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DECEMBER-JANUARY, 1991-93

# New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

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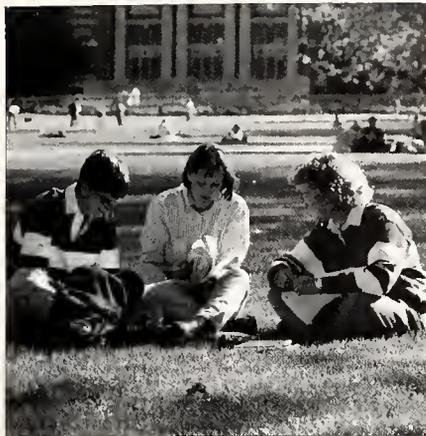
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# FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

December-January, 1991-92

Volume 40 Number 2



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# THE FRONT LINE



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**Y**ou've finally got a date with the most popular person in school. You've bragged to your friends about how wonderful it's going to be until they can't stand you anymore, but you can't help it because this person is *so special*. You feel the eyes of everyone watching and you're proud.

Then, just as you're getting ready, that special somebody calls and tells you that they "just...can't...make...it." Ouch. It doesn't matter what the reason is, all you know is that you are 1) hurt and 2) embarrassed.

As you might have noticed in our last issue, FFA had a date with Arnold Schwarzenegger at the National FFA Convention. He was going to talk about the importance of staying healthy through exercise. He is the chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.



A week after we went to press with the October-November issue (the one with the *really big* picture of Arnold on page 36), his office called and said that he just...couldn't...make...it. He had signed a contract with HBO to direct a movie and was cancelling all prior engagements including our convention.

I guess you can't blame Arnold. Movies are his business and he couldn't pass up the deal. But he will never know how many people were looking forward to his appearance at the convention and then were disappointed when they found out they had been stood up.

This kind of thing happens when you make a date with the most popular person around.

### What Do You Think?

One of the things FFA teaches is that it's okay to take chances. When you stand in front of the room to give your first speech, you take the chance that people will laugh, or worse, ignore you. You get knots in your stomach just thinking about it.

But doesn't it seem that the most rewarding times come after taking a real whopper of a chance? Big payoffs usually start with big risks.

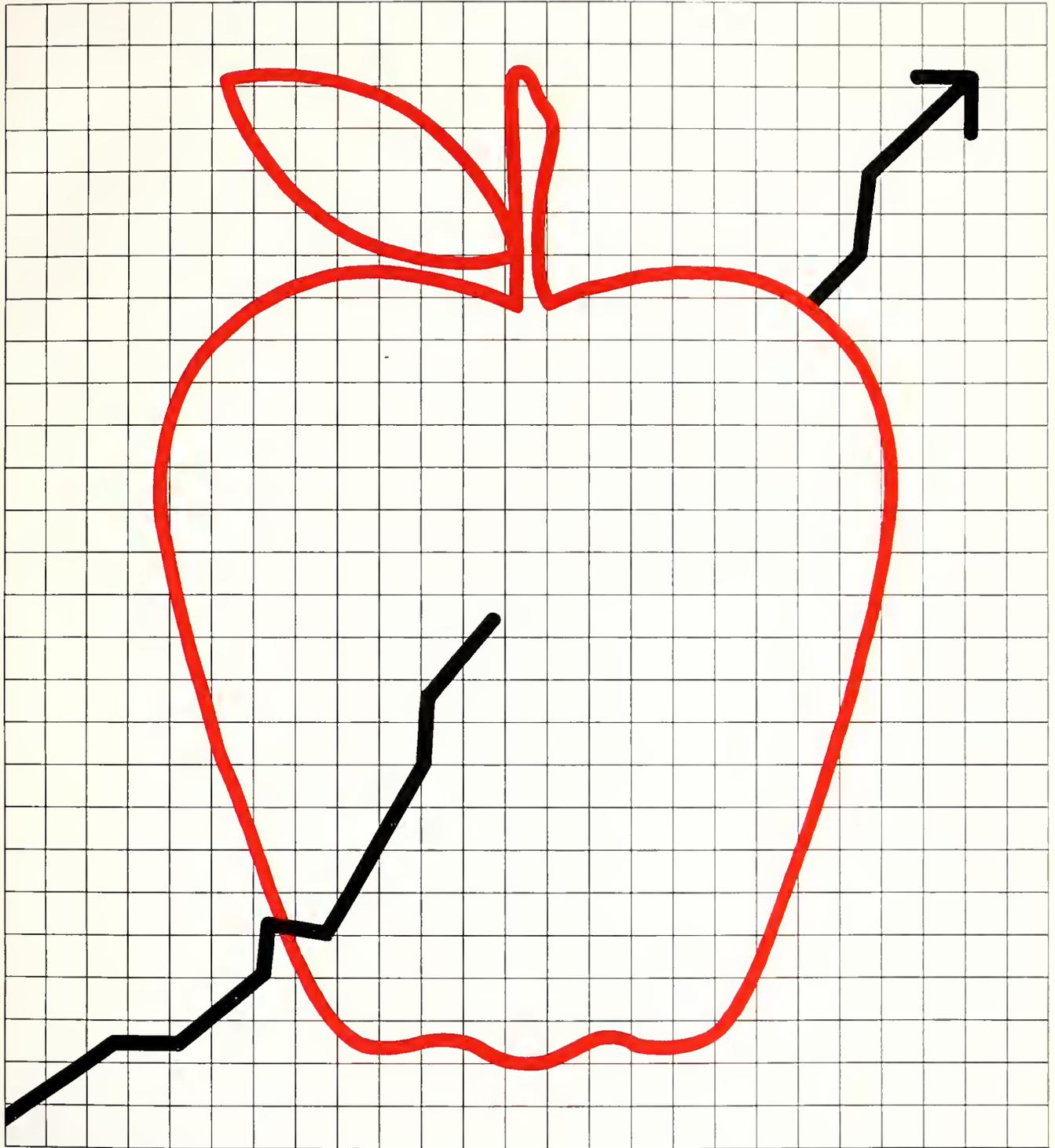
In this issue, we have taken a few chances with you and our other readers. On page 14, you will find the story, "The Lessons of Losing." There is a lot of emphasis put on winning in the FFA, but we rarely talk about losing, the downside of competition. We thought it was time we did.

On page 28, you will find "To Drink or Not to Drink." The article talks about making a decision on a topic that everyone faces, especially teens.

We haven't talked about losing in this magazine for a long time and we've *never* talked about drinking. Because of FFA's wholesome, gung-ho image, some people probably won't like these kinds of articles in *FFA New Horizons*. As an organization, we are proud of that wholesome, enthusiastic image, but these are two topics that you and your friends have already dealt with or will have to deal with sometime soon. That's a good enough reason for us to take a chance. Please let us know if you found them valuable. You see, there's this knot in my stomach...

