital.

National Officers Go Global

While at the Tokyo Engei High School, the national FFA officers met with Future Farmers of Japan (FFJ) national officers, FFJ members and agricultural teachers. The National FFA Officer International Experience Program is sponsored by the Mitsui and Co., Ltd., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



MONEY TO SPEND

U.S. teens spent \$1.5 billion dollars on blue jeans in 1992, while \$3 billion went to athletic shoes and \$1 billion to groceries.

Source: BUSINESS WEEK, April 11, 1994. DATA: Simmons Market Research Bureau based on interviews with 3,000 teens.

Why Join FFA?

The FFA will help you build your confidence. Members have to stand up in front of people and recite things like the FFA Creed and oral reasons at judging contests. These activities can better you by encouraging you to speak in front of crowds. Your instructor will help you gain the courage to do so.

My three previous years enrolled in an agriculture class and as an FFA member has improved my confidence and my self-esteem. Right now I'm working towards my FFA scholarship. To get a scholarship you have to be involved in many things related to the FFA. The more things you are doing, the better chance you will have.

Jason Warford, Killeen, Texas

More Than Farming

I thought agriculture was just for people who wanted to be farmers, so I took a different class the first week of my freshman year. I asked the guidance counselor and she said I didn't have to become a farmer to take agriculture, so I changed my schedule and I'm glad I did. I made a lot of new friends and it wasn't winning that counted, but doing the best you can.

Toby Timmons, Opelousas, Louisiana

Rhyming Recruitment

To be completely honest, I really couldn't say,

What could be so fun about a lot of cows and hay?

So I went to the advisor to get an inside look,

He reached into a cabinet drawer and handed me a book.

Its pages were bent and wrinkled, the corners battered and bruised,

You could tell by simply looking it had certainly been used.

On the faded cover it said in corn gold and national blue,

"FFA Manual, 1992."

I read from cover to cover and quickly made up my mind,

I should become a new person, the FFA kind.

Tish Allen, Gladewater, Texas

"Up with Agriculture"

Writing Contest entry

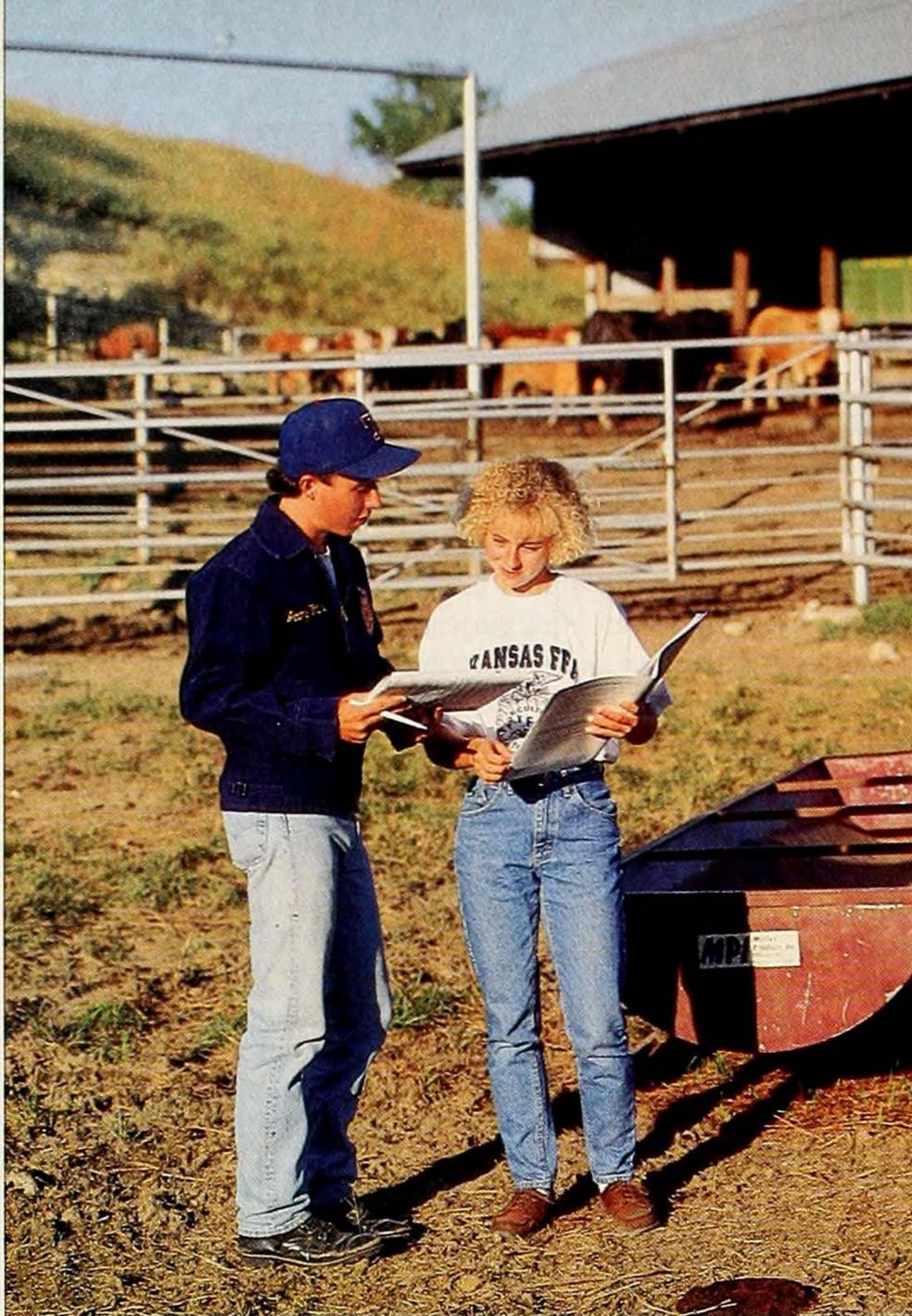


Photo by Larry Fleming

Peabody, Kansas, FFA members Jeremy Whiteside and Michele Jantzen have helped evaluate the water quality of three farm sites this year. Each quality check takes from two to three hours.

By Bob Bruce

FFA chapters are taking the lead in a campaign sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Soil Conservation Service and their local extension services to clean up our rural water supply.

Pollution—much of it unintentional and unsuspected—is finding its way through runoff and direct contamination into billions of gallons of our nation's underground drinking water.

One gallon of spilled gasoline, if it washes into your water system, can affect two million gallons of groundwater*. Just two pounds of the common weed killer atrazine spilled near a well can contaminate 80 million gallons of groundwater*.

For many years, nobody really realized how serious groundwater contamination from normal farm and home operations was. All the publicity and the clean-up money went to the bubbling, fuming toxic waste dumps

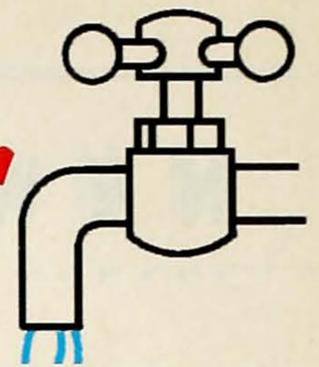
you've seen on the evening news.

But then some people began questioning the effect of pollution they saw right in their own backyards.

High-nitrate drinking water, for example, can pose a serious health risk to babies. Nitrate sources include fertilizers, manure, silage storage, dead stock and the family septic system. If only 165 pounds of nitrate manage to leach through the soil to the underground aquifer, the water would exceed current nitrate-nitrogen pollution limits of 10 ppm (parts per million).

In the old days, people built their houses on a hill, and expected rain to help wash things like animal waste away from the homestead. Unfortunately, downhill from the house is also generally where the creek runs, so all that nitrogen-rich drainage went directly into the surface water, and eventually the underground water supply.

Water Rescue



How to check for pollution hazards in your community

Things are better today, but farms still mix and use vast quantities of fertilizers and herbicides. If not handled and maintained properly, underground fuel and oil tanks, paint and solvents that spill and splatter and stored manure and silage are all potential groundwater pollution sources.

And there are risks even in town, away from the fields and heavy equipment. Car oil, old car batteries and leftover house paint are just a few of the items many often left to leak into the soil.

Identifying all these pollution sources in every backyard and farmyard is a huge job that FFA members can help with.

Members from some FFA chapters, like ones in Peabody and Holcomb, Kansas, and Las Cruces, New Mexico, use materials from Farmstead Assessment System or Farm*A*Syst to check out water quality at home and in their community.

Farm*A*Syst, which has a coordinator in every state, has a complete set of pollution assessment fact sheets and self-scoring workbooks to help people determine what, if anything, on their property is a potential pollution hazard.

The workbooks cover ten categories:

drinking water well condition, pesticide storage and handling, fertilizer storage and handling, petroleum product storage, hazardous waste management, household wastewater treatment,

One gallon of spilled gasoline, if it washes into your water system, can affect two million gallons of groundwater.

livestock waste storage, livestock yard management, silage storage and milking center wastewater treatment.

If you would like to get your chapter involved with the effort to rescue America's rural water supply, contact the Farm*A*Syst Program, B142 Steenbock Library, 550 Babcock Dr., Madison, WI 53706. Phone number: 608-262-0024.

*According to Farmstead Assessment System (Farm*A*Syst) data.

Right Now!

Find out if you have water quality risks at your house

Drinking Water Well Condition

- Is the well on higher ground than all pollution sources, so no surface water runoff reaches it?
- Is the well casing and well cap undamaged, with no holes or cracks, and is the well cap tightly secured?
- Is the well less than 20 years old?
- Are anti-backflow devices (such as check valves) installed on all faucets with hose connections?

Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Handling

- Do you have less than one gallon or 10 pounds of each chemical stored?
- Are your pesticides and fertilizers primarily in dry form rather than liquid?
- Are chemicals stored in a concrete-floored area, with a curb to contain leaks and spills?
- Are chemicals all kept in original containers, and are these containers clearly labeled with no holes, tears or leaky seams?

Petroleum Product Storage

- Is the fuel storage tank on lower ground than the water well and more than 100 feet away from the well?

- Is the tank made of rust-proof synthetic material, or otherwise protected against rust?
- Is all piping protected from rust, sloped back toward the tank, and protected by a check valve at the pump?

Hazardous Waste Management

- Are all adhesives, non lead-based paints, surface cleaners, rust remover products and wood preservatives either used up or shared with someone else, and then disposed of at a hazardous waste collection service?
- Are all empty solvent, oil, pesticide and hazardous household product containers taken to the local hazardous waste collection service for disposal?

Livestock Waste Storage

- Is all livestock waste stored on a water-tight surface such as concrete? Is the surface in good repair and free of cracks, and is it more than 100 feet away and down from the well (more than 250 feet required if stored in an earthen pit)?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, you may have a potential water pollution source in your yard or homestead. For a complete pollution assessment program, contact Farm*A*Syst.



AMERICAN ROYAL 1994 STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



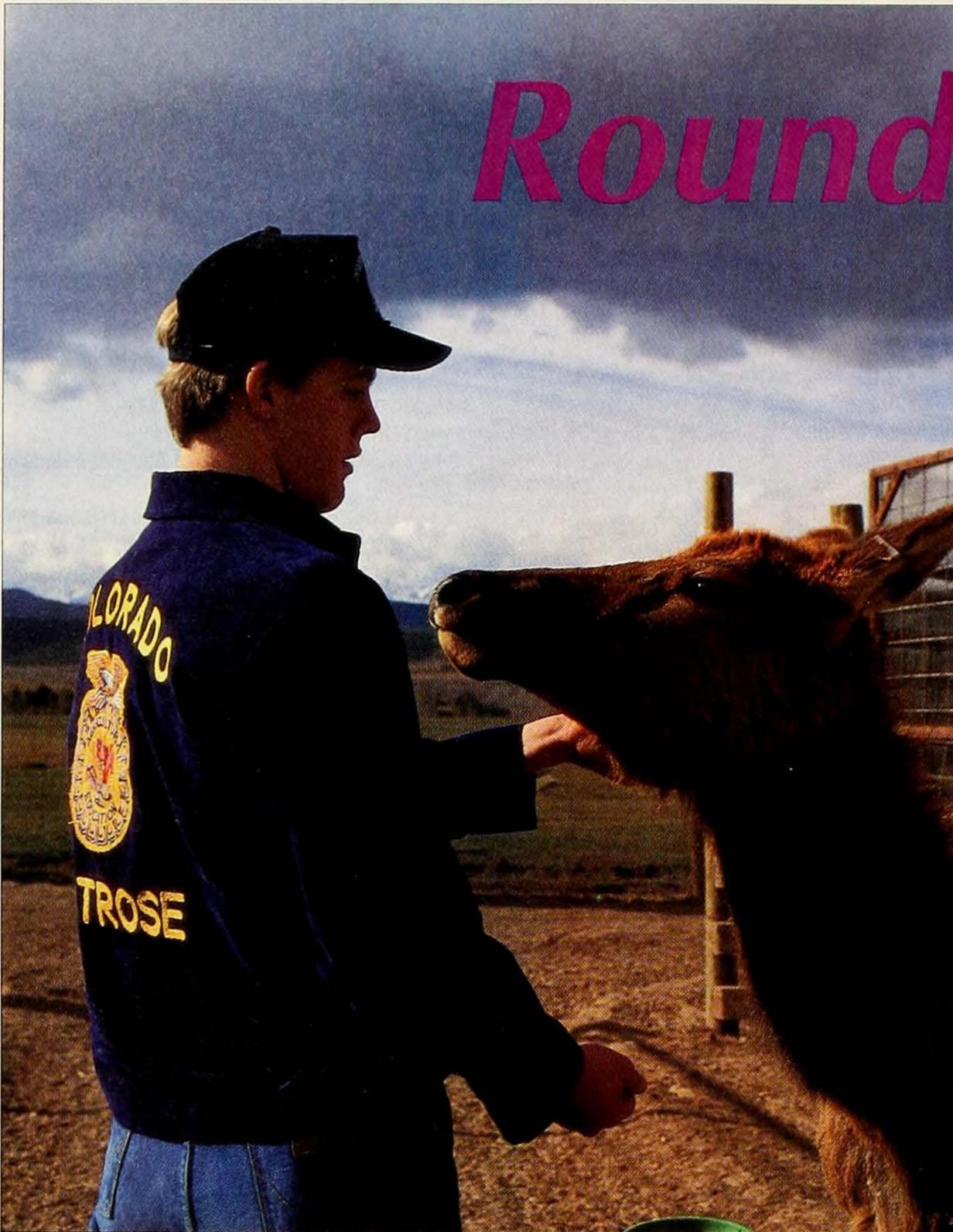
Applications will soon be accepted for one of the American Royal's most exciting programs! **Every** applicant invited to participate in Kansas City in November, 1994 receives scholarship money.

First place winners will receive \$5,000 scholarships **plus** a 10 week summer internship with Farmland Industries and the American Royal. Each intern's salary and living arrangements will exceed \$4,800 for the summer.

APPLICANTS WELCOME

For information—contact your State FFA Advisor or write Frank J. Ross, Jr., 700 West 47th Street, Suite 1000, Kansas City, Missouri 64112.

Rounding Up Profit



Photos by Author

The purebred strains of elk Zack Prock raises in captivity are often as tame as other livestock.

Colorado FFA member raises elk

By Jeri D. Mattics

Looking for an SAE that will help you make money? Two years ago Zack Prock, an FFA member from Montrose, Colorado, was. Now, he's raising elk.

Zack believes elk are the livestock of the future and ticks off the reasons why:

- Elk meat is much lower in saturated fats and cholesterol and higher in protein content than other red meats. (Just what healthy-conscious consumers want to hear.)

- Elk are more disease resistant than cattle and can use the same pastures as cows.

- It takes less land to raise elk. Three elk can graze on the land it would take to support one cow.

- Elk provide two sources of income—meat and antlers.

What? Antlers? Yep. Elk antlers are a very concentrated form of protein and other nutrients. They are in demand for use in nutritional supplements, particularly in Asian countries but increasingly in the U.S. Each bull elk produces 12 to 14 pounds of antler, also known as "velvet," a year. At \$60 a pound, it doesn't take long to rack up the income.

Minding His Own Business

As a freshman, Zack joined his dad in the elk business. He secured a \$9,000 loan from a local bank and bought four bull elk. About a year later, he sold one of the bulls and bought a cow that

produced a heifer calf. He recently sold the calf and the original three bulls, paid off the balance of his loan and bought eight yearling bulls with the profits.

"Elk ranching takes more money up front than cattle but it gives you a lot more return for your investment in the long run," says Zack. "The animals cost more, you need an eight-foot fence and some special handling equipment. The flip side is you can make a lot more money. The animals sell for more, you have extra income from the velvet and it takes less land. You can raise enough elk on 40 acres to support a family. You can't do that with cattle."

Comparisons with cattle come up regularly with Zack. "A lot of my

friends raise cattle and we help each other out sometimes. Raising elk is similar to cattle in many ways. A lot of the health practices are the same, you just have to approach the animals a little slower and coax them a bit more."

"Zack has learned the business from the ground up and made himself an integral part of the operation," says Prock's FFA advisor, Dean Soderquist.

It's in the Bank!

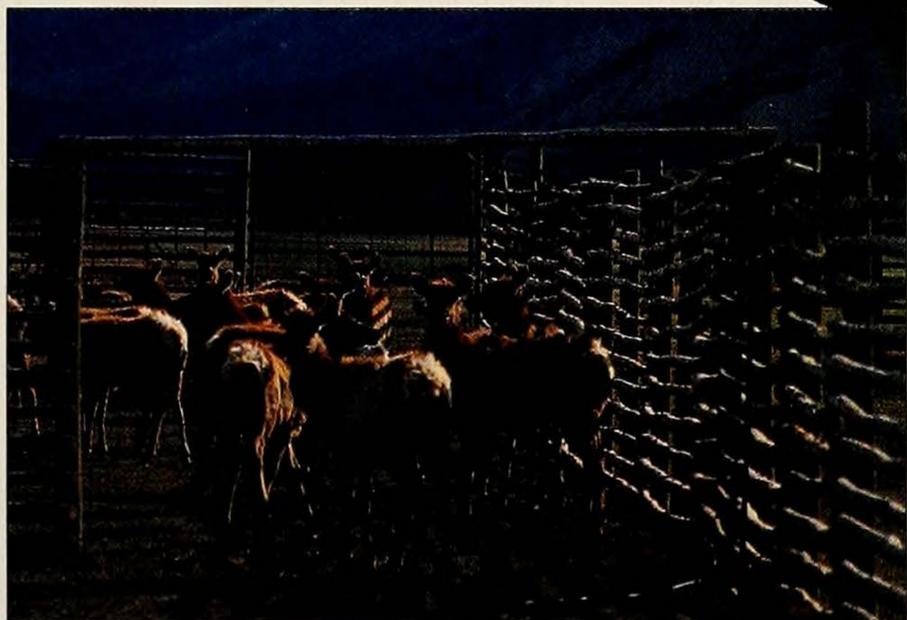
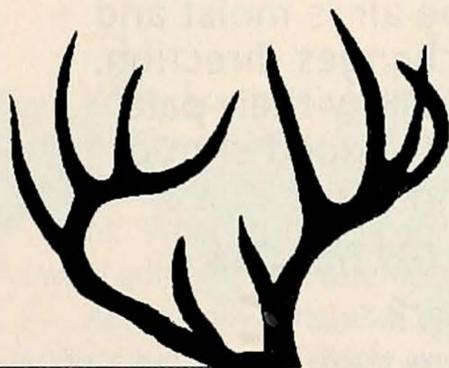
Prock's banker, Jerry Perkins, agrees. "Zack is the type of borrower we like to see. He knows what he's doing and how to maximize profits and grow the business. He's made some very wise investments in his operation and they're paying off for him."

"I see a tremendous future in elk ranching in the U.S.," says Zack, who plans to raise elk after college. "The industry is really in its infancy here. Right now there aren't enough elk being raised to supply the restaurant market and a lot of meat is being shipped in from New Zealand where they've been raising elk and deer for a long time."

For more information about raising elk, contact the North American Elk Breeders Association, 7301 NW Tiffany Springs Road, Suite 114, Kansas City, MO 64153. ...

"Elk ranching takes more money up front than cattle but it gives you a lot more return for your investment in the long run."

—Zack Prock



It takes eight-foot fences, required by the state department of wildlife, to minimize chance of escape and possible mixing of domesticated bloodlines with wild populations.

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Secrets of Predicting The Weather

By Jeffrey Goddin

Keep an eye on nature for clues to the climate

Before computers, people predicted weather by watching for signs in the sky, the leaves and the way animals acted. By watching these natural weather signs you can learn to predict weather too.

Red Sky in the Morning

A dark red sky at sunrise means wet air is holding dust and pollen so you'll probably see rain within 24 hours.

Sounds and Smells

Moist air before a storm carries sound farther so you can hear distant sounds, like a train whistle, more easily.

Also, smells from things such as swampy land or a manure pile are stronger than usual when rain's on the way.

Biting Insects

Mosquitoes and flies bite more before a storm because they can smell their favorite food—you—from farther away.

Leaves on Trees

When the air is moist and the wind changes direction, the leaves show their pale undersides, a good sign of rain coming soon.

Which Way Did That Cow Park Its Rear?

Cows aim their rears toward the wind so they can keep an eye in front and smell any trouble coming from behind. Fair weather winds are usually from the West or Southwest. Storm winds often come from the East. So if a cow shifts its rear to the East—watch out!

Anxious Animals

There's an old saying that "when pigs carry sticks in their mouths, rain's on the way." Since a wind from a new direction brings new smells, farmyard animals are often skittish when rain is coming. So, if a rooster crows in the daytime, horses are restless and dogs bark for no apparent reason, keep an eye on the sky.

The Birds and the Bees

Birds will go to a feeder in greater numbers and more often than usual before a storm. Even honey bees will come back to the hive early when it's going to rain.

Check Out the Grass

If the grass is wet with dew at night, you'll have fair weather the next day. If the grass is dry, the air is holding moisture, and it might rain the next day or evening.

The next time you have plans to work or relax outside, keep your eyes, ears and nose tuned to nature. You may find your senses detect the weather as well as the computer-aided forecasters on radio and TV.

...

Questions answered here...

You Asked!

FFA MEMBER

what's on your brain?

Are you wondering how to prepare for being a chapter officer? Want to know what to do if you and your best friend are competing for the same award? What about gaining self confidence or raising money to attend FFA camp? Any question you have about leadership, career growth or personal development is fair game.



Q: All agricultural students in my high school aren't members. How do we get more to join?

*Jim Griffin, West Plains FFA
West Plains, Missouri*

A: Jim, thanks for a question that is a top issue with many FFA chapters. Before you pass "Go" and collect 200 members, meet with your chapter officers, committee chairpersons and advisor and ask, "Is our chapter exciting for all agricultural students? Do we provide activities these students can't or don't want to do without?"

If your answer is "no" ask students who aren't involved what interests them. Check with successful chapters in your area to see how they get 100 percent membership. Work with active members to think of new ways you can involve more students. Design new activities from all of these ideas. Make sure there are enough activities to keep **everyone** interested and to give **everyone** a chance to shine.

If your answer is "yes" take a look at how you sell FFA to potential members. Do you make freshmen feel welcome? Is everyone invited to participate or only a few elite achievers?

When you buy a shirt or jeans you're sure they will make you look cool. When you go to a movie, you expect entertainment. When someone joins FFA, they want something in return.

As an active member, you know FFA offers fun, career skills, travel opportunities, leadership, and helps you develop your confidence and feel good about yourself.

Yeah, right. Students who aren't members aren't buying it. But once you find out what they want and provide it for them, they will join!

Q: You're an officer and your officer team will not give you respect or listen to you.

No matter what you say, it's either stupid or laughed and mocked at. What should I do? I don't want to resign because I have plans to run for state FFA office.

Name kept confidential

A: Team members can be cruel. They are quick to judge an idea they did not think of first. Or

perhaps they like the idea they thought of better. It is more than likely these officers point out flaws to make themselves feel better. Don't allow other people's opinions and judgments to direct how you feel about yourself.

What can you do so your comments are not judged? Don't let them axe your thoughts so easily. Instead of letting them laugh or mock you, ask questions to open discussion that could lead to your idea being accepted. Ask them directly...why they disagree with you. Don't let them just say it's stupid. Make them talk specifics. Listen actively and hear what they are saying. Between your idea and their suggestions, the best plan could be invented.

Don't overlook sharing this problem with your FFA Advisor. He or she has experience in team building and could give you some tips in communication skills with your fellow officers.

Reality is, sometimes your ideas won't get any support. Try not to take it personally. What's most important is that you speak out and believe in yourself.

Send questions to:

"You Asked!" 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Drive, Alexandria, VA, 22309-0160. Be sure to include your name, chapter, state, address and school and home phone number. Please let us know in your letter if you would not like your name printed. Only letters from FFA members will be published.



Speak Up for Agriculture

**Get Vocal. Have
your say and
change
community
attitudes
toward agriculture**

By Lynn Hamilton

Meat is murder. Meat is dead.” FFA member Jason Kilmer, who raises livestock, chanted these words and heckled FFA members about exhibiting animals at the county fair during his role as an animal rights activist.

Minutes later he joined forces with the members he had just harassed to discuss the issue of animal rights versus animal welfare with the Lafayette, Indiana, Lions Club.

Kilmer and other Tri-County chapter members designed their skit to educate community members through a new FFA program called the Agricultural Issues Forum. The Wolcott, Indiana, members were a little skeptical about test piloting the forum at first, says advisor Rick Nagel.

“When you say the word ‘research,’ it can be a pretty big turnoff,” he says. “But when students see that they can take it one step further, and use their research to present an opinion, they get really interested.” Besides treatment of animal topics, Tri-County student groups also looked into proper disposal of chemical containers and whether there is a future in agricultural education.

In the forum, students learn about how agricultural problems become public issues. After students identify hot topics such as pesticide use, water quality and food safety, they break into groups and research areas that interest them most. They dig into the library and phone or write experts. Once they know the subject inside and out, they develop a presentation and perform for local groups.

“With the ag issues forum, we get to talk to people who know about the

issue, find out more ourselves and... enlighten others who don’t know about the issue,” says Kilmer’s classmate Karen Minniear.

Taking a walk on the other side of the animal rights’ fence gave Kilmer a glance at activists’ attitudes about the agricultural livestock industry. “We read their [People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals, PETA] material twice as much as the other material,” says Minniear. But, it was a challenge to show the activists’ viewpoints, she says. “Mr. Nagel said, ‘Keep an open mind,’ and that was hard to do.”

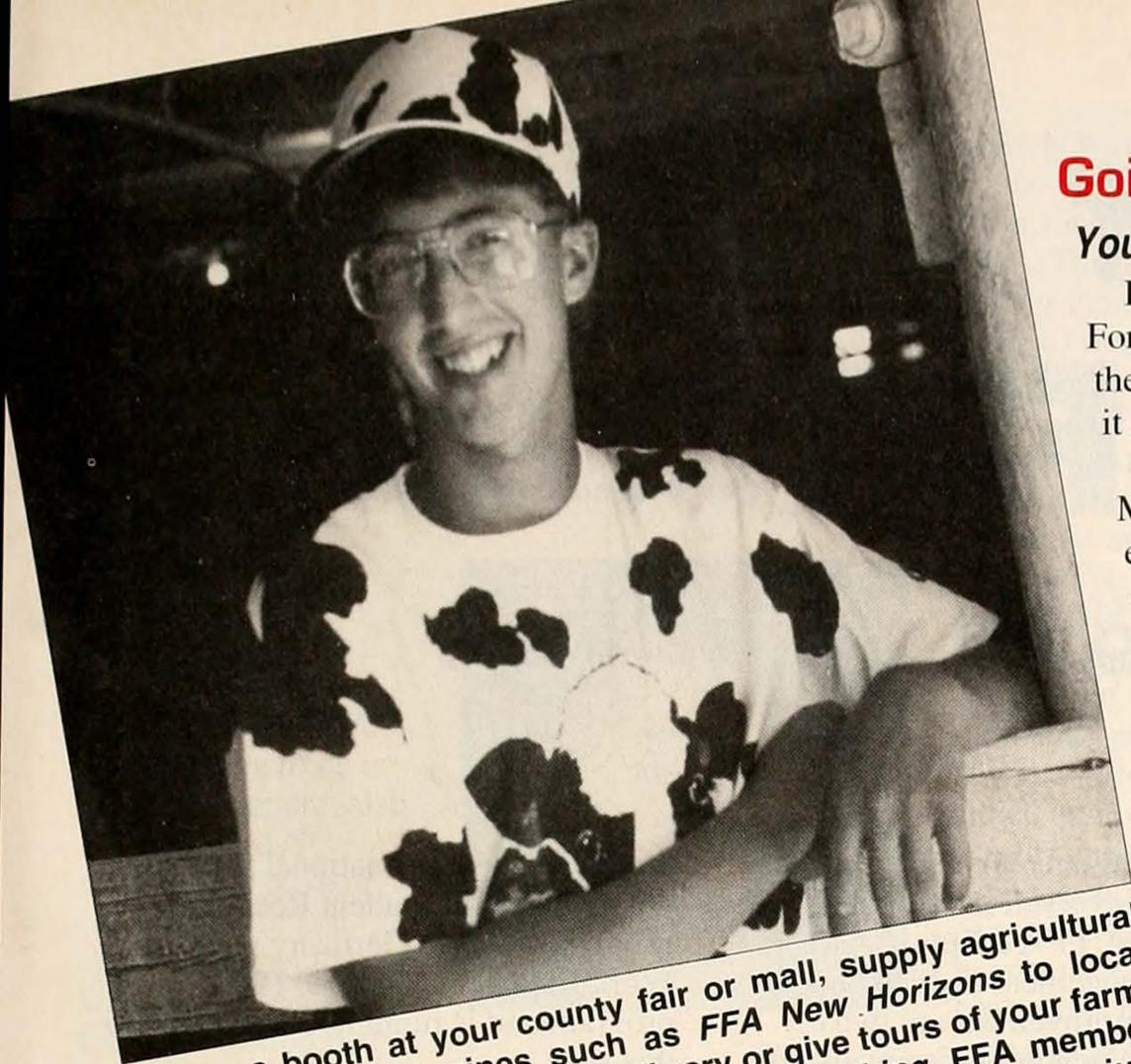
It’s important that FFA members speak up for agriculture, says Dr. Jerry Peters, associate professor and head of agricultural education at Purdue University who developed the forum materials. “We in agriculture are our own worst enemies because we never tell our story.”