*Andy Markwart*

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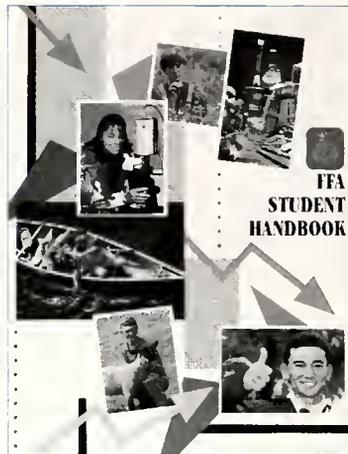
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### Student Handbooks Arrive

The new FFA Student Handbook is now available. Completely rewritten and designed, the handbook combines detailed information on FFA degrees, contests, awards, leadership opportunities, basic parliamentary procedure, careers in agriculture and more. The colorful handbook includes 138 photos and is available from the National FFA Supply Service for \$3.75 each.

A sister publication, the Advisors Guide to Student Handbook, is also available from the Supply Service for \$9.95. The guide is designed to assist FFA advisors in helping their students get the most out of the Student Handbook.

### Leadership for the Ears

A free issue of the first FFA audio magazine "The Leadership Edge" was mailed to chapters in late October. The issue covers leadership topics and features speeches and comments from national officers, business leaders and chapter members.

Chapters can subscribe to future issues of "The Leadership Edge" by calling 1-800-582-LEAD. The one-year subscription of \$29.95 purchases six issues of the audio magazine.

### WCP Directors Named

Sarah Braasch and Michael Bennett have been named directors of the 1992 Washington Conference program (WCP). The conferences, held each summer in Washington, D.C., are designed to enhance the leadership qualities of chapter officers. Braasch is a former state officer from Idaho. Bennett is a former state officer from New Mexico. Both served as WCP counselors in 1991.

### Planning for FFA Week

FFA Week Idea Booklets will arrive at FFA chapters by mid-December. The booklets walk chapter members through planning their activities for FFA Week, February 15-22. The booklets cover everything from creatively brainstorming chapter activities to the specifics of working with the local press in getting the activities covered.

The theme for FFA Week 1992 is "Leadership for a Growing Planet," the same as it was in 1991. The theme was "recycled" for another year because of its positive environmental message.

### Members Share Community Development Ideas

FFA members from 49 states participated in community development workshops, leadership training and tours of Washington, D.C., during the 9th National FFA Conference on Community Development, held September 28-October 1.

The conference was also the site of national recognition for the most outstanding chapters in the Building Our American Communities (BOAC) award program. Chapter awards are presented at the local, state and national levels. Individuals are honored through the Achievement in Volunteerism program.

National officers Mark Timm and Danny Grellner served as moderators for the conference that was sponsored by RJR Nabisco Foundation, Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. While in Washington, the members visited the congressmen representing their home district to talk about the community-based project their chapter had organized.



FFA members attending the conference met with their congressmen. April Haleamau, far right, visited with Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink, center, and was accompanied by her advisor, Maverick Kawamoto.

**M A I L B A G**

**Video a Hit!**

On behalf of the Adair-Casey FFA, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for printing the article, "Livestock Judging Video A Hit" (October-November, 1991, page 11).

The article has really given our members a sense of pride and one of accomplishment. We will add that the complete process of developing an idea into reality has been as rewarding as it has been challenging, but isn't that what FFA is all about—challenges and rewards!

*Jeff Hartsook  
Clint Douglas  
Adair, Iowa*

**Safety First**

Thank you for presenting the article about Mrs. Bush backing farm safety (August-September, 1991, page 13). Safety is one of the most important issues in farming.

Please think before you do something. I lost a friend through a needless accident. He wasn't thinking when he was cleaning his gun.

People aren't fully aware of how dangerous things can be. They think they know exactly what they are doing.

Safety is the most important thing.

*Aimee Cruise  
Bogata, Texas*

**WCP a Good Deal**

I attended the Washington Conference Program in Washington, D.C. this summer and was a bit skeptical about going. But as it turned out it was the best \$395 dollars I ever spent in my life.

I really enjoyed the sights and activities but more than that I learned a lot about myself. In six short days I made friendships that will last forever.

I want to thank the counselors for being such an inspiration and strongly recommend WCP to any FFA member!

*Bruce Blakemore  
Walnut Grove, Missouri*

**Hats Off to Chapel Hill**

My "Hats Off" to the young men and women of the Chapel Hill, Texas FFA. What they did for the disabled children was very heart warming. (*Enjoy the Ride*—August-September, 1991, page 14.)

Horses have always done something for people of all walks of life once they've touched or rode them.

The FFA has once again proven to be an outstanding organization.

*Terry Edwards  
Springfield, Missouri*

The cover picture on the August-September, 1991 issue of *FFA New Horizons* (cover story—*Enjoy the Ride*) is many things.

It is touching, inspiring, heart-grabbing, precious, priceless, and beautiful.

The steady hand, the smiling face, the expression of intensity—I just can't say enough.

You've made my day, my week, with this picture.

*Mrs. John (Sue) Zimm  
Blair, Oklahoma*

**Lost Film Found**

I have a roll of film that has pictures of the National Convention and the rodeo. The roll was found under the seat of a rental car. The names on two of the jackets were difficult to read, but they look like Susan Ferguson and Tina Gus. If they are yours, or your chapter's please write to Mailbag, *FFA New Horizons* and they will contact me.

*Stephanie Vanderveer  
Freehold, New Jersey*

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### Food for Martian Men

When President Bush announced a goal of landing men on Mars by the year 2020, NASA called on Purdue University's School of Agriculture to help make it happen. The college is working on an ecosystem, a self-supporting, miniaturized version of the Earth's ecological system.

"It takes one year to travel to Mars; the astronauts will probably stay there a year, and then it will take one year to travel back," said Cary Mitchell, professor of horticulture and director of Purdue's NASA Specialized Center of Research and Training. "We can't build rockets big enough to carry all of the supplies, such as food, water and oxygen, that would be needed to keep the astronauts alive for that long. They must be able to sustain themselves in space."

The spin-off benefits of the research may someday help feed the hungry, reduce the amount of trash in landfills, and provide chemical-free, extra-nutritious for year-round.

The research team is studying three crops: rice, which would be the principal source of energy and protein; cowpea, a relative of black-eyed peas, which as a legume, will supply needed vegetable protein; and brassica, a dwarf form of canola, which will supply the fats for the diet.

In addition to supplying food, these plants also must be able to supply all of the oxygen, consume all of the carbon dioxide and convert as much of the waste as possible.

### Teens Volunteer Their Time

American teenagers, often criticized for lack of caring and commitment, are volunteering at the same rate as adults and are also sharing their limited financial resources to help others, according to a report by Independent Sector.

Fifty-eight percent of American teenagers volunteered in 1989, compared to 54 percent of adults. Teens averaged 3.9 hours of volunteer time each week and over one fourth of the teen volunteers gave five or more hours each week. This effort brought a total of 1.6 billion hours of volunteer time by teens in 1989.