Meanwhile seniors Kilmer and Minniear plan to delve into other issues this year, and hope more FFA members will do the same. Kilmer says, “It’s important because people my age are going to be taking over the reins in agriculture. We need to know as much as we can about agriculture...”

Where To Find The Forum

Members in 31 states are already participating in the forum this year and for the first time there will be a contest at the next National FFA Convention.

Ask your teacher about information published in the May issue of *FFA Advisors Making A Difference*.



Going Solo

You can teach about agriculture on your own

If your chapter isn't involved in the Agricultural Issues Forum, it doesn't mean you'll never have a chance to teach the public about agriculture. Some FFA members go it alone.

Dennis Fronning, a member of the Battle Lake, Minnesota FFA Chapter, promotes agriculture and educates the public through Dairy Days in his home county. "We let the public know what dairy farmers are doing, how milk is processed and how it is produced," he says. The event usually includes a tour of a dairy farm and a breakfast. "We have a really good turnout every year," Fronning says.

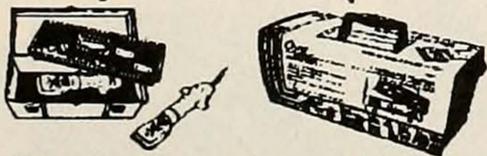
"I think if young people have the courage to speak up and say what they feel, they can have more of an effect on people who want to know about agriculture," says the 1993 National FFA Dairy Production Proficiency Award winner. "It shows they have a concern for what they're doing and how it will affect their future. It's our job to inform the public about milk and food safety," says the recent graduate who is a partner in his family's dairy operation. ...

The Agricultural Issues Forum is sponsored by Elanco Animal Health, a division of Eli Lilly, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

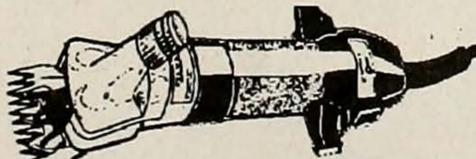
Put up a booth at your county fair or mall, supply agricultural brochures or magazines such as *FFA New Horizons* to local businesses and in your school library or give tours of your farm. Do whatever suits your style, but *do something*. FFA member Fronning says producers have a larger responsibility than to just milk cows. He believes dairy farmers' work towards informing the public about milk and food safety has helped the industry.

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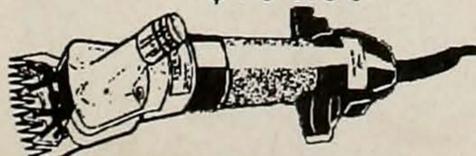
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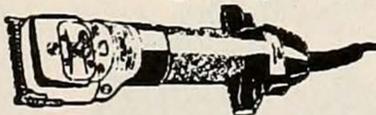
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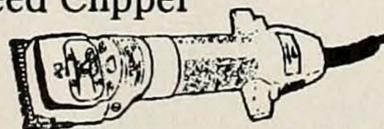
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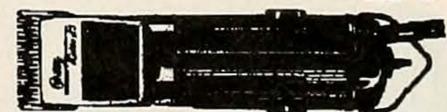
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Not Your Father's FFA...

The face of FFA is changing, but goals remain the same

By Lawinna McGary

Welcome to 1928. There is no TV, much less MTV... Few phones connect families in rural areas. About 20 percent of United States adults work in farm occupations. Future Farmers of America is formed to help farm boys develop self confidence and leadership skills while they learn new farming methods.

No girls allowed.

Soon segregation dictates a separate agricultural education organization be available for black students called the New Farmers of America (NFA).

Livestock judging and public speaking contests are popular events. Ag mechanics is the first FFA proficiency award given in 1944. Most FFA events deal with farming and producing food.

In the 1960s only six percent of U.S. workers are involved in farm occupations anymore. FFA adapts.

Forest management and Home and/or Farmstead Improvement are two of several of the new proficiency awards added. NFA and FFA merge in 1965. Girls were given membership rights in 1969.

"My dad was in FFA, and when he was a delegate [at the 1966 Iowa state convention], he voted against allowing girls in the FFA," says Andrea Clark, Algona, Iowa. "He said, 'No daughter of mine will be in FFA.'" Fortunately, she adds, "Now that I'm in it, he's been the most supportive person..."

It's a good thing. Clark excelled in her home chapter. She was their first

female president, a national finalist in the Agriscience Student Recognition Program, went to Germany with the Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program and is running for state office this year.

Changes at FFA, besides the obvious of being allowed to become a member, mean Clark has had different experiences than earlier FFA members. Agriscience became an award area six years ago. International trips were

The Grand Ol' Opry, The Lone Ranger, and comedies such as The Jack Benny Show and Fibber McGee and Molly, shared air time with the monthly NBC Farm and Home Radio Show, which featured national FFA officers.



unthinkable for most people in 1928, a time when traveling to Kansas City, Missouri, for the national FFA convention was a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

New FFA Phase

Clark and Karleen Beaupre, a Hillman, Michigan, FFA member are part of a new generation where a tiny two percent of the population are involved in farm occupations.

"If I had to be a farmer to be in FFA I wasn't going to be in it," says Beaupre, also a Project PALS mentor. Her advisor convinced her that agriculture includes all kinds of jobs and that the organization had plenty of activities to interest her.

After three years in Project PALS, where she was "a big sister to somebody who didn't have one," Beaupre says her outlook on life has changed. "I think it's done a world of good for me." Being a person her pal looks up to "makes you feel like a special person. I feel like I'm there for her any time she needs me."

PALS is just one way FFA is adapting and providing ways for members to be involved in the 1990s.

Thanks to a survey of 1,680 members and advisors, as well as parents, school administrators and state staff, more changes are coming.

One advancement in the 1995-1996 school year is that proficiency awards will offer two categories: one called

placement, for students working for someone else, and the other named entrepreneurship, for members with their own businesses. This should give more opportunities for members who don't live on a farm to compete in proficiency awards.

The Agricultural Issues Forum, a competition in which FFA members educate their communities about agriculture, and a horse judging contest will debut at this year's national FFA convention.

As the years tick by, new activities will be added and outdated awards and programs will be retired. But the original NFA and FFA missions of developing leadership, personal growth and career

success through agricultural education programs remain. Making sure members are a positive force in their communities is still important. And as always, chapter advisors will continue to teach healthy doses of self-evaluation and career planning lessons, so when members shed their jackets and enter the workforce they are prepared to achieve career goals.

Members of all decades testify to agricultural education's positive influence. "Had I not been exposed to NFA and vocational agriculture in high school, I don't think I would be where I am today," says Arthur P. Bell, department head of

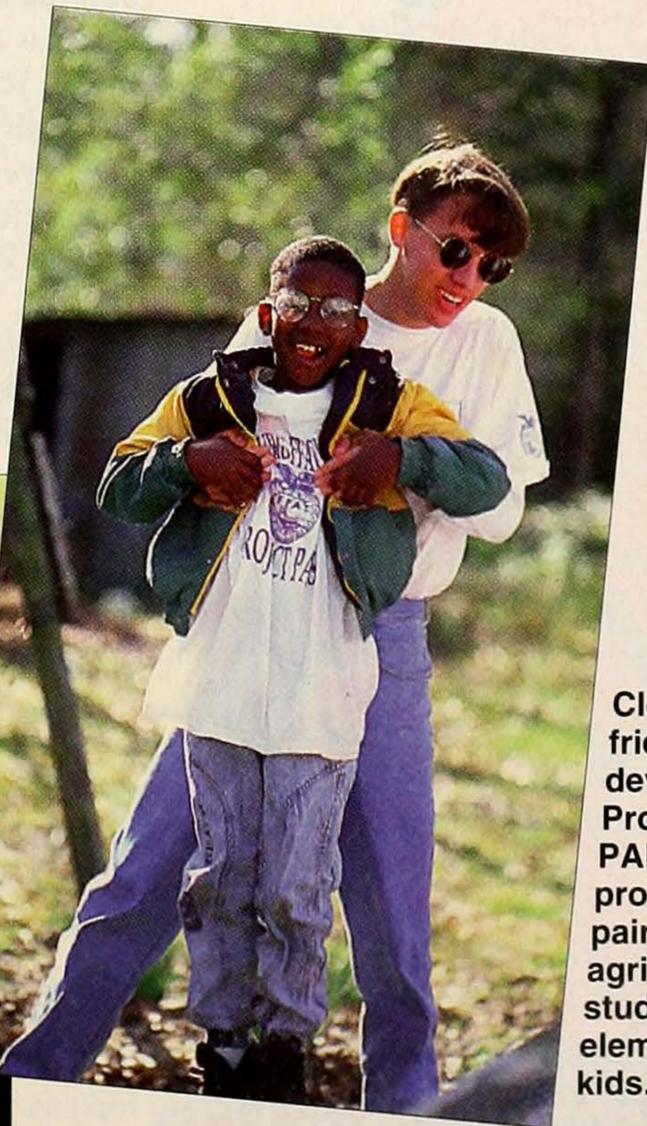
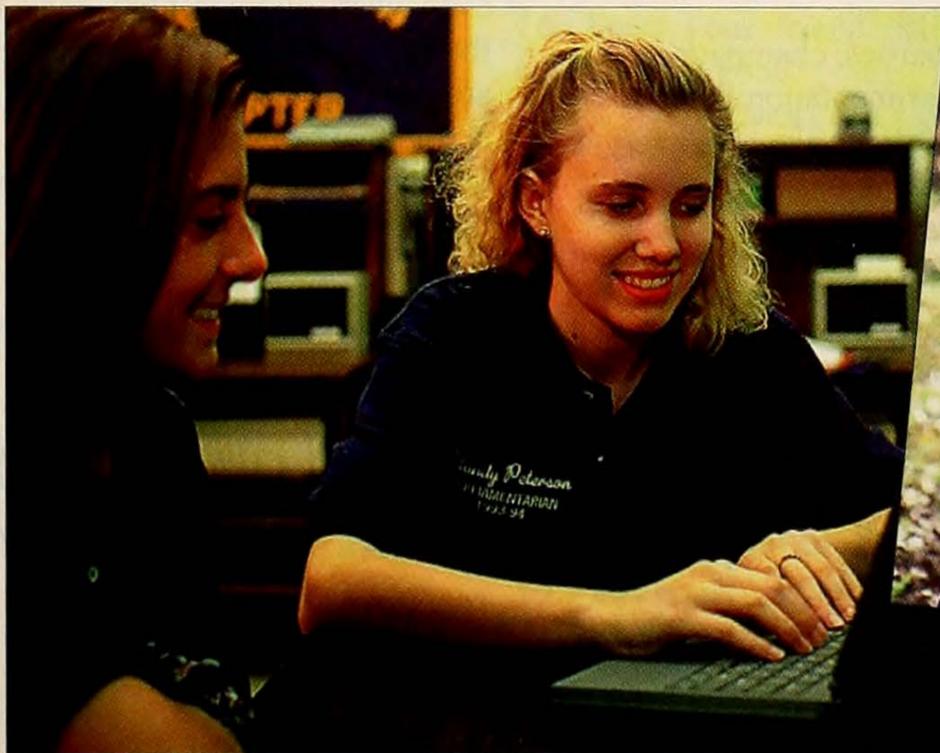
agricultural education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (A&T), who entered parliamentary procedure and agricultural mechanics contests when he was a member in 1941.

"NFA gave us an opportunity to express ourselves," says Willie T. Ellis, former agriculture teacher and A&T professor, who was an NFA member from 1943 to 1947.

"I've gained a lot of self-confidence," says Levi Brown FFA member, Nooksack Valley, Washington. The public speaking contestant says he also values his new "ability to go out and meet people and state my views on things."

"Before I joined FFA I wasn't involved in anything," says FFA member Kasey Englehardt, Berne, Indiana. "I didn't have the self esteem to do anything." Accomplishing FFA tasks, such as being on the parliamentary procedure team, "made me believe in myself. I love the organization. I think it does wonderful things for people."

How will FFA achieve the same positive results in 2010? Virtual reality FFA? Contests run through the Internet (computer information highway)? Don't rule anything out. The only guarantee—with FFA members in the driver's seat—is that the destination will be a leap forward from 1928 technology, but will still give members skills they need to succeed. ●●●



Close friendships develop in Project PALS, a program that pairs agricultural students with elementary kids.

Laptop computers have arrived in some classrooms.

On The Edge

How to tell if a friend has a drug or alcohol problem

By Judi Kosterman

Behind almost every headline-grabbing youth incident, there is some connection to alcohol and other drugs. From suicide, to pregnancy, to driving accidents, almost 90 percent of the time, researchers tell us, the youth involved have been under the influence of alcohol and other drugs. These traumatic personal events could be prevented by identifying the early signs of the effects of alcohol and other drugs in the lives of our friends.

Unfortunately, alcohol and other drug use has been painted with the *bad kid* brush. The truth is many *good kids* find themselves involved with alcohol and other drugs (and sometimes trapped by them) before they realize what is happening. It works like this...

• **Almost all (90 percent) of America's high school students use alcohol or other drugs before they graduate.**

Beer keg parties, champagne before the prom, experimentation with inhalants, pills or marijuana—everything counts!

• **Half of America's high school students abuse alcohol or other drugs.**

These are our friends who are seeking that "high" feeling from their favorite alcohol or drug. They are drinking or drugging to get *drunk, loaded, ripped, wasted, stoned, hosed, baked*, etc. When they won't stop using until they've reached that feeling, they are *abusing* the alcohol or other drug.

• **Two out of ten (20 percent) of America's high school students are addicted to alcohol or other drugs. They are "chemically dependent."**

These chemically dependent people are friends of ours whose bodies react differently when they use alcohol and other drugs. Their genetic family history sets them up to trigger an addiction cycle. They are usually not even aware and don't recognize that their drinking and drugging experiences are any different from their friend who is right next to them. They don't know they are entering a serious life-threatening disease called addiction.