The most frequently cited reasons teens gave for why they started volunteering were that they wanted to do something useful and that they thought they would enjoy the work.



Wildlife researcher Lynn Rogers studies black bear up-close.

### Observing Black Bears

In the movie, "Gorillas in the Mist," Diane Fossey quietly observed the African gorillas by following closely behind them. Wildlife research biologist Lynn Rogers is using that same technique in Minnesota's Superior National Forest to learn more about the black bear.

Working for the USDA Forest Service, Rogers has been studying black bears for more than 24 years. He used to sedate the bears with tranquilizer guns, attach collar with a radio transmitter and track them with an airplane, but Rogers said, "I felt we needed more detailed information on how bears survive in their surroundings and what their habitats are."

By following behind the bears by five to 10 feet for a day or two at a time, Rogers

and his team of researchers have learned some interesting facts during their first five years of research.

"Nearly all black bear lunges—in which a bear sharply exhales and then makes a short lunge toward the creature it want to intimidate—are merely bluffs. In fact, if the creature shows any aggression, the bear will almost always run in the opposite direction," he said.

"We've watched how the bears turn to different parts of the forest, to provide such items as aquatic vegetation, in years when frost or drought reduce their usual sources of food, like berries and insects."

The bears don't accept the researchers right away. "It takes about 100 hours of quiet, unobtrusive following on our part before that happens," says Rogers.

### Apple Growers Fight Back

A group of 11 Washington apple growers are suing CBS, the Natural Resources Defense Council and others involved in the information released in the "60 Minutes" broadcast in February 1989 that claimed Alar posed an immediate health risk to consumers. The Alar scare devastated the apple industry and has forced many farmers to give up their orchards.

Bob Brody, one of the 11 growers filing the suit, said that if the case is won, it would hold the press accountable for the information reported in reference to products. "As a result, the press would be

required to present more balanced reports when making charges based on questionable data. It could effectively end the reporting of junk science."

Brody said winning the Alar Class Action Lawsuit would be a victory for all farmers because it would reduce the threat of having the public unfairly and unreasonably frightened away from farm products. "As things stand right now, what happened to apple growers over Alar would happen to virtually any farmer of any crop at any time," Brody said. "This case could essentially remove that threat."

# John Deere and the FFA



Since the 1920s, John Deere and the FFA have been working together to help young people like you develop careers in agriculture.

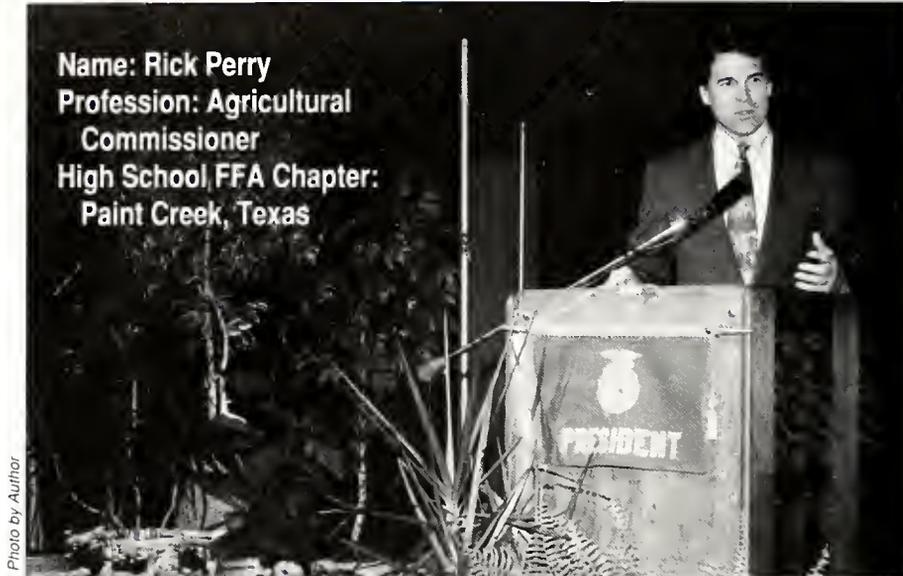
Today, John Deere is proud to be a five-star sponsor of FFA programs like the Farm Business Management Contest, the NPASO Ag Equipment Awards, the National Vocational Agriculture Outstanding Young Teacher Award, the NPASO College Bowl, and many more. And we're also proud that Neil Christenson, Vice President, Farm Equipment, United States and Canada, is this year's Chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors Board.

*Thank you, FFA, for letting John Deere be a part of your team.*

**John Deere... A Way of Life**

# Public Service

By Brian Vanicek



Commissioner Rick Perry speaks at the Texas FFA Convention.

Last November, Rick Perry, a conservative Democrat turned Republican, orchestrated one of the major political upsets in recent Texas history by ousting Jim Hightower, a folksy incumbent, to become the state's new agricultural commissioner. Today, at 40, Commissioner Perry is emerging as a dynamic leader within the Texas Department of Agriculture and as an enthusiastic supporter of the FFA.

The commissioner was in El Paso, Texas this spring to welcome more than 5,000 FFA members to the Texas FFA Convention. Afterwards, in a press conference, Perry acknowledged the FFA as "the youth group that had more to do with promoting Texas agriculture than any other organization in the state."

"One of the reasons we came up from Austin to address this group was to let the FFA members know that there was at least one credible elected official who truly believes in their cause and what they're doing," said Perry, a former state representative. "You look back on the history of that organization and you see some of Texas' finest leadership has come up through their ranks. They are the future of this state and they hold agriculture in their hands."

Born and raised on a 320-acre farm near Haskell, Texas, Perry talked about the conditions that shaped his values. He remembered his own father getting up at five o'clock every morning to begin his day's labor. "And my mother," he re-

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*I believe that it is during  
junior high and high school  
that we start making that  
character that will carry us  
the rest of the way  
through life.*

---

called, emphatically, "thought every noon time meal was supposed to be served off the tailgate of a pickup truck." A four-year member of the Paint Creek FFA chapter, Perry speaks candidly about how the principles of leadership and values he learned as a Greenhand and chapter farmer went on to shape his career.

"Now I'm not a psychologist," Perry said, pausing, "but I believe that it is during junior high and high school that we start molding that character that will carry us the rest of the way through life.

"Some of the projects, course work and training that you acquire as an FFA member may seem utterly useless at the time. But, then as you mature, you may find yourself saying, as I did, 'Gee, it is kind of handy to know Robert's Rules of Order,' or, 'It's kind of handy to be able to stand up in front of a group of people and sway them to my opinion because of a public speaking technique that I learned twenty years ago in FFA,'" he said, smiling.

Perry praised the FFA for teaching and promoting traditional values to its members. "There's nothing wrong with being old-fashioned," Perry said, "Hard work, love of God, love of your country—those are all principles and values that you see FFA members embody. Those are the type of people I want around me."

Living proof is found in Mark Ellison and Coby Shorter—two members of what has been referred to as "Perry's Posse," former state FFA officers who now hold executive positions within the Texas Department of Agriculture. Ellison, who served as Texas state FFA president in 1975-76, is Perry's Assistant Commissioner for Marketing and Agribusiness Development and Shorter, who served as Texas state FFA president in 1984-85, is director of Agricultural Development.

According to Ellison, all FFA members, through their various chapter activities and vocational course work have something in common—even if they have never met one another. "Because of our FFA backgrounds, all of us share common reference points," he explained.

These reference points, like the FFA, give Perry and his posse, which he says is destined to grow, a sense of confidence and direction about the future of agriculture in the state. "The FFA, in my opinion, is one of the finest organizations in this county for teaching good, sound values to young people," Perry says. "Whether you are involved in public service or private business, the same principles of leadership and old-fashioned values that are taught in FFA apply." ●●

# My role in preserving the environment is...

possibly worth \$500.

That's right. First prize in the *FFA New Horizons* "Up With Agriculture" Writing Contest is \$500 and any FFA member can enter.

We know FFA members are concerned about the environment and you have some ideas about what can be done. That's why we've decided to reward FFA's best thinkers with cash prizes and a chance to be published in this magazine.

**The national winner gets \$500 in cash.** Second, third and fourth places get \$250 cash. State winners will be chosen from entries submitted — \$100 for state winners from the 10 states with the most entries; \$50 for those in the other states.

Here's how to enter: In 100 words or less, finish the statement:  
**My role in preserving the environment is...**

Read the fine print below. Hurry and send your answer to us.

All FFA members may enter. Entries must be typed on plain white paper and include entrant's name, age, home address and telephone number, FFA chapter and FFA advisor's name. Winners will be selected on the basis of originality, creativity, grammar, spelling and how well the entry addresses the topic.

Entries will become the property of *FFA New Horizons*. A list of the winners will appear in the magazine along with the winning entry.

Send entries to: *FFA New Horizons*, Up With Agriculture Writing Contest, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

The contest is a special project of the FFA Foundation sponsored by ICI Seeds.

Entries must be  
postmarked by January, 15, 1992.



# G.E.N.E.S.I.S. - A Community's New Beginning

Washington chapter's BOAC project brings new hope to their town's economy



Cathlamet students install a drum screen that will clear debris from the pond.

By Lynn Hamilton

**T**he Cathlamet, Washington, FFA Chapter set out to build a salmon rearing pond and dam for its 1991 Building Our American Communities project. But instead of swimming upstream with all the tedious details of permits, grants, supplies and labor, they reached out to the community and found an unlimited supply of resources and support.

The project is named G.E.N.E.S.I.S., for Generating Environment Necessary to Ensure Salmon in Streams. It's a new beginning not only for the town's economy, but also in sharing community resources for everyone's benefit.

G.E.N.E.S.I.S. is the FFA's way of pumping life back into the region. Advisor John Doumit says, "Washington state is growing, but the town and community is going backward. The county's popula-

tion has dropped 13.7 percent in the past ten years, and school enrollment is down from over 200 students to the current 140. The region's mainstays of farming, fishing and forestry are coming under attack by environmentalists.

"When times get tough, you rally and pull together," says Doumit. Using information from community leaders and surveys, the chapter discussed various BOAC projects. Lance Souvenir, the chapter Achievement in Volunteerism nominee, says, "We looked at the environmental, educational and economical aspects - this project incorporated all three of them."

With the decision made, the chapter BOAC committee got on the phone and called in the community. The list of contacts was long, and included Washington State Department of Fisheries, Salmon For All, the Advisory Committee, the

FFA Alumni, Wahkiakum School Board, Lower Economic Development Council, County Engineers, County Attorney, Emergency Services and Road Departments. They also got help from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, local Grange leaders, Women's Club, the fire department, Red Cross and private businesses.

"We don't set limitations on who should help us," says advisor Doumit, referring to the chapter's incredible resource network. Besides the outside assistance from the community, each of the chapter's 80 members pitched in to get the job done.

After deciding on the project in May of 1990, the chapter called in the State Department of Fisheries for advice. The students cleared out brush from the stream area so the department to get a good look at the site. The engineer sketched the design for the dam and rearing pond, and basically told the chapter, "If you provide the labor, we'll provide the money," Doumit says.

With a \$15,500 grant in hand, they went to work. The permit process took 90 days, and on September 14, 1990, the months of planning fell into place. The members cleaned up the wetland area upstream, removed a destroyed building from the tidewater downstream, and cleared out more brush and weeds. The stream was diverted with a culvert. Then, with hands-on help from community members, they started building the 35-foot dam and 190-foot rearing pond.

"When kids are involved, people bend over backward to help," Doumit says. After getting some local media coverage, members noticed that people started contacting them to help with the project. "It was a miracle to see it all come together," Doumit says. More than 3,000 volunteer hours were logged on the project.

There were challenges to the work. Since the stream was in a tidal area, most of the construction had to be done at low tide. Safety fencing had to be installed around the area, and netting hung over the pond to keep the fish from being food for area birds.

While construction was underway,

*(Continued on Page 33)*

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# The Lessons of Losing

## How to bounce back after that long ride home

By Shirley Sokolosky

**B**efore most of us even knew FFA existed, Walt Disney was teaching us about life. We were discovering that no matter how tough things got, there were always happy endings. In *101 Dalmations* Pongo and Perdy rescued their sweet spotted babies from the evil Cruella. Mrs. Jumbo was freed to watch Dumbo pursue his flying career, and Peter Pan had the children snug in their beds well before the folks made it home. Like little sponges, we were soaking up the notion that if you just keep with it, the ending credits would roll during a happy tune.

Then we grew up and those of us with ambition jumped headfirst into the competition of FFA. Competition was a good thing, we decided. So many lessons could be learned, so many benefits were to be gained as we challenged ourselves to perform under pressure. Self discipline, decision making, public speaking, increased knowledge and confidence were but a few of the results. And it was fun! Whether we were judging dairy products or auditioning for a part in the chorus or just debating with a friend on what to do Saturday night, competition was an invigorating pastime.

And then we learned to dream. We might have heard a state or national officer give a speech and we were hooked.

So, we became intent on pursuing a goal, and some were even obsessed. Whether we wanted to be chapter reporter or state judging champs or a national proficiency winner or have one of those jackets with no lettering on the back, it

really didn't matter. What mattered was the end result, being able to say, "I did it." To congratulate ourselves on the years of work and sacrifice and concentration was the moment of which we dreamed.

But because life off the screen is no fairy tale, many of us learned one of life's toughest lessons: You don't win every time. Sometimes you lose.

Linda Waybright had her heart set on being chapter president. She had been an active, involved officer as a junior and was captivated by the idea of leading her chapter. When the Ravenswood, West Virginia, nominating committee chose a slate of officers, she was nominated for president. At the election, to her surprise, she was defeated by 12 votes.