Many good kids find themselves involved with alcohol and other drugs before they realize what is happening.

Of Abuse

How can you know if your friend is in danger and is in the early stages of addiction? Here are 20 questions that can help you make a good guess...

1. Does your friend lose time from school due to the use of alcohol and other drugs?

yes no

2. Does your friend drink or use other drugs to feel more comfortable?

yes no

3. Does your friend drink or use other drugs to build self-confidence?

yes no

4. Does your friend drink or use drugs when she/he is all alone?

yes no

5. Is the use of alcohol or other drugs affecting his/her reputation?

yes no

6. Does your friend drink or use other drugs to escape from worries?

yes no

7. Does your friend feel guilty after drinking or using other drugs?

yes no

8. Is your friend concerned if someone says that they drink or use too much?

yes no

9. Does your friend feel more at ease on a date by drinking or using other drugs?

yes no

10. Has your friend's use of alcohol or

other drugs caused him/her problems at home?

yes no

11. Does your friend borrow money or "do without" other things to buy alcohol or other drugs?

yes no

12. Does your friend feel a sense of power when she/he drinks or uses other drugs?

yes no

13. Has your friend lost friends since she/he started to drink or use other drugs?

yes no

14. Does your friend drink to get high more often than your other friends do?

yes no

15. Has your friend started to hang out with a heavy drinking or drug-using crowd?

yes no

16. Does your friend drink until the alcohol is all gone?

yes no

17. Is your friend unable to tell you what happened the night before?

yes no

18. Has your friend ever been "busted" or hospitalized because of his/her use of alcohol or other drugs?

yes no

19. Does your friend "turn off" to lectures or even to just talking about alcohol or other drugs?

yes no

20. Does your friend think she/he has a problem with alcohol or other drugs?

yes no

Just two or more "yes's" indicate there is a problem with the disease of addiction to alcohol or other drugs.

If you believe one of your friends may be in danger of this disease...then what?

First, know this fact. You are not responsible for solving, curing or otherwise fixing your friend's problem with this disease.

But you can help...

- Then, emphasize to your friend that you care about him/her!

- And let your friend know what behavior you are concerned about, and how you feel about it. Use an "I message" for example: "When you (get drunk, inhale glue, smoke drugs, etc.), I feel (sad, scared, etc.)."

- Connect your friend to an adult who can help—a teacher, counselor, principal, school nurse, parent, etc.

- Encourage your friend to call a local alcohol and drug Helpline or

the
**NATIONAL ALCOHOL/DRUG
HELPLINE 1-800-544-1177.**

Making a New Research Statement

Ag research rides an environmental wave

By Lynn Hamilton

Fashions in agricultural research don't change as quickly as styles in New York City, but they do move along. Today's hot ideas show up as tomorrow's innovations in some surprising places—such as factories, doctors' offices and gas stations.

"New Industrial Uses, New Markets for U.S. Crops," a USDA report, describes some of these recent innovations.

You might already have read magazines printed with soybean ink, or driven a car fueled with ethanol, a corn-based gasoline additive. But you probably never dreamed that pigs can produce high levels of human hemoglobin that comes with no risk of AIDS or other infections. Or that surplus milk can be used to make veterinary medicines, buttons and industrial glue.

"It's a whole new world for agriculture," says Bill Holmberg, president of the American Biofuels Association. "We're moving from a hydrocarbon-based economy to a carbohydrate-based economy, and the American farmer has an integral role to play."

Much of the agricultural research focus is on finding alternative energy sources. Concern for petroleum supplies and air quality fuel this movement. Biodiesel, a new study area, is a replacement diesel that can be made from virtually any oilseed crop. Ethanol from corn has been around since the 1960s, but scientists are now finding new ways to make it from rice straw, municipal waste and other crops.

"Without question, the bio-ethanol industry...represents the greatest ag-oriented growth industry of the past 15 years, and biodiesel presents similar opportunities," says Holmberg.

Brave New Plants

On another front, researchers are introducing promising new crops to the American landscape. Texans are growing Kenaf, a bamboo-like plant. Its fiber can replace wood pulp



Photo courtesy Agricultural Research Service, USDA

Scientists who once pursued only erosion control now also work to restore fish and wildlife to ecologically damaged streams. Here, Sam Testa checks out insect life in a restored area of Goodwin Creek in Mississippi.

used in newsprint and cardboard. Lesquerella, a desert shrub native to the American southwest, produces an oil used to make cosmetics and high-strength plastics.

Even with these cutting-edge ideas, no one has forgotten agriculture's primary purpose of food production. Biotechnology is the buzzword of the day, says Len Richardson, *California Farmer* magazine editor. But he adds, new research should attack the question "What good is

biotechnology to the consumer?" Scientists need to show that consumers benefit from drinking milk produced with the aid of bovine somatotropin (BST), or by eating cornflakes from corn that's genetically programmed to resist root worm.

"It used to be that researchers said, 'Hey, this is a great product and we can make big money,' but it doesn't happen that way any more," Richardson says. "If consumers don't see a benefit, they won't buy it."

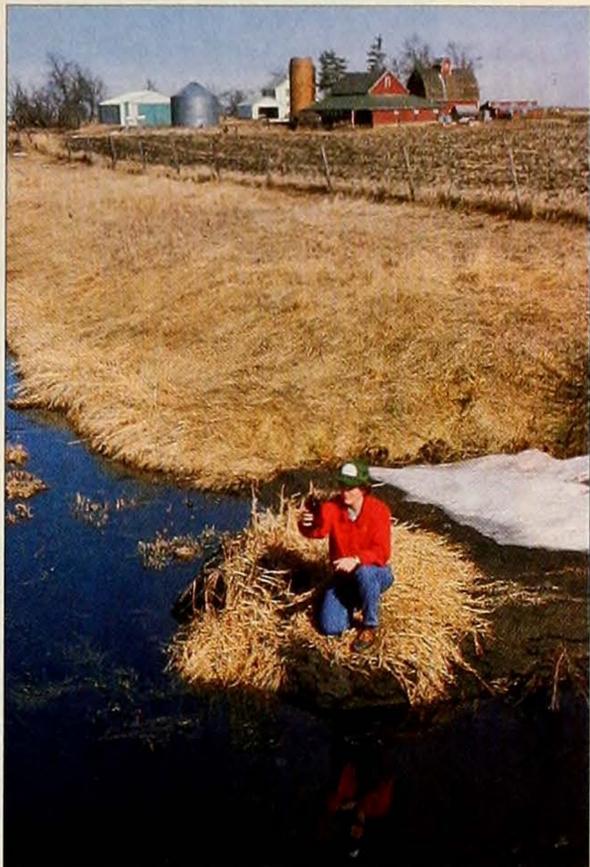
Sustainable agriculture is another important research area. The National Science Foundation is devising Best Management Systems to replace what are now termed Best Management Practices for agricultural production. The new approach attempts to look at the overall effects of farming on the ecosystem, instead of just spot-fixing a soil erosion problem or well-water pesticide contamination.

The globalization of agriculture has added multitudes of topics to scientists' research agendas. The recently signed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have sprouted issues of food safety standards among various countries and technologies to reduce fruit and vegetable diseases during shipping.

This is just a sampling of the many new trends in agricultural research. If you see something that interests you, don't just sit there—get to the library and make your research statement!

For more information on new uses for agricultural products, contact:

The Alternative Agriculture Research and Commercialization Center
USDA-AARC Center
12 & C ST. S.W.
Washington, DC 20250
202-401-4860



In the Walnut Creek watershed in central Iowa, technician Sharon Hanson samples water to measure pesticide and nitrate levels.

Trash to Treasure

Try your hand at an environmentally friendly agriscience project

Composting is a new trend in environmentally friendly fertilizer. All it takes is a pile of biodegradable waste such as yard, food and animal waste and a couple of months of patience. With the right combination of materials, air and moisture, microorganisms break down the materials to a usable, cheap source of fertilizer.

Of course, the nutrient content of the compost depends on the waste materials you use. That's where several types of agriscience experiments might be possible.

First, you could test the nutrient content of several types of compost to determine their suitability for plant fertilizers. One combination could be different types of food waste, another could be strictly plant material, while another could combine food, plant and animal waste.

Another project could study the best combination of materials for the actual process of composting. Some waste products break down faster than others. You could also experiment with several types of composting environments; from an outdoor compost pile, to using various containers, to an indoor, totally controlled atmosphere.

A project which compared plant growth using compost fertilizer and various commercial fertilizers would also be an interesting experiment. Calculating the cost of using various fertilizers compared to compost would add the important dimension of economics to your research project.

Composting might be an important waste management tool and an abundant source of low-cost fertilizer in the future, according to experts. There's no shortage of material; more than 37 percent of landfill material is compostable, according to the most recent EPA figures.

If you'd like to do an agriscience project like the ones described above, contact these resources for information.

Dr. Lester R. Kuhlman
Resource Recovery Systems, Inc.
511 Pawnee Dr., Rt. 4
Sterling, CO 80751
303-522-0663

The Composting Council
114 South Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-739-2407

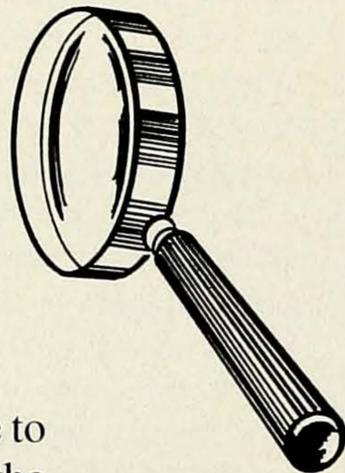
B.J. Jones
Compost Connections, Inc.
Webb Family Farms, Inc.
Pittston, ME
207-582-5595

To see how you can win awards and money with your project, ask your advisor about the Agriscience Student Recognition Program sponsored by The Agricultural Group of Monsanto Company.

Win A Free T-shirt!

Just for finding the answers to the questions below you could get a free T-Shirt.

FFA Scavenger Hunt



Winning is easy.

Read the articles in this issue to find the answers. Then, fill in the blanks on this page, tear the page out and mail to:

FFA New Horizons Scavenger Hunt
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

Be sure to include your name, FFA chapter, return address, home and school phone number.

All entries postmarked by June 10, 1994 are eligible for the free T-shirt drawing. Six T-shirts will be awarded.

1.Q: How much money does the average teenager spend in a year? (page 5)

A: _____

2.Q: Which country music star visited an Oklahoma FFA chapter that was helping children and having fun? (page 30)

A: _____

3.Q: Pigs can produce high levels of human hemoglobin that comes with no risk of what? (page 18)

A: _____

4.Q: Elk can provide what two sources of income? (page 8)

A: _____

5.Q: What FFA program will be a contest at the national FFA convention for the first time this year? (page 12)

A: _____

6.Q: What phone number can you call to get help for a friend who has a drug or alcohol problem? (page 17)

A: _____

7.Q: What percent of America's high school students are *addicted* to alcohol or other drugs? (page 16)

A: _____

8.Q: Birds go to a feeder in greater numbers and more often than usual before a what? (page 10)

A: _____

9.Q: What chemical or acid did cotton farmers use for years as a desiccant before it was banned? (page 24)

A: _____

10.Q: What is the title of the new *FFA New Horizon's* advice column? (page 11)

A: _____

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

FFA Chapter: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Not only can you win this T-shirt by sending in this "Scavenger Hunt," you can also order it from FFA Ventures Marketing Group by phoning 703-780-5600.



15 Tips For Public Speakers

Talk only on a topic you have a passion for. If the words aren't in your heart, keep them off your lips. Your passion will show in living color. A lack of it is cause to stay seated.

Organize material chronologically, by category and by contrast. Gather two or more points that play off each other.

Prepare, prepare more, then prepare some more. Use a video camera or mirror. Rehearse repeatedly.

Work extra hard the first five minutes of your talk. Know what you want to say, including something humorous. It doesn't have to be a knee slapper.

Change the pace every 10 minutes or so. Lighten up the message, tell about a real-life experience or back off the heavy stuff at least briefly.

Rehearse your message so you don't need a script. Use notes with key topical and transitional words instead.

Write your own introduction. Too many introducers either get carried away or hardly say anything. Note: The best speakers with the strongest credentials often have the shortest introductions. Don't get carried away with your own importance.

Do not try to psych the audience. This is a technique of motivational speakers. Audiences are moving away from motivation and toward harder-edged content.

Be yourself. Don't try to con the audience. Be comfortable with yourself. Find a way to get the audience to participate. You may want them to vote on something by raising their hand, standing up to stretch, etc. Create physical participation.

Move your body. Don't hide behind the podium. You may not be comfortable at first without a podium, but at least step away from it briefly every few minutes. Gesture occasionally.

Alter your voice. Change pitch and pace frequently. Combine this with body movement.

Be sensitive to eye contact. Look at specific people on all sides and at all distances. Focus on one person for at least three seconds, then move on.

Assume a wide stance. A wide stance transmits authority.

As provocative questions. Cause the audience to think. You may ask rhetori-

cally, or you may want to use questions as a way to get the audience physically involved.

End with emphasis. Opportunities include going back over key points in summary form, asking the audience to take action, or ending with an anecdote,

quotation, or humor. Conclude with something that really charges you up and excites you. It will do the same for the audience. ...

Note: Excerpt from the book *Habits of Wealth* by Bill Byrne.

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Your career really starts the

first day of class or when you pay your FFA dues. Below are tips from Jon and his fellow FFA members to make your FFA and agricultural education experience work for you to obtain your goals:

- **Describe your dream job or career.** What do you really want to do with your life?

- **Find out more about the jobs that interest you.** Your school or community library has reference books that will give you an idea of the salary, duties and education needed for each job. "You get a real-world experience by going on informational interviews," says Jason. "You walk away with a new perspective of what the job is all about, the skills needed to be successful and how you can sell yourself to fill that employer's needs."

- **Try different FFA activities to give you a well-rounded experience.** Ask your agriculture teacher what you can do to develop the skills needed to meet your career goals. Maybe you know everything about plants, but your speaking skills are not as polished and your goal is to work in greenhouse sales where customer service is important. Participating in the extemporaneous speaking contest can hone your ability to think on your feet, a valuable trait when working with customers. Some of the key questions to ask: What are some of my strengths? What areas do I need to improve?

By Gary Staszak

Turn your FFA experience into a high-paying, exciting job

Before he even set foot in the interviewer's office, Jon Lucas was ready to beat the odds and land his first job. The Frederick County, Maryland, senior had the trump cards in his hands—FFA experience and confidence.

Get Real

"FFA is a tremendous avenue to bridge the gap from school to work," says Carroll Shry, Jon's agriculture teacher. "It reinforces what we're presently doing in the classroom—it's a practical experience that builds salable skills in today's job market."