"I didn't start crying immediately," Waybright recalls. She made it through the rest of the meeting and then rushed to talk with a friend who had not even been nominated.

"We both bawled," she says, "and it took me three days to face what had happened." Waybright admits that she was angry, and although she had been elected

vice president, much of the fire had gone out of her.

"I didn't want to do anything," she says. "I felt like I had tried my best and it wasn't good enough." Coming in second had stirred up memories for Waybright, memories of a time when she wondered if she would ever succeed at anything.

Twice, she had placed second in the district public speaking contest. Piano lessons had thrown her another curve. "I always screwed up in the recital," she says. "I thought, why can't I ever play perfectly?"

The months after Waybright's disappointment were difficult. This is not your typical inspirational story. She frankly admits she found it hard to get involved in group projects. "I really didn't go out of my way to do things," she says. Waybright's salvation came when she found herself a new aspiration and threw herself into planning for FFA Week.

Waybright decided it was going to be the best FFA Week they'd ever had, and while she was at it, perhaps she'd start trying to earn her American FFA Degree. She says she knew it would be difficult but that she used her new-found goals to "get over" her disappointment. And at the



same time, her perspective on winning changed.

"When you lose, she says, you learn to appreciate the feelings of others. You sense how deeply a word or an act or a disappointment can cut another person. You're more careful about what you do or say and you take the time to build other people up." Waybright also says she is a stronger person now, a person who can take what life dishes out. She understands that there will be times that she will be disappointed, but that she hasn't stopped trying.

"You never know," she says. "You might just get first and you never know when that will be."

**J**ohn Dimick has been teaching for 21 years. At Crater High School in Central Point, Oregon, he has seen his share of winning and not winning. Over time, he says, you learn that the world isn't going to come to an end if the results are not as you'd hoped.

"I cry when my kids win; I cry when they lose," says Dimick, who feels strongly about his role as an encourager. He considers himself a builder of egos and tries to show his students that learning about losing prepares them for the "real world" after high school.

"In the real world, you don't always win," he says and believes that blaming a loss on the way a contest is run or on a judge is the worst thing a competitor can do. A person, he says, should take responsibility for how they performed and figure out how they can do better next time.

One of Dimick's students, Jessica Patterson, knows all about his support. He was there when she lost Star Greenhand to her friend Mary Jane Harding. It was a bad moment for Patterson because her brother John and her sisters Danae and Casey had all won Star Greenhand.

"When I heard her name, my stomach dropped to the floor," says Patterson. She looked at her parents and saw that they were crying, but summoned her courage and went to hug and congratulate her friend. She remembers the reassurance she was given; that there would be other times to win.

Okay, this is all well and good. But losing hurts. It's kind of embarrassing because FFA results are usually given in public. You may feel like you've let someone down. You may be mad because somebody won and you think they didn't deserve it. Perhaps you're annoyed

that someone else got the glory and you're at home cleaning your room. In some cases, you may be desperately sad, because it may have been your final FFA competition. You know that you'll never put on a jacket again. Every year at the National FFA Convention, this very thing happens to about three national officer candidates.

**C**heryl Helmeid remembers the moment as if it were yesterday. Along with the other candidates she was seated in a special section of the Municipal Auditorium awash with spotlights. The nominating committee chairman was reading the report and all six names had been called. She fell back in her chair and automatically, tears came into her eyes. Her years of preparation were over and her goal was shattered.

### *Many of us learned one of life's toughest lessons— You don't win every time. Sometimes, you lose.*

"I was crushed," Helmeid says candidly. "It hurt a lot and in a way, I felt bitter." She says that she'd made the quest for national office her only goal and didn't expect *not* to win.

For a couple of months, Helmeid was frustrated. She thought, "How could FFA do this to me? I did everything everybody told me to do." At final exam time, her anger reached a peak. "I'm not supposed to be here," she remembers thinking. She was "supposed" to be at the National FFA Center getting ready for her year.

The question for Helmeid wasn't "what next?" Rather she thought, "I'm not going to set a goal again and fail."

The Washington Conference Program beckoned and Helmeid says swallowing her reluctance and becoming a counselor was the best thing she ever did. For four summers, two as director, she worked with FFA members on their leadership skills. Today, Helmeid teaches in Waupaca, Wisconsin. She realizes the importance of preparing yourself for the possibility that you may not win.

"Anytime you're in a major competition, there are people there who have

worked as hard as you," she says. That cancels out the inspirational speech notion that a person can have anything they want if they just try hard enough.

Helmeid cautions against becoming bitter or blaming the FFA. She says it is natural to turn your angry feelings toward the thing that caused pain, but you must remember that the FFA organization wasn't to blame. It's a thing called life and as John F. Kennedy is credited with saying, "Life isn't fair."

Your emotional make-up also affects how you feel when disappointed. Carla Bellis, the counselor at Mt. Vernon, Missouri, says this is a time in your life when every event may feel like a major upheaval. "One day everything is wonderful; the next day everything can be a disaster," says Bellis.

"I tell the students that competing is worth it, even if they lose because they are a different person afterwards," says Bellis. She admits that such good advice is hard to understand when you've just lost something you've desired, but over time the message may sink home.

FFA members should realize that it's natural to feel shocked, angry and depressed. And they can take comfort in the thought that, in time, they may come to accept what happened and be able to use what they learned to their advantage. The saddest outcome of all, of course, is when people become bitter and distant towards something that once gave them such satisfaction.

**T**he best movie of all is Bambi, isn't it? Even after Bambi's mother was killed, life goes on.

Bambi grows to be an adult, and a strong, wise buck he turns out to be. He falls in love with Faline and spring comes again. You really have to wonder if it all turns out so well because of what that baby deer faced as he grew.

Cinda Waybright served as West Virginia state vice president in 1989-90. At the 64th National FFA Convention, she received the American FFA Degree.

According to Advisor John Dimick, Jessica Patterson is doing fine. "She came back. Time heals."

When Cheryl Helmeid took the teaching job at Waupaca, Wisconsin, high school, there were 68 students enrolled and the program was in danger of being shut down. Today there are 120, and Waupaca took a gold National Chapter award, a gold Chapter Safety award and a silver BOAC award home from the 64th National Convention. ●●

# Outstanding!

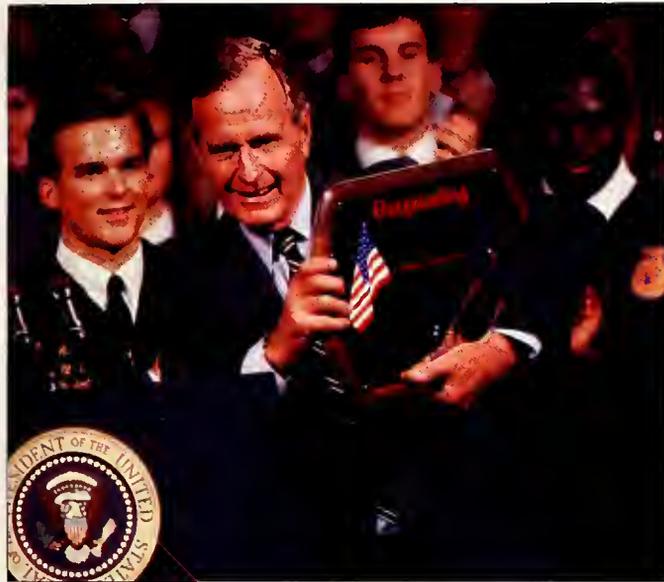
Thousands flock to Kansas City to see President Bush at the 64th National FFA Convention.

Over 15,000 people packed Municipal Auditorium to see President George Bush speak at the convention. Mark Timm, national FFA president, had the best seat in the house.



**P**eople were actually sitting on the edges of their chairs. The air in Municipal Auditorium was thick with nervous energy and excitement. Then a commanding voice came over the loudspeaker. "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States." Taking that cue, the National FFA Band burst into "Hail to the Chief." The deep blue curtains on stage parted and President George Bush emerged waving and smiling.

The Auditorium erupted in a deafening mix of applause, cheering and the band's crunching version of the president's theme song. If George Bush was looking for a pep rally, he had come to the right place. At the 64th National FFA Convention, held November 13-16 in Kansas City, Missouri, there were no



**President Bush received the Outstanding American Award from Mark Timm, left, while Edward King, North Carolina vice president, watched the excitement.**

hecklers, no shouting press, just 15,000 young people happy to see their president.

In a spirited speech that touched many points, Bush praised the FFA for "bringing so many of you together to exchange ideas and forge friendships that will brighten our country for many years to come."

He commended the FFA for its progressive look at the future of education. "I'm very pleased that the National FFA Organization's plans for its future leadership in agricultural education mesh so well with our America 2000 philosophy," said Bush. America 2000 is the president's plan to reform education in the U.S.

Bush used the convention spotlight to defend his international travel, which has brought him criticism recently. "When I fight for free and fair trade in Latin America, or East Asia or Europe, some will carp and claim I'm pursuing foreign instead of domestic policy. I'm sure you understand that what I'm working at is a real-world approach to creating more jobs and more wealth for Americans in America."

He said that every billion dollars in exports means 20,000 new jobs here in the U.S.

Bush wasn't the only national leader interested in the convention. In a letter read by Soviet agriculturalist Stepan Khrushlov, Russian President Boris Yeltsin offered his congratulations on the opening of the convention, saying, "I highly value the work being done by the organization and foundation of the Future Farmers of America." He also gave tribute to American agriculture's productivity. "The United States has accumulated tremendous experience of wise and intelligent farming. It is, above all, due to the highly efficient work of American farmers that U.S. citizens have an abundance of food."

With the world's most important politicians addressing the convention, it seemed fitting that FFA's new political structure, the "Fixed 475" delegate system, conducted business for the first time and surfaced a potentially major change for FFA. The delegates passed a realignment of the four FFA regions in order to distribute the national FFA population more evenly in the

*(Continued on Page 19)*

***I must be in the front row...*** Welcoming President Bush to the convention stage are, left to right, Betsy Brand, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Education; Larry Case, national FFA advisor; Ben Nessmith, southern region vice president; Miss America Carolyn Suzanne Sapp; Fred McClure, assistant to the President for legislative affairs and former national officer; President Bush; Mark Timm, national FFA president; Liam Brody, New York FFA president and Danny Grellner, national FFA secretary.



# National Winners



It was a dream come true when Blake Johnson heard his name called as the 1991 American Star Farmer. National officer Julie Classen whisked him to the winner's platform seconds later.

## Star American Farmer

Blake Johnson, Holdrege, Nebraska

## American Star in Agribusiness

Adam Schumacher, Heron Lake, Minnesota

## Prepared Public Speaking Contest

Michael Beckerink, Clymer, New York  
Topic: "Biotechnology: Better Days Through Better Ways."

## Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest

Beth Henderson, Harned, Kentucky  
Topic: "The Effect of Relations with Other Countries on U.S. Agriculture"

## AgriScience Student Recognition Program

Cybil Fisher, Green Bay, Wisconsin

## AgriScience Teacher of the Year

James Aschwanden, Galt, California

## Building Our American Communities

Carthage, Missouri

## Computers in Agriculture

John Demerly, Wolcott, Indiana

## Agricultural Sales Contest

Watertown, South Dakota FFA Chapter

- This is the first year the Agricultural Sales Contest was held at the national level.

## Parliamentary Procedure Contest

Mossyrock FFA Chapter, Washington

- This year's contest was a pilot test for next year's official national contest. The Carthage, Missouri FFA Chapter hosted the event.



It was a triumphant moment in Adam Schumacher's life when he was named American Star in Agribusiness. Schumacher raises trees and sells them to soil conservation districts, the Department of Natural Resources and private nurseries.



*I can't believe they just called my name...Wide-eyed Beth Henderson is stunned at hearing that she had won the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest. Runner-up Heather Stone offers congratulations.*

*Photos by Orlin Wagner, Sam Harrel, Michael Wilson, Cameron Craig, Andrew Markwart and Lawinna McGary.*

*Story by Andrew Markwart*

A complete listing of all national award winners is included in the Convention Proceedings which was mailed to each FFA chapter. Extra copies of the Proceedings, in its new magazine size format, is available for \$1.00 through the FFA Supply Service.



Miss America Carolyn Suzanne Sapp signed autographs for members at the National Agricultural Career Show. This year's Career Show set a new record with over 400 booths and exhibits.

(Continued from Page 17)

regions. The recommendation will be voted on by the National FFA Board of Directors in January.

During the delegate business sessions, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands received their state charters. A state or territory must have a minimum of four chapters and an active membership of 125 members. Five affiliate chapters from the South Pacific were also added. High schools from Kosrae, Yap, Marshall Islands, Rota and Northern Mariana will participate in

the delegate process next year, but will have to wait for their state charters to vote on the convention floor.

### Speakers, Sponsors and Supporters

A new convention attendance record was set as 27,410 flocked to Kansas City, many of whom came early to see the president speak.

President Bush's convention kick-off speech was the beginning of an impressive and diverse string of convention speakers. A call from Arnold Schwarzenegger to Mark Timm was carried over the convention sound system. Schwarzenegger clarified that it was not "those imitators, Hanz and Franz from Saturday Night Live" calling as a prank and then apologized for his absence. He spoke briefly about his role with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and the need to exercise. He said he would try to personally visit a future convention.

Other featured speakers at convention were Miss America Carolyn Suzanne Sapp; country comedian Jerry Clower; Jack Parnell, former Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; and motivational speakers Scott McKain; Captain Gerald Coffee, Viet Nam prisoner of war; and Dave Roeber, who was seriously wounded in Viet Nam.