Take Jon for example. He listed skills picked up in his nursery course on his resume and snagged a part-time job at a nursery and garden center. "Mr. Shry helped me see the connection between FFA, my nursery course and what I wanted to do after I graduate," says the 18-year-old.

"I knew instantly he had the skills we needed," says Jon's boss, Donna Saville. Because Jon was chapter FFA president, Saville says she knew he would be a good peer leader, "someone who could supervise others his same age."

Recruiters usually pick the person with the most work experience that is directly related to the job. Whether it's a summer job or your first full-time position, make sure your interviewer knows about your FFA-gained skills.

Photos by Lawinna McGary

You're Playing With A Full Deck

"I now see how important it is to prepare for the future," says Jason Eppley, a junior at Frederick. "Mr. Shry helped me see how the FFA can help me in accomplishing my goals."

• **Develop a notebook on all the activities, achievements and jobs, paid and unpaid, you have ever participated in, won or held.** Write down what you learned from each activity and the skills you used rather than merely your duties. This will help you to be able to develop a resume that displays your strong points and accomplishments.

"Before I thought no one was going to hire me," says Frederick chapter treasurer Jen Black. "I realize now there are a lot of valid skills you can list on a resume to support your work experience."

• **Keep important test papers, project designs, a list of courses taken and other material for your portfolio.**

You can show the most impressive of these records to a potential employer. It's solid proof that you have the skills listed on your resume.

"Words on a resume don't mean anything unless you can do what you say," Jen explains. "Ask yourself, how does my FFA experience fit this job?"

...

Resources

If you want to know more, check out these sources:

- *Build Your Career* by Susan Colantuono
- *Wishcraft: How to Get What You Really Want* by Barbara Sher
- *What Color Is Your Parachute?* by Richard Nelson Bolles

Making FFA Connections

Every FFA activity or contest and award you participate in offers some skill for a future job, says Sue Shultz, owner of a farm financial management company in Wisconsin. "FFA's judging and speaking contests are great vehicles for developing your motivation and confidence," she adds. "Sometimes you win, sometimes you don't. Being able to handle rejection is important in doing sales over the phone or telemarketing."

Jen Black says being in FFA contests taught her "how to work together as a team and that there is more than one point of view, so everyone needs to learn how to compromise."

Retail sales experience is valuable because it shows you've developed sales and customer service skills. "Every job involves sales," says Jason Eppley. By selling poinsettias, "I learned how to be flexible and deal with everyday problems that come up as a salesperson."

"Agriculture teachers strive to make their students successful employees or entrepreneurs," says Carroll Shry. "By implementing a problem-solving approach to learning, you learn how to write good business letters, deal with customers and answer the phone. These are all essential skills needed on any job today."



The Citrus Solution

Texas FFA member finds alternative to banned cotton chemical



Photo by Lawina McGary

Carrie Carmen tested commercial herbicides, fertilizers and lemon concentrate and salt in her quest for an environmentally sound way to de-leaf cotton plants.

By Bob Bruce

The most amazing thing about Carrie Carmen, say her friends, is not that she discovered a new, low-cost, environmentally-safe alternative to a chemical used in cotton production, but that she had the time to do any agriscience project at all.

You want busy? We're talking a schedule that was already jam-packed with basketball practice, track practice, stock show competitions, chapter meetings, school functions, homework... "I always have like twenty

thousand million things going on at once," says Carrie.

So how did a girl from Prosper, Texas (senior class size, 27) manage to put together an agriscience project that everyone from the local cotton farmers to the scientists at Texas A&M noticed? Simple. "I'm interested in discovering new things," she says. "Plus, I saw the opportunity for scholarships and recognition so I just went ahead and did it."

A little background. For many years farmers have used chemicals called

desiccants to make the cotton plants drop all their leaves before the cotton bolls are mechanically harvested. Leafless plants are easier to harvest. The crop comes out cleaner and is easier to process.

For most of these years, the chemical of choice has been arsenic acid. It's cheap and it works like a champ—spray it on the plants and within days the leaves fall off.

Unfortunately, according to recent findings, arsenic acid is a very nasty

brew. It collects in the soil and remains there for a long time, creating a serious environmental hazard.

As a result, the government recently banned arsenic acid as a cotton plant desiccant. This change was tough on cotton farmers. "They didn't know what to do," says Carrie. "They knew the arsenic had gotten into the ground water and they were concerned about the environment, but they also wanted a cheap way to take the cotton leaves off."

Reasoning that there just had to be a better way—that is, a less toxic and maybe even less expensive way—to get leaves off cotton plants, Carrie set up her project. "I decided to test a range of compounds," she says, "including commercial herbicides (arsenic acid,

Roundup, and Cyclone—a brand of Paraquat), high-acid fertilizers (humic acid, phosphate, and ammonia), and a combination of regular household lemon concentrate and salt."

She relied on her agricultural teacher and a government group called ATTRA, Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas, at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to help her get started. "I wrote to ATTRA early on," she explains, "and they put me in touch with three scientists they said might be able to help me. I wrote to all three. One, a man in Maine, wrote back and sent me loads of information

that he had compiled over the years. He wrote me a letter too, saying 'I'm so glad you're interested in this. I've been working on this for years.' All through the project he sent me articles about certain aspects of desiccation. He was a real help."

that all that ton of effort you put into it looks good to other people and shows them you're willing to take the time to do it right."

As part of her research Carmen made use of the facilities at Texas A&M, the same university she hopes to attend

when she graduates high school. In fact, she says, "I have my application in already. The dean at the School of Animal Science looked at my paper when I was working on it and he said it was real impressive." That's not a guarantee of admission, but even she admits it's a good start.

Results Are In

And her findings? Believe it or not the best, least expensive, and all-around champion cotton leaf desiccant she tested was household lemon concen-

trate and salt. It was almost 10 percent more effective than arsenic acid at one-third the cost. "There is one drawback," she says. "Because the lemon concentrate is so corrosive the spraying equipment would have to be modified."

Carrie is unsure what the future might hold concerning her discovery. "A lot of people have read my project," she says. "I think it may spur on some other scientist to look more closely at lemon and salt." ●●●

The Agriscience Student Recognition Program is sponsored by The Agricultural Group of Monsanto Company as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

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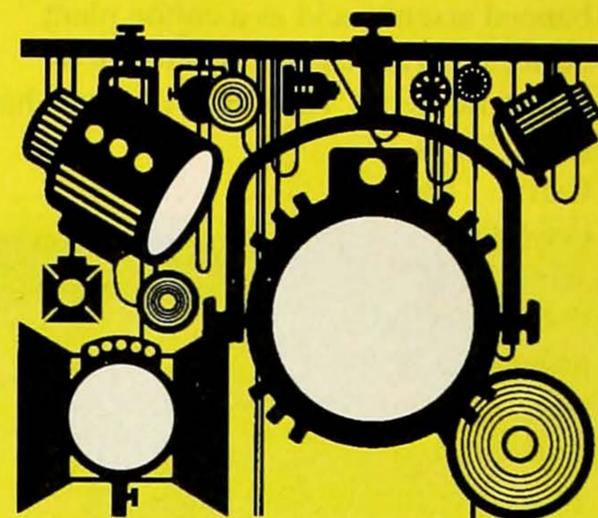
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With the assistance of a cooperative local cotton farmer, Carrie was in business. She marked off her test plots, applied the various chemicals, and observed. "The experiment itself took ten days," she says, "first spraying the plants and then collecting, counting, and weighing the fallen leaves for nine days afterward."

Carmen estimates she spent about five to 10 hours a week for nearly a year doing background research, data analysis, and performing various chemical tests. "It was worth it though," she says. "You learn how long it takes to do good research. You also find out

Your Chance to Stand in the Spotlight

How to Run A Workshop



By Lawinna McGary

OK, so leading an FFA workshop may not win you a spot on the “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous”

television show or land your name on David Letterman’s list of “Top Ten Popular People,” but it can help you do well in other presentations, in high school, college and in your jobs.

Giving workshops means you will be in the spotlight. Teachers and classmates will know who you are, says Kim Anderson, Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) counselor in 1993 and director this year. By learning how to present workshops well, you’ll look *good* when everybody’s looking.

This speaking success means you’ll feel better about yourself. “I feel more confident that people are going to like me,” says Anderson.

And, “It builds great contacts,” says WLC counselor Jennifer Thomas. You never know who will walk into your workshop. Students and teachers may have leads for summer or school-year jobs, or they may just be fun people you will want to get to know better.

Thomas is helping pay for her college education by giving career workshops to high school students.

Most FFA members have given some kind of speech. But don’t be deceived. A workshop is a whole new world.

“The very word—workshop—suggests interaction, doing something with your hands or writing something down. That’s why workshops tend to be better learning experiences than speeches,” says former national officer Shane Black.

Which would you rather do: sit through a lecture about teamwork—BORING!—or play a fun game where you must use teamwork to succeed?

Just about everybody prefers the

hands-on action of a workshop to quietly listening to a speaker. But, who can present workshops well? Anyone willing to work at it.

Even hot comedians Will Smith from the TV show “Fresh Prince of Bel Air” and “Seinfeld’s” star Jerry Seinfeld blew a few punch lines in the beginning. No one is genetically programmed to spit out witty remarks and to guide groups of friends and complete strangers through activities.

Clone No More

One way to map your success is to find, and be comfortable with, your own style. To learn more about what works and what doesn’t, watch others.

But never give in to the temptation to steal someone else’s look, stories, jokes or style. The audience will not only see through your insincerity in seconds, you’ll be uncomfortable as you try to squeeze into that other speaker’s skin.

“There’s an awful tendency in FFA to steal material,” says Black. “As a state and national officer, at first I always told these structured canned jokes and they’d get some little ‘ha ha ha’s’ and they were OK, but the good stuff was when I told what happened to me as a kid.”

Telling stories about yourself and your friends and facilitating group activities are all part of workshops, but before you plan the fun stuff, you’ve got to decide on your goal. Ask, “Who is my audience? What points do I want

Top Ten List of Popular People

10. Whitney Houston
9. Will Smith
8. Garth Brooks
7. Oprah Winfrey
6. Mariah Carey
5. Winona Ryder
4. Christian Slater
3. Michael Jordan
2. Cindy Crawford
1. FFA MEMBER

them to know when I leave this workshop?" advises Black.

Make sure your objective is measurable. "It's really hard to measure building citizenship in a group," says Thomas. "But if your objective is, 'I want the students to write down five ways they can make a positive difference in their community,'—that's a measurable objective."

Design activities that have a purpose. "I failed with a workshop one time miserably," says Jennifer Thomas. "I gave it on how to put the basic essentials of life together. Everyone made pudding. It was a mess. You try, with 40 FFA members, to make pudding pies with no sink!" she says. "There was chocolate on me, chocolate on them... Some people didn't like to eat sweets so they could care less if we were having chocolate pudding cups. It didn't tie in well enough to the topic. You've got to find your topic first and then find your activity to tie in."

Be the Expert

Once your topic is clear and activities are planned, what next? Practice. "You should practice as much time as it takes to feel confident about it," says Black.

Become as knowledgeable about the subject you are going to present as possible. "If I'm giving a workshop on small engine repair, I'd better make sure I know all there is to know about small engines."

"Have extra material," he adds. He once shut down a workshop only to find he had 15 minutes left. "I had to come up with something at the drop of a hat," he says. "I expanded on the points more and started asking students about some of the goals they had set. I had this reservoir of eye openers and activities to use, so I just pulled one out of the bag and made it work."

Be Gentle With Yourself

Don't expect to have perfect workshops every time. "Just a couple of weeks ago," says workshop veteran Jennifer Thomas, "I went to

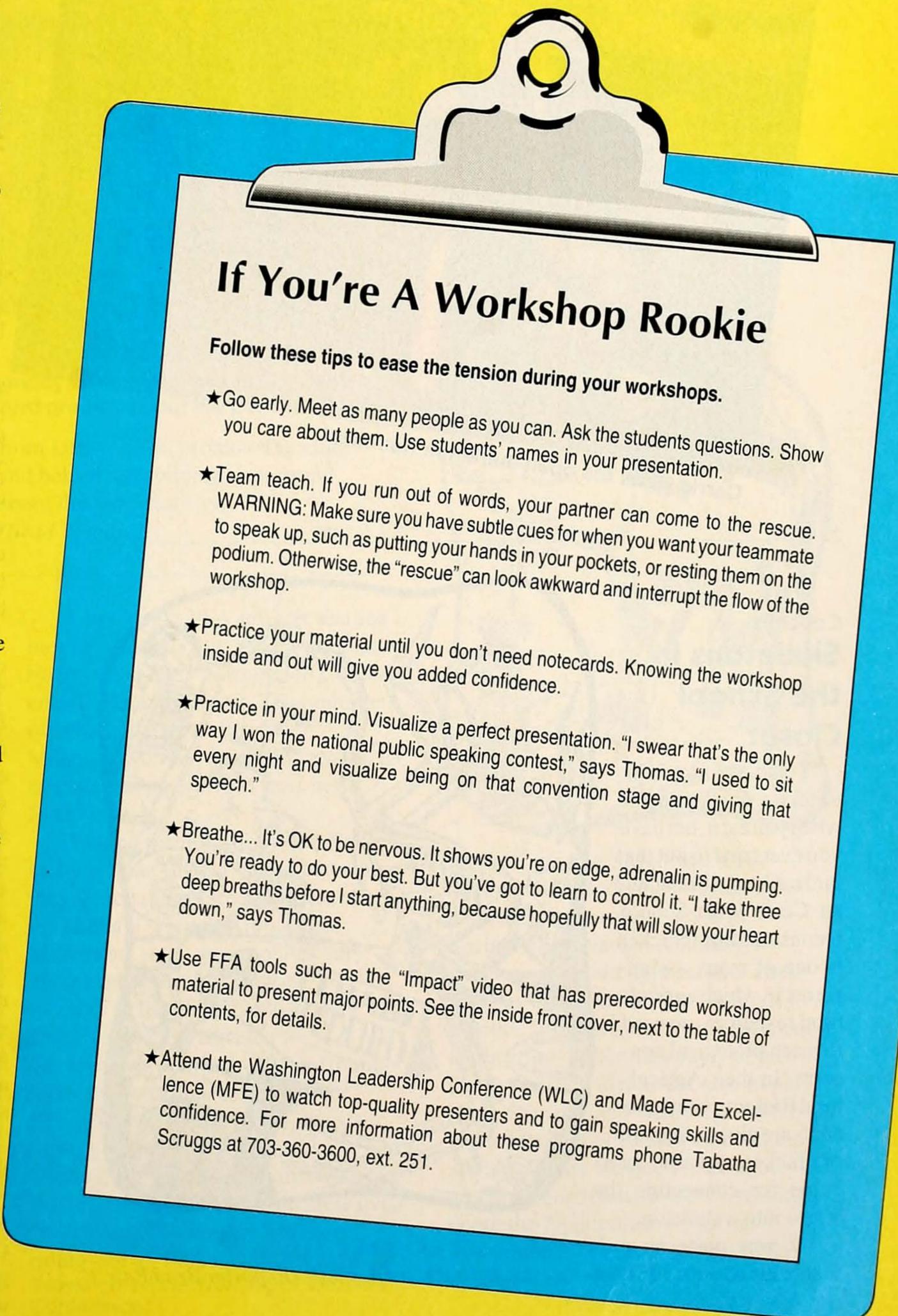
this high school and did a career workshop. They asked me what an entomologist does. I said it's a person who studies insects. They just got real excited and I couldn't understand it. Come to find out they thought I said study sex—not insects."