Robert W. Reynolds, 1991 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman announced that the National FFA Foundation set a new fundraising record of more than \$4.4 million dollars. The money is donated by corporations and individuals and is used to fund FFA and agricultural education programs. Reynolds is vice president and general manager of the Crop Protection Products Division of Monsanto Agricultural Company.

The National FFA Alumni Association held their convention prior to the FFA convention. The annual Alumni Auction raised \$32,541 including a Chevy Truck that sold for \$16,300. The Alumni sponsored six leadership workshops featuring past national officers that drew thousands of FFA members. •••

The American Agricultural Network (AgNet) was launched at the convention with four days of live satellite coverage. AgNet's Mike Miller, left, and David Pierce, former national officer, explain the convention to millions of viewers.



# Leadership For A Growing Planet

The 1991-92 National FFA Officers





**T**he 1991-1992 National Officers from left to right are:  
**Secretary Mike Stevenson, Hobson, Montana.** In his home state, Stevenson served as first vice president, and earned recognition as the state and regional beef proficiency winner, as well as star state farmer. He is a member of the Hobson FFA Chapter.

His Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program includes a registered black Angus and Columbia sheep operation. As a freshman at Montana State University, Stevenson is majoring in business administration. After graduation, he plans a career as a professional speaker and farmer.

**Southern Region Vice President Shane Black, Athens, Alabama.** Shane is a member of the Clements FFA Chapter, and participated in the state public speaking, nursery landscape and quartet contests. He was state FFA vice president.

Black's SAE program consists of cotton production and work placement at *Progressive Farmer* magazine. He attends Birmingham-Southern College, where he studies political science. He plans to pursue a career in agricultural law.

**Western Region Vice President Louie Brown Jr., Hanford, California.** A member of the Hanford FFA Chapter, Louie served as California FFA vice president.

His SAE included work placement with an electronic fruit sorting company and a USDA Dairy Herd Improvement laboratory. He also operated a small flock of sheep.

Brown attends California Polytechnic State University, where he is a sophomore studying agricultural business policy. After graduation, he plans to obtain a law degree and pursue a career in agricultural lobbying.

**President Lee Thurber, Roca, Nebraska.** Thurber is a member of the Norris FFA Chapter, and served as Nebraska state FFA president last year. He was the state winner in both the extemporaneous and prepared public speaking contests, and was a national FFA scholarship recipient.

Thurber's SAE program consists of a feeder to finish swine operation, market cattle and market lambs. He attends the University of Nebraska Lincoln, where he is a sophomore majoring in agribusiness. Thurber plans to pursue a master's degree after graduation.

**Central Region Vice President Chad Luthro, Moorland, Iowa.** Luthro is a member of the Prairie Valley FFA Chapter, and served as the 1989-90 Iowa FFA Association secretary. In 1990, he was named the American Star in Agribusiness, and was winner of the national Computers in Agriculture program in 1989.

For his SAE program, Luthro founded a corporation, Agri-Tech Products Company, which provides computer and software sales and service to meet the needs of agricultural clients. He plans to obtain a degree in agricultural education from Iowa State University, and teach agriculture at the high school level.

**Eastern Region Vice President Wesley Barefoot, Dunn, North Carolina.** A member of the Midway FFA Chapter, Barefoot served as North Carolina FFA vice president, and was selected star state agribusinessman in 1990. He was also the 1988 National Fiber Crop Proficiency winner.

Barefoot's SAE program consists of cotton production, custom cotton picking and a cotton picker repair business. He attends Wayne Community College and plans to transfer to North Carolina State University to receive a degree in agricultural education.

# Campus Life Conquered



Hampton tries to limit distractions when she studies.

## Some survival tips for FFA members who hope to attend a four-year university

By Michael Wilson

It's not easy adjusting to college life, especially when lecture rooms hold more people than live in your hometown.

"There were 102 people in my high school, 23 in my graduating class," says 19-year-old Heather Hampton. The energetic college sophomore is one of many young people each year who leap from a small town—in Heather's case, a grain and livestock farm near tiny Windsor, Illinois—to a four-year university. She's now a sophomore studying agricultural communications at the University of Illinois (U. of I.).

Big lecture halls filled with 1,000 or

more college students don't intimidate Heather.

"There are a lot of people here from Chicago and the suburbs," she says from her room in Presby Hall, a private house on campus in Champaign, Illinois. "Some of them made comments like I wouldn't be able to cut it at the university, because I was from a small school, thinking our education was inferior to theirs. It sort of pushed me harder to do well."

Heather did graduate from a small, rural high school. Then she made the dean's list at the university, with a 4.4 grade point average (5.0 scale). In those big classes with 1,000 students, she helped

set the curve in some of them.

Heather's background has a lot to do with her self-confidence. "4-H and FFA public speaking gave me an edge," she notes. "In their younger years I don't think the students from Chicago were involved in many organizations that promoted leadership. But 4-H and FFA really encourage you to take the lead, get out in front of people, and express your opinion.

"If you're in a tough class that takes a lot of organizational skills, the records you keep (in supervised ag projects) really help," she adds. "They make you learn to follow through and keep trying. A lot of my friends who were also involved



## College Scholarships Just For FFA Members!

The National FFA Scholarship program gives all FFA members an opportunity to get a head start in financing college. This coming year, \$849,250 in the form of 664 separate scholarships will be available to dues-paying FFA members graduating from high school. There are some scholarships available to students already in college.

Some of the scholarships have special conditions tied to them. Heather Hampton's scholarship from American Maize-Products Company had to be used at a college in either

Illinois or Indiana. Other scholarships can only be used for a particular major, but the vast majority of the scholarships are available to any student, studying any field of agriculture or agribusiness at any school of agriculture.

The money for the scholarships comes from 125 National FFA Foundation sponsors who are major American companies that are investing in education because they know that a better educated society means a more productive workforce and in turn, a more competitive country.

FFA scholarships take a look at the complete person. Judges look at grades, FFA leadership involvement, community activi-

ties and agricultural experience projects. In some cases, family financial need is considered.

To receive your FFA scholarship application, send your request to: Scholarship Committee, National FFA Organization, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. Be sure to include your full name, address, city, state and zip code when you request the application.

All applications are due by  
March 2, 1992.

in FFA know how to use resources, how to work for something, not just mope around. A lot of my friends had livestock, so they're used to responsibility."

Heather has learned much since her freshman days, and not all the lessons came from labor or lecture. They were things like: how to study; how to manage your time, and how to live on your own without your parents.

If you think you may try your hand at a four-year university someday, here's some free advice from someone who's already there:

•**Learn to study.** "Ideally, a person should study three hours a day for classes with a lot of written homework," Heather says. "In high school it was a different story. Here, I try to be more consistent, try to review the material. You'd be surprised what a difference it makes, reviewing notes from the lecture. The biggest adjustment I made was to zone in and try not to be distracted during studying."