Misunderstandings happen. You may skip material from your outline. Just keep going. Most of the time, the audience will never notice.

"When I first gave workshops, I was

a bubbling mass of anxiety," says Black. "Even when someone would say 'Nice job Shane.' I'd want to pick it apart. I'd crucify myself."

"You're your toughest critic," says Kim Anderson. "If you said it was awful, it was probably fair." After all, just for trying you deserve to be on that "Top Ten List of Popular People." ...



If You're A Workshop Rookie

Follow these tips to ease the tension during your workshops.

- ★Go early. Meet as many people as you can. Ask the students questions. Show you care about them. Use students' names in your presentation.
- ★Team teach. If you run out of words, your partner can come to the rescue. **WARNING:** Make sure you have subtle cues for when you want your teammate to speak up, such as putting your hands in your pockets, or resting them on the podium. Otherwise, the "rescue" can look awkward and interrupt the flow of the workshop.
- ★Practice your material until you don't need notecards. Knowing the workshop inside and out will give you added confidence.
- ★Practice in your mind. Visualize a perfect presentation. "I swear that's the only way I won the national public speaking contest," says Thomas. "I used to sit every night and visualize being on that convention stage and giving that speech."
- ★Breathe... It's OK to be nervous. It shows you're on edge, adrenalin is pumping. You're ready to do your best. But you've got to learn to control it. "I take three deep breaths before I start anything, because hopefully that will slow your heart down," says Thomas.
- ★Use FFA tools such as the "Impact" video that has prerecorded workshop material to present major points. See the inside front cover, next to the table of contents, for details.
- ★Attend the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) and Made For Excellence (MFE) to watch top-quality presenters and to gain speaking skills and confidence. For more information about these programs phone Tabatha Scruggs at 703-360-3600, ext. 251.



Carrie visits the open market in Radolfzell.

Virginia

Writing Home...to Your Entire Town

Carrie VanDyke is having the time of her life in Germany as part of the Congress-Bundestag exchange program sponsored by FFA. Last year, she applied for this full-scholarship program with a dream of spending a year in Germany after graduation.

Carrie offers her unique perspective on international travel by writing for her hometown paper, the Orange Review in Orange, Virginia. This way her entire hometown can share a little bit of her German cultural experience.

"It was one of those moments I would have found hard to imagine beforehand," Carrie writes last fall in her second installment. "My friends Trish and Amy and I had just finished unloading our packs at the youth hostel we were boarding in for the night. That day we had crossed the German-Swiss border into the city of Schaffhausen and hiked to the Rhine falls...."

In a later article, Carrie relates some of the frustration of international travel: "Aaaach! There are some days (lucky for my sanity, very few) when this country drives me crazy. I was sitting on the train in the Aschaffenburg station, bound for Frankfurt, when suddenly the train lurched and started moving—15 minutes early and in the wrong direction! I was out of my seat in a flash, grabbing my packs and cussing a German blue streak (milder than American and not so satisfactory). The door to the train was still open, and I started yelling, 'Stoppe!' out of it, but to no avail...." Carrie realized eventually she was on the correct train, but she still didn't get to Frankfurt that day. "Let's just say I was having a bad week in Germany's train system."

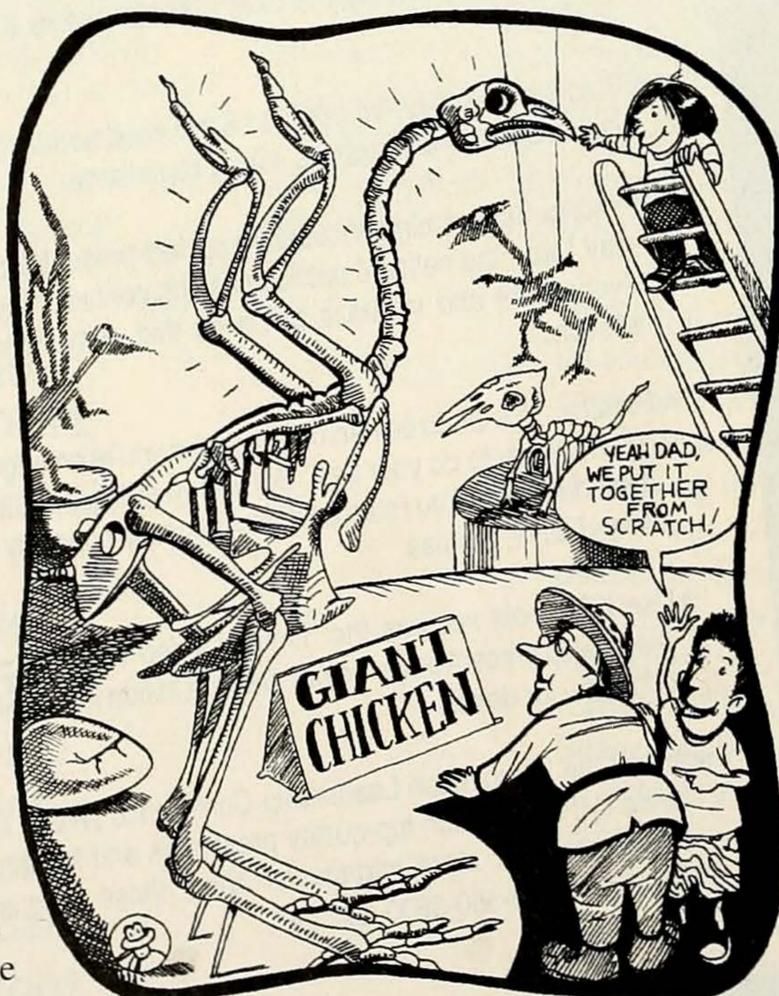
Carrie says she's had a few problems, but none to lose sleep over. Overall, she's realized the year is speeding by, and her time in Germany will be over far too quickly. ...

California

Skeletons in the School Closet

You may know how to take a chicken apart when you eat it, but have you ever tried to put that bird back together again? At Ceres High School, reconstructing a chicken is one of many assignments in which agricultural resources are used to teach biological concepts. In their Agricultural Biology course students are given a diagram of chicken anatomy as a guide for connecting the bones into a skeleton.

"It was quite an experience...and hard work," says Stephanie Morris, FFA member and a student in the class. (Reporter Brad Reisz)



FFA IN ACTION

Ohio

Pig Out on Books



East Clinton FFA members Holley Bentley, left, Brad Woodruff, center, Wilbur (pig), and Joey Johnson teach third graders about the pork industry.

In conjunction with "Right to Read" Week at Sabina Elementary School, FFA members from Lees Creek, Ohio, and "Wilbur," a pig also

from Lee's Creek, promoted reading and helped the children understand about the pork industry.

(Brad Woodruff) ...

Kentucky

Exchange Adventures



The Wisconsin members who visited Kentucky saw a little bit of history during their tour of the state capital in Frankfort.

Scott County FFA officers learned more than leadership and communication skills at the *Washington Conference Program last year. They met the officers and the advisor from Menomonie, Wisconsin, and started an exchange program with their new-found friends.

Thirteen members from the Kentucky chapter visited Wisconsin where they toured dairy farms, learned about the climate, skied at Afton Alps, Minnesota, rode snowmobiles and visited other local attractions.

Later in the year, 12 Wisconsin chapter members traveled to Georgetown, Kentucky. Scott County members took their visitors to the Kentucky State Horse Park, the state capital, and sites such as Daniel Boone's grave and the Gainsborough Horse Farm. The Wisconsin crew even "rode barrel"—simulated bronco riding—at an FFA member's farm. ...

*Now named the Washington Leadership Conference.

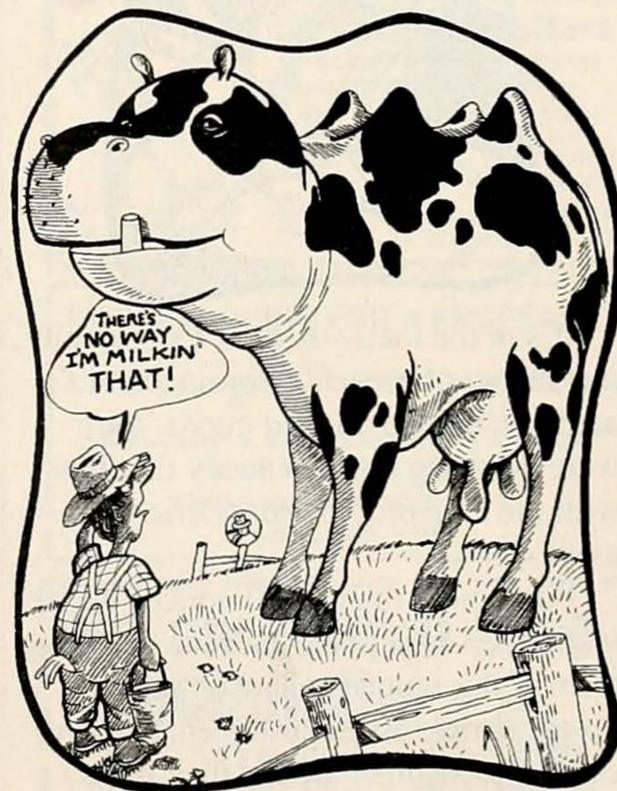
Oklahoma

250 Pounds—Now That's A Lot of Food

Twenty-five members of the Grandville FFA Chapter assisted the local police department in collecting food and toys for needy families at Christmas. The chapter collected more than 250 pounds of food and donated hams and turkeys to a local senior citizens' center and nursing home. (Reporter Jennifer Josefy) ...

Colorado

Hippopotocows?



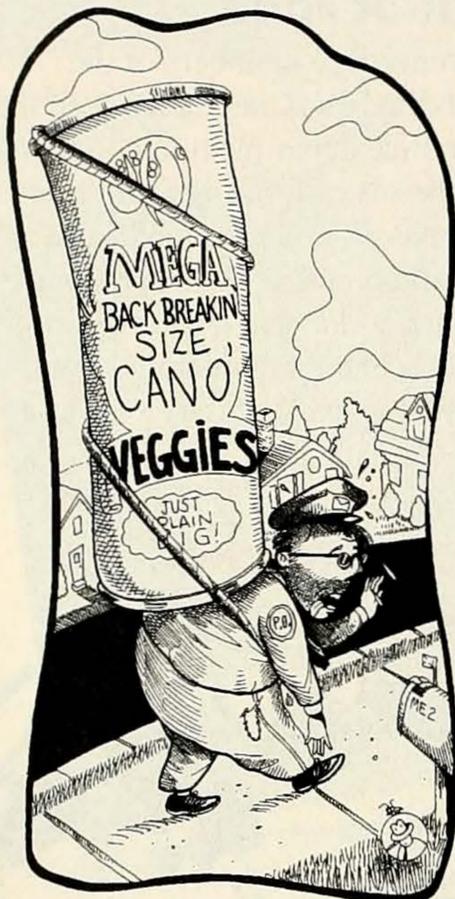
Catahuladogs? Montrose FFA advisor Dean Soderquist had quite a surprise when he received Will Spence's and Nathan Sandberg's proficiency award applications. These two guys created fictitious animals to practice filling out the local proficiency application. Soderquist enjoyed the prank so much that he decided to play one on Spence and Sandberg. Both had to read their applications aloud at the annual chapter banquet. Instead of embarrassing them, however, reading about the hippopotocow and the catahuladog was the highlight of the evening! ...

(Action Continued on Page 30)

(Continued from Page 29)

California

Canned Goods in Your Mailbox?

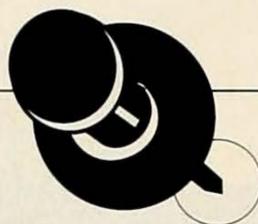


It's in the mail—sort of. Community members in Ceres, California, weren't actually mailing canned goods; they were donating them to needy families with the help of U.S. Post Office employees.

First, more than 8,000 notices were mailed to Ceres postal patrons notifying them of this unique collection system. Postal carriers asked customers to leave canned goods in or around their mailboxes during three days in December. FFA members distributed holiday baskets full of the cans to Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion members. (Reporter Brad Reisz) ...



Montana State FFA advisor Leonard Lombardi's car license plate.



What have you done for your community lately?

Oklahoma

Helping Children and Having Fun

Last fall, the Hinton FFA members sponsored a three-day festival to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Events included trail rides, civil war and gun-fight reenactments, and an outdoor concert by country music star Michael Martin Murphy. (President Lance Compton) ...

Missouri

North Carolina to the Rescue

The next best thing to being there... Although advisor Jay Terrill, Guilford High School, Greensboro, North Carolina, couldn't be in Brunswick, Missouri, in person to help FFA members clean up the mess left by the Missouri River, he did phone their advisor. Soon, members from Terrill's chapter sent supplies such as food, furniture, cleaning supplies and appliances. (David Sparks, Brunswick FFA Reporter) ...

Arizona

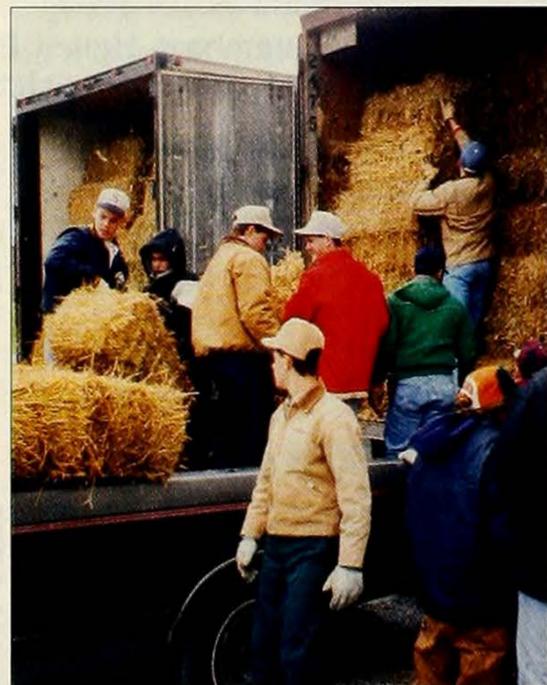
Just Say No!

Yuma FFA chapter members may say "no" to drugs, but they say "Yes!" to sponsoring benefit concerts to promote anti-drug programs. On January 21-22, they raised money for the Yuma DARE and Say No to Drugs programs by organizing two concerts by a local band, The Shoppe. Yuma collected tax-deductible contributions from local businesses to pay for the band's performances and charged for tickets to the event. (Shannon Mitchell) ...

Indiana

Community Cooperation Spells R-E-L-I-E-F

Delphi FFA paired with the Carroll County Pork Producers to deliver two truck loads of supplies to flood victims in Warsaw, Illinois,



this summer. Months later, the Delphi agricultural instructor met with Warsaw's advisor at the National FFA Convention and found that Illinois farmers needed food and bedding materials for their livestock during the winter.

This time Delphi, Rossville, and Mt. Vernon, Indiana, FFA chapters as well as Eli Lilly employees and Carroll County farmers and businesses collected and delivered 2,000 bales of straw and hay. ...



Illinois

Santa's Helpers

If you're a kid, how do you surprise your family with gifts at Christmas? Crisis Nursery and

Elmwood FFA have the answer. They provided "kid assistance" at a local department store. The children met FFA members such as Elmwood FFA president Andy Shissler who helped them select appropriate gifts within their budgets. ...

Pennsylvania

Creative Funding for Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs (SAEs)

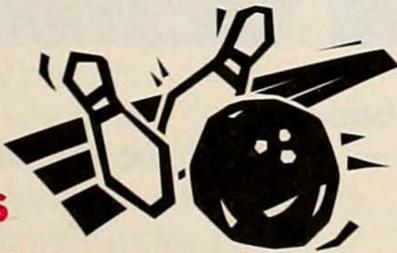
Allen Behrer of Spruce Creek, Pennsylvania, borrowed \$5,000 to purchase dairy steers for his SAE when he was just 14. Behrer compiled an impressive Farm and Home Administration (FmHA) loan application that included:

- financial data about his parents' farm, where he would raise the calves
- a five-month plan for housing, medication, feed, labor when Behrer was in school, and trucking for the sale of his steers to a feedlot in Nebraska at the end of his project
- allowances for herd deaths
- a plan for future investments
- his ultimate goal of earning money toward college

This planning impressed the bank officials, and they offered him the loan. Within five months, Behrer paid back the money and reinvested his profits in further calf-raising projects for FFA and 4-H. ...

California

Fun Attracts Members to Meetings



Each month the Fullerton FFA chapter Recreation Committee combines a fun activity with the chapter meetings. Ice Skating, a costume contest, a turkey dinner, caroling, bowling, movies and prizes encourage members to attend meetings and to be heard. ...

(Action Continued on Page 32)

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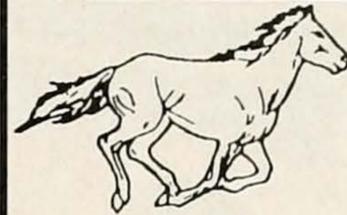
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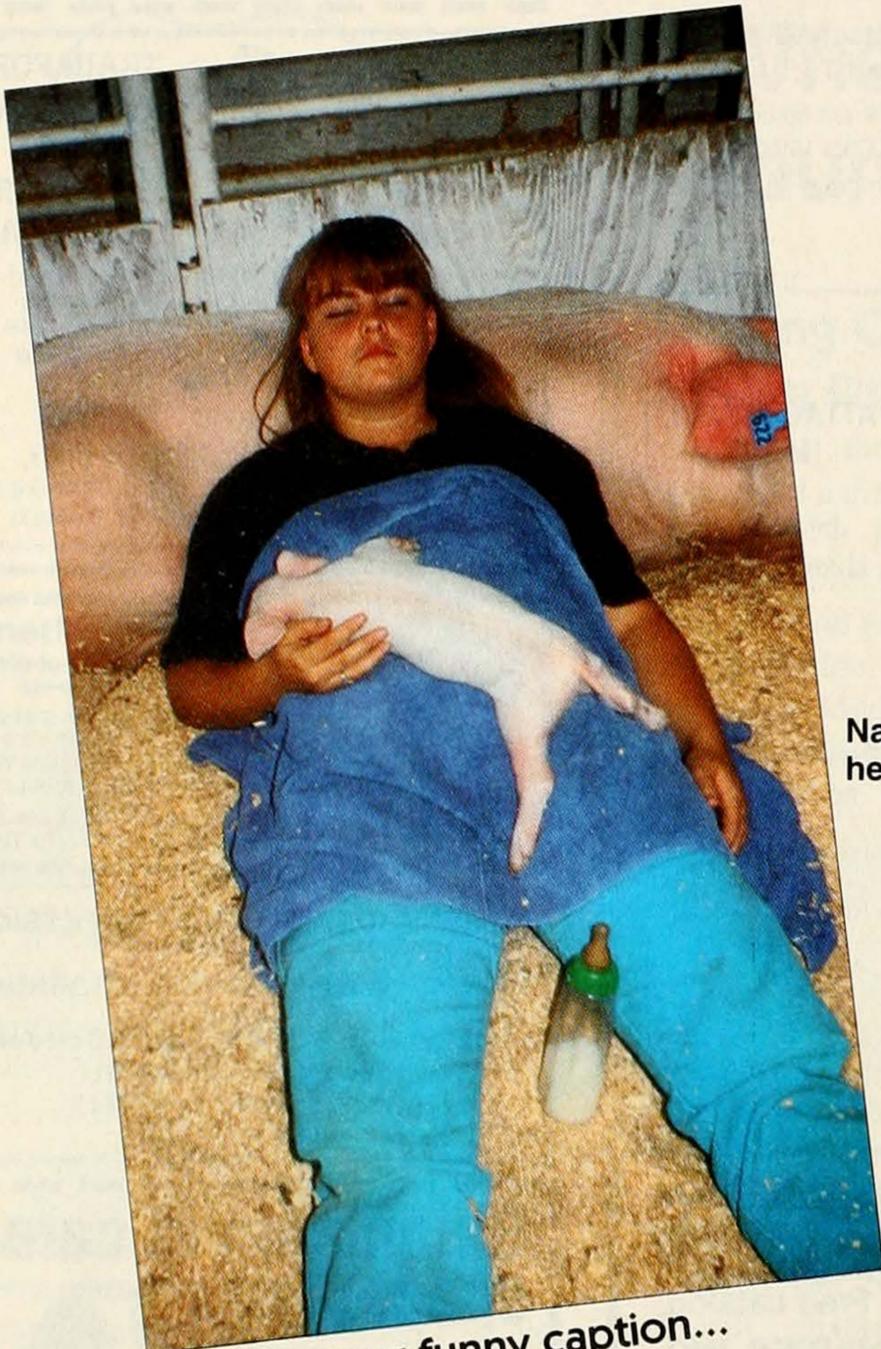
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(Continued from Page 31)

FFA Funnies!



Send us your funny caption...

How To Get Your Funnies Published

Send your captions, funny photos and entries for Most Embarrassing FFA Moments to: *FFA New Horizons*, FFA Funnies, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Please include your name, school and home phone number, school name and address. Photos will be returned only if you include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Nap time! Brandi Kempthorne, Arvin, California, and her pigs had a rough day at the Kern County Fair.

Arizona

PALS Pairing Proves Positive

Project PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support), a nationwide effort by FFA to enlist the talents of chapter members to help students in lower grades, has taken off in Coolidge, Arizona. Every Thursday, selected members of Coolidge High School visit fourth graders at Coolidge North School.

Senior FFA member Josh Henry says he really enjoys Project Pals because "the feeling I get from helping my pal with his problems gives me a sense of pride that is immeasurable." "Josh helps me with my work. He's my friend," says young Milton McKinney of Henry. "He tells me not to get in fights, to go to school, do my best and go to college. I want to help people when I grow up, just like Josh."

(Reporter Waylon Wuertz)

...

And The Winners Are...



"Take me to your leader."

Amy Stuver, Chillicothe, Missouri

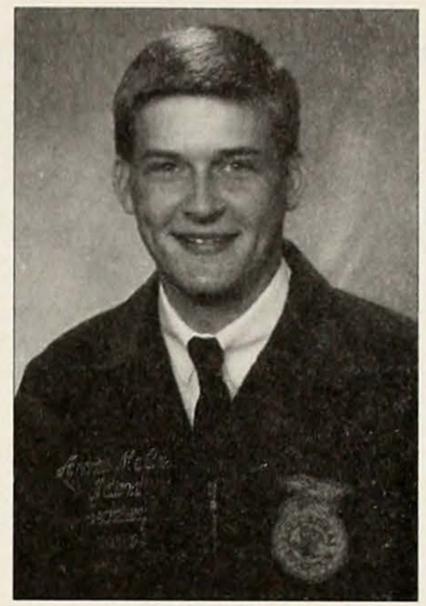
"Who needs Batman and Robin when you've got Boxerman and his trusty sidekick Undieman?"

Beth Wester, Rochester, Kentucky

"We're not just FFA members, we're also head boxers."

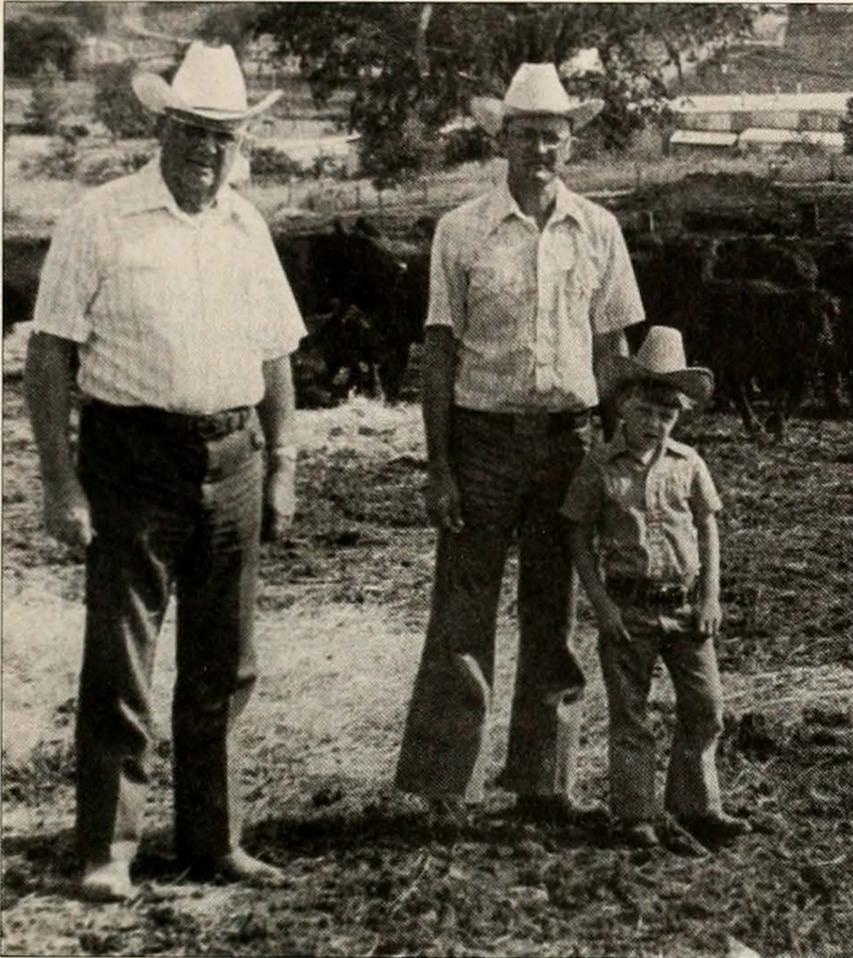
Kelly C. Junker, Medina, North Dakota

GET TO KNOW



Andrew McCrea
Secretary

Andrew McCrea



"My grandad is 90 years old," says Andrew. "He's seen a lot of changes in farming but [he] has adapted to those changes and has been able to succeed. That's a testament to hard work. It shows a lot of pride. And I think it carries over to me. If he's working, then you have to stay in there and work too." Here young Andrew visits the cattle sale barn with his grandad Maurice, far left, and father, M.L.

A few clouds of smoke and screaming sirens drew 10 to 15 cars full of Gentry and DeKalb County residents to one spot—the McCrea's wheat field. Forget the 4th of July picnics. Volunteer fire departments from Maysville and King City, Missouri, were on the scene. This was BIG.

Not your normal collection of curiosity-seekers; these friends, neighbors and even folks who didn't know the family but were concerned anyway, wanted to help, says national FFA secretary Andrew McCrea.

The well-meaning bystanders watched as a 30-year-old fire truck lumbered toward the field, found a wet

spot and got stuck in the fire's path.

They eyeballed volunteers in a 1960s Army surplus jeep rigged with fire hoses feverishly splashing water around the edges of the flames. And they witnessed, with relief, the wind whipping the fire toward the highway where there was no straw—or fire truck—to burn. Snuffed by nature. No human help needed.

Neighbors were soon back to their bar-b-ques.

Life went on in an area where, "there's always someone willing to help you," says Andrew.

It's a land of polite people. Community members often leave their keys in their cars when in town to make sure their parked vehicle doesn't inconvenience anyone. And, "Whenever I go back home," says Andrew, "I have to

get into 'wave' mode again. The people you meet know you and if you don't wave—well—you want to be waving just to be a good neighbor."

"It's nice that everyone knows each other because you always know what's going on. A lot of times you can't do anything without everybody knowing about it though."

Exposed

Quiet, safe, King City was Andrew's universe until the Washington Conference Program.

"I went between my freshman and sophomore year in high school. It was the first time I'd really been away from home and around people from a lot of

different places. I was somewhat scared and apprehensive." But since a friend from his chapter included him in group conversations and generally "looked out for me, kind of acting like a big brother," Andrew says he soon adjusted to his new surroundings. The leadership activities, touring Washington, D.C. and making new friends from all sorts of states besides Missouri, "was one of those things you look back on and realize you gained a lot but you don't know it at the time. It let me see things on a broader level than just the local level."

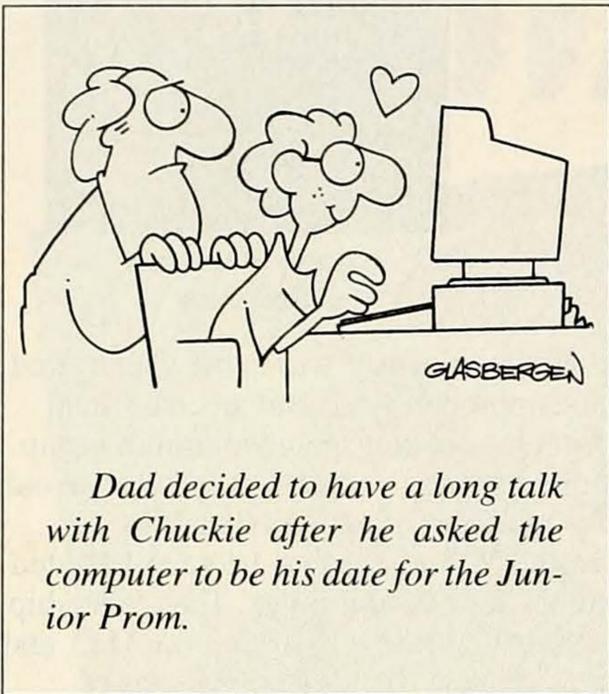
Andrew's seen much more of the world in the six years since WCP. He's met FFA members and industry leaders in fourteen states and even toured Japan. Traveling, Andrew says, has expanded his vision. "What happens to businesses in King City is not just because of what's happening within a 20 mile radius of King City."

If he decides to farm full time after college, Andrew believes he will have to understand international trade and anticipate new global markets for his family's diversified crop and livestock farm to be successful.

No matter where he travels or where his career path takes him though, Andrew is always ready to slip into 'wave' mode, ease into rural life and get back into, "the open country." Being back on the farm "is a feeling you can hardly describe. You just feel like you're able to do whatever you want."

•Ready to greet Andrew when he does make it back to the "Show Me" state are his mother Suzanne, a fourth-grade teacher, father and farmer, M.L., sister Jill, who is Area FFA president and chapter vice president, and grandparents Darlene and Gordon Saunders and Charlotte and Maurice McCrea.

JOKE PAGE



Dad decided to have a long talk with Chuckie after he asked the computer to be his date for the Junior Prom.

Johnny: "Grandpa, what's a buccaneer?"
Grandpa: "Too much to pay for an ear of corn!"

Mark Finnegan
Litchfield, Minnesota

Q: Why are you dancing on the peanut butter jar?

A: Because it says "Twist to open!"
LaShunda McGahee
Holly Grove, Arkansas

Q: What is a parrot that disappears?

A: A pollygone.
John Parker
Tuskegee, Alabama

Jim: Last night I dreamed I was a muffler. I woke up this morning exhausted!

Elizabeth Fogleman
Deland, Florida

Lorie: "Did anyone laugh at you when you fell on the ice?"

Larry: "No, but the ice made some bad cracks!"

Michael L. Wilcox
Fountaintown, Indiana

Teacher: "What should you do if your dog tries to eat your homework?"

Jerry: "Take the words right out of his mouth."

Jason Farris
Appomattox, Virginia

Polly: "I went riding today."

Molly: "Horseback?"

Polly: "Sure. It got back two hours before I did."

Tracie Henry
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Betty: "Mom and Dad just bought me a bird for a pet."

Joe: "What kind of bird?"

Betty: "A keet."

Joe: "Don't you mean a parakeet?"

Betty: "No. They just bought me one."
Erica Clemente
Lajas, Puerto Rico

Q: What did the hat say to the hat rack?

A: You stay here, I'm going to go on ahead.

Jesse Ross
Rockwell City, Iowa

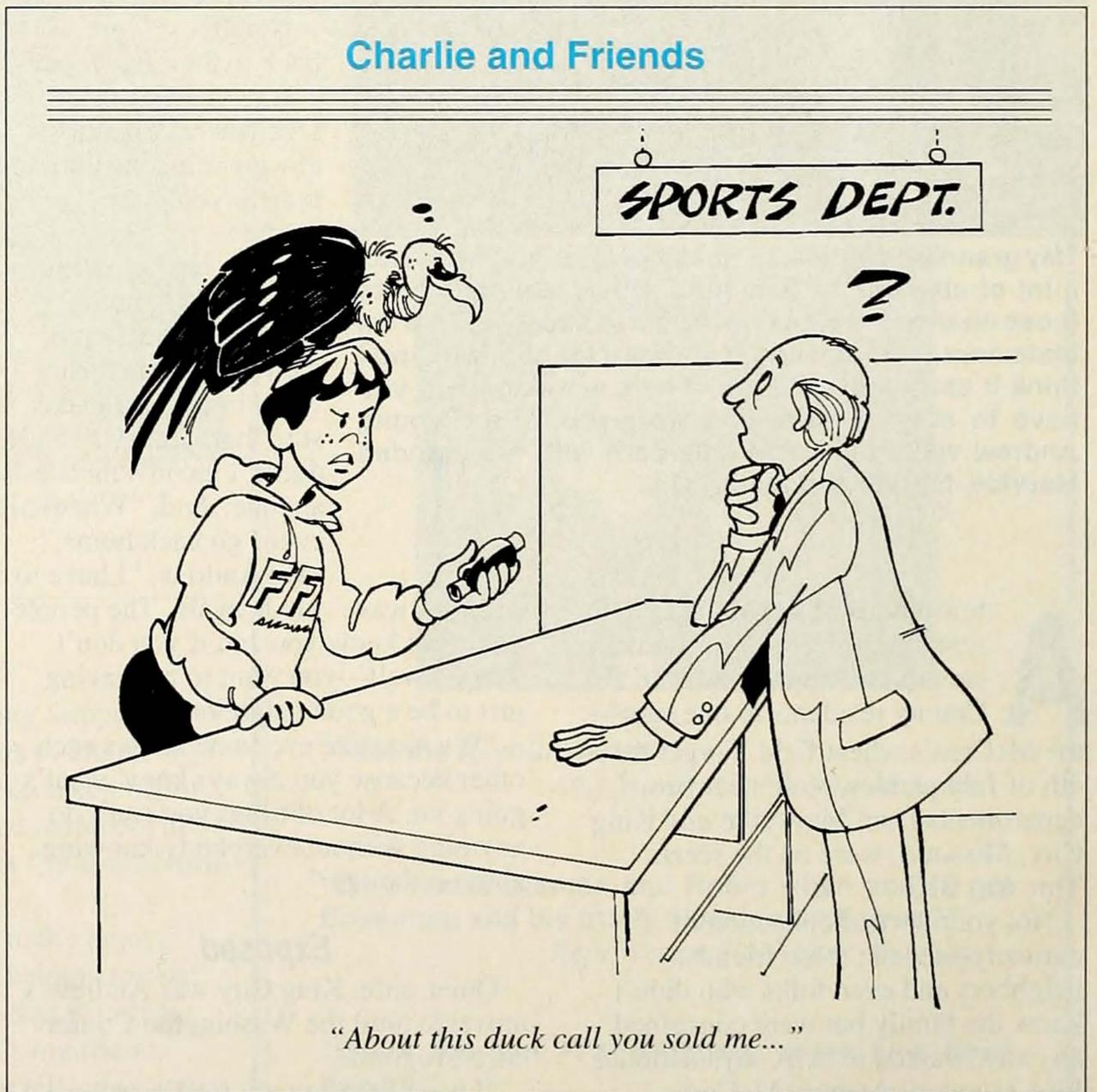
Once there were three animals—a skunk, a deer and a duck. They all went to a restaurant. When they were finished eating, it was time to pay. The skunk didn't have a cent, the deer didn't have a buck, so they put the meal on the duck's bill.

William J. Socobe, III
Galt, Iowa

Dick: "Did you know that a grasshopper can jump 50 times it's length!"

David: "No, but I've seen a wasp lift a 250-pound man off the ground!"

Naphtali Scott
Kilkenny, Minnesota



"About this duck call you sold me..."

NOTICE:

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TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

128 feet and two floors away you'll still get great sound from your stereo... without wires!

Amazing new technology gives you the power to broadcast your favorite music through walls, ceilings and floors to wireless speakers anywhere in or around your home.

by Charles Anton

Ever drag your stereo system into another room of your house just so you could listen to it? Probably not. Most people can't afford to risk ruining their equipment.

With these new wireless speakers, you won't have to. Now you can listen to music anywhere in or around your home without lugging around heavy equipment or stringing wires.

Imagine listening to your favorite CDs, records, tapes, radio station, or TV show anywhere in your home. Imagine stepping into the pool or hot tub and having a self-contained wireless speaker right there with you—no risk.

State of the art sound. These wireless speakers will work with any stereo, TV or VCR. And wait till you hear how they sound. The four-inch full range speakers deliver deep, rich bass and crystal clear highs. You'll get the perfect volume for any room because each one has its own volume control on/off switch. Plus, they have separate treble and bass controls.

Each speaker delivers a peak of seven watts per channel, for a total of fourteen watts when two speakers are used together for stereo sound. They have a built-in crystal-control frequency mechanism to lock on the signal. *These wireless speakers are also self-amplified, so they can't be blown out no matter what your stereo's wattage.*



Chase transmitter

Are wireless speakers right for you?

Are you concerned about:

- **Convenience.** You have a great stereo system in one room, but you want your music closer to you.
- **Value.** You want to get your money's worth out of your stereo equipment, tapes and CDs by listening to them more often and in more places.
- **Quality.** These wireless speakers use FM technology to transmit static-free music throughout your home.
- **Safety.** You have a pool or hot tub and you don't want dangerous speaker wires lying around.

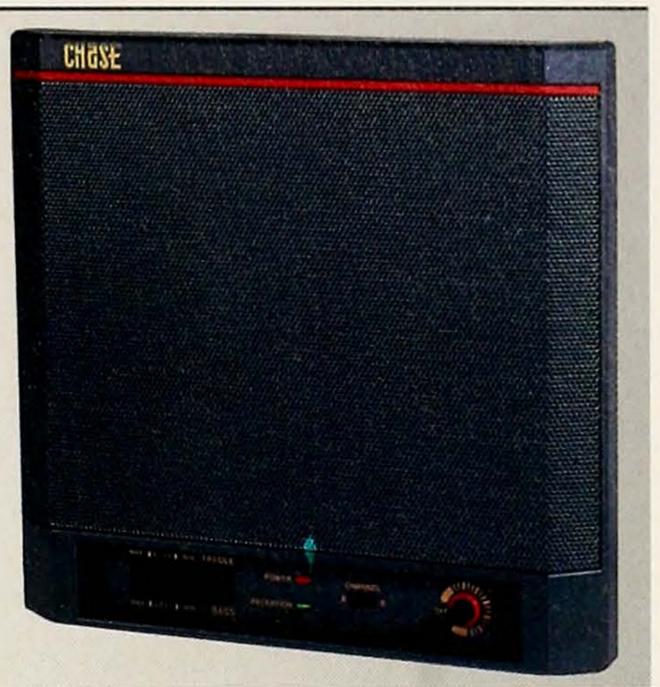
Patented technology. These incredible Chase speakers use a patented FM technology to broadcast wirelessly through your home's walls, floors and ceilings. In fact, at the Annual Consumer Electronics Show, they were dubbed "one of the most exciting new products of the '90's."

Easy installation. The powerful Chase transmitter plugs into a headphone, audio-out or tape-out jack on your stereo, CD player, VCR or TV. Use one transmitter to send both left and right channels to an unlimited number of speakers. Or use two transmitters to send the left and right channels separately to get full stereo separation on as many pairs of speakers as you want.

'No Questions Asked' guarantee. With every product from Comrad, you get a complete "No Questions Asked" 30 day money-back guarantee. Plus the wireless Chase

speakers come with a 90 day manufacturer's warranty. If you're not completely satisfied for any reason, return them for a full refund.

Factory direct offer. For a limited time, we can send these amazing wireless speakers direct-to-you far below the \$149 retail price. Now through a special promotional campaign, the Chase wireless speaker is only \$79. Order more than one, and your additional speakers are only \$69 each. The wireless transmitter is only \$29.



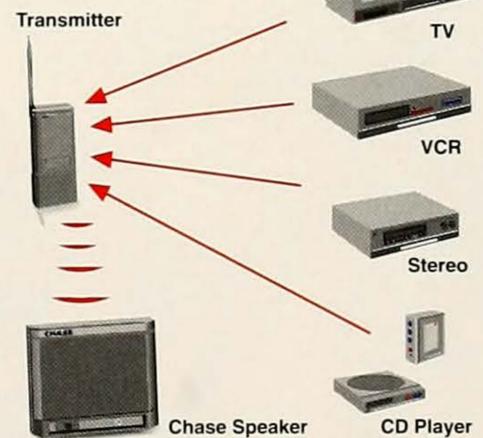
Chase's wireless speaker breakthrough.

This amazing wireless speaker has its own built in receiver and amplifier. Utilizing FM technology for a 150 foot range through walls, they can blanket even the largest home with clear, crisp music. Designed in an "acoustically balanced" bookshelf size (9H x 9.5W x 3.75D") it operates on four 'D' batteries or with an optional AC adaptor.

Broadcast wirelessly from virtually any sound source.

Broadcast to wireless speakers through walls, ceilings and floors up to 150 feet.

Easy hook-up of the transmitter to virtually any sound source with RCA plugs to your audio out/line out, tape out jacks or connection through headphone jacks. All connectors are included with the system.



So, take advantage of this direct offer and purchase your wireless transmitter and as many speakers as you need to fill your home with music.

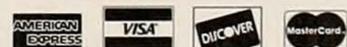
Chase Transmitter \$29 \$2 S&H
Chase Wireless Speaker* \$79 \$6 S&H

**Discount of \$10 on each additional speaker you order. You need at least one transmitter to operate speakers.*

To receive this special pricing, you must mention promotional code **071-NZ1100**. Your order will be processed and on its way to you in 72 hours.

For faster service, call toll-free 24 hours a day.

800-992-2966

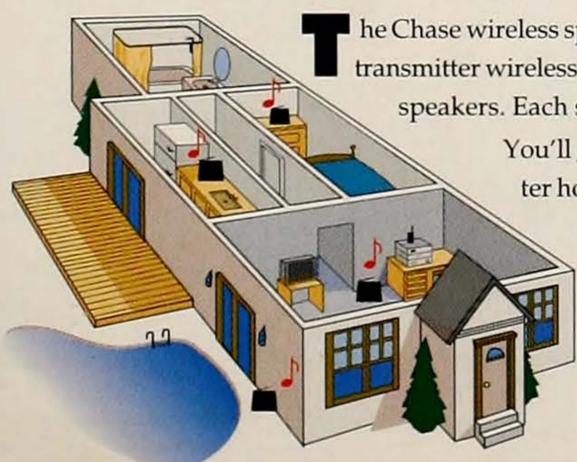


To order by mail send check or money order for the total amount including S&H. Or enclose your credit card number and exp. date (VA residents add 4.5% sales tax).

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HOW DO THEY WORK?



The Chase wireless speaker uses a breakthrough patented FM technology. A small transmitter wirelessly broadcasts music through walls, floors, and ceilings to your speakers. Each speaker has a built in receiver so no wires are needed!

You'll get a complete 150-foot range, giving you great sound no matter how large your home. And because this system uses radio signals unlike "line of sight" infrared systems, you'll get static-free transmission...even through walls!

A single transmitter can broadcast to an unlimited number of wireless speakers. The speakers with their built-in receivers and amplifiers can then provide music from your sound source anywhere around your home—even outside!



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