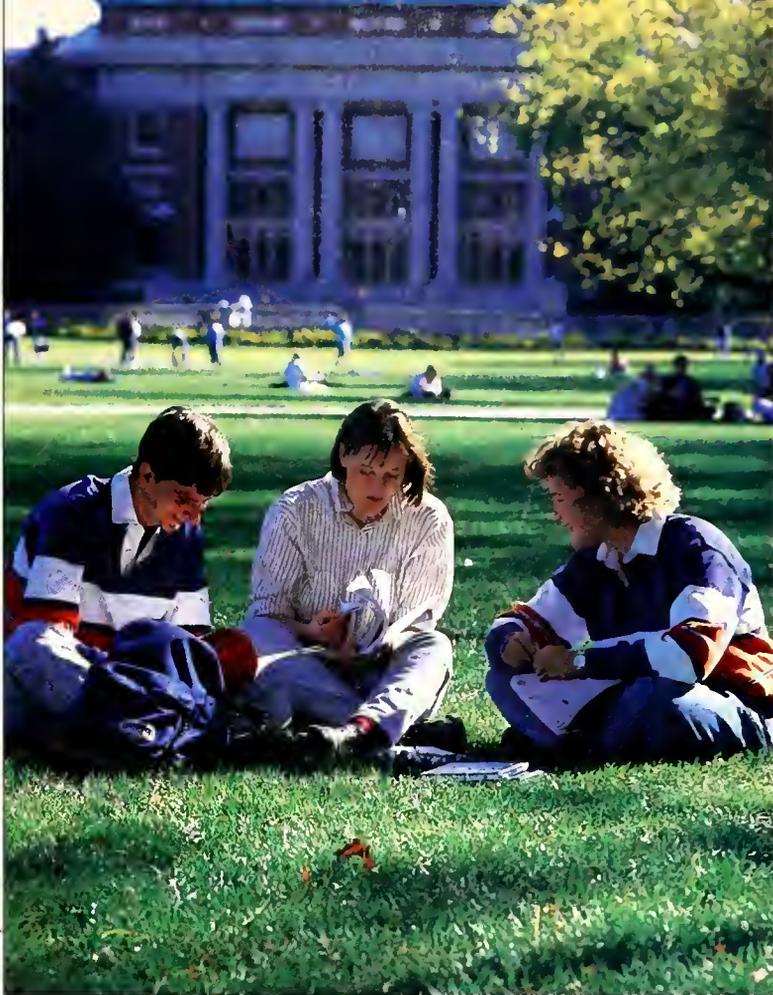
•**Manage your time wisely.** Warren Wessels, assistant dean at the U. of I. college of agriculture, says the most important thing freshmen must learn is time management. "Typically freshmen on this campus have never faced academic adversity before coming here," he notes. "Budgeting one's time is the most important thing for them to learn."

•**Set your priorities.** "Attend all the lectures, don't skip classes, and be an active listener," Heather suggests. "If you have questions, don't be afraid to ask. Remember, you're there to learn."

Some students start their freshman year with the idea that college is one big party. Those students usually become former students if they're not careful. "There are ways to balance both social and academic activities," says Heather. "If you set your mind in the first few weeks and say, 'this is most important, and this comes next, you'll be fine.'"

For freshmen, the difficult adjustment is that there are no parents prodding you to keep up with your homework at a university. In fact, it's unlikely that professors will even notice if you slip behind or begin to fail. At a big college, it's up to you to ensure academic survival.

"I caught a lot of flak from friends last semester because they didn't think I spent enough time with them," Heather says. "You have to watch out for that kind of pressure. It helps determine who your real friends are."



Photos by Author

Heather, an agricultural communications sophomore, studies with agricultural economics majors Tim Maiers and Mary Rhodes, center, on the campus of the University of Illinois.

•**Get involved.** But as Heather points out, you can still balance a social life and club activities with classwork. One great advantage of a large university are the many clubs and activities. As a freshman, she attended a meeting for new agriculture students. That gave Heather some ideas about which groups she might want to join. She is a reporter for Illinois AgriNews, the agriculture college newspaper. She is also the high school recruitment chairman for the Student Advancement Committee, legislative seminar chairperson for Ag Council, and secretary at Presby Hall.

•**Wean yourself from home.** It's important to establish some independence. "Tell yourself, 'I'm only going to call once a week,'" she suggests. "When you get here, tell yourself you'll stay at school at least two weeks without going home. This lets your parents know you're serious about what you're doing."

Going away to school means a new relationship with your family. "The distance between you makes it easier to open up and become closer. You value the time you have at home," she explains.

•**Consider what's best for you when choosing a place to live.** Some universities insist freshmen live in dormitories. Other options include fraternities for men, sororities for women, private, non-Greek houses, and apartments. "When you compare housing, you need to make sure you have a quiet place to study and to think," Heather notes.

Other factors are the activities the housing offers, and roommates with common interests. "I know many people like to have control over who they're going to be rooming with first semester," Heather says. "In dorms, there can be personality conflicts, or you can be lucky and become best friends. Any organized house, Greek or not, automatically provides friends and activities to become involved in, social functions, and people you can rely on."

•**Make the best of your class schedule.** For a freshman, that first semester can be rough. First, there's the large campus — at U. of I., it includes 700 acres and 180 major buildings, with 10 minutes to get from one class to another. Before your

(Continued on Page 24)

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## Campus Life

(Continued from Page 23)

first day of classes, buy a map of the campus and go find all the buildings. You may need a bicycle.

Heather planned her sophomore fall schedule with consecutive class periods, all in the morning. That way she could take afternoons to study. "Know yourself and when your mind is most active," Heather recommends. "Also think about the weather, because it's no fun slipping all the way to your class in the wintertime."

Remember, too, that many college courses require labs. For example, a chemistry class may require one hour of lecture Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, plus one four hour lab on Thursday. "I wouldn't like to clump labs all together because there's so much information given at once," Heather says. "You really want to concentrate and not have to think about how you're going to run to your next class after a lab."

All freshmen must take a certain number of "core" courses. Those usually have nothing to do with your major (political science, psychology) and usually include large numbers of students in one lecture hall. You'll take more classes that focus

on your declared field later in your college career.

**Seek help from your college adviser.** At most universities, students are assigned a faculty member who can help answer questions and schedule classes. "Your adviser can help if a course doesn't fit into your schedule," Heather notes. "That's what your adviser is there for, so take advantage of it."

"Ask some of the upperclassmen in the college," she adds. "They may have advice on which professors are better." Your high school guidance counselor can also offer general advice.

Above all, set your goals. When the homework seems too much and there aren't enough hours in the day, focus on the prize at the end of the race, suggests Heather.

"Never let anyone say, 'You can't,'" she urges. "I know it sounds simple, but just be yourself, and do your best. A lot of kids from rural communities are intimidated by the size and the high academic standards here, but if you're determined, you can make it anywhere." ...

## Paying for college

In-state tuitions at four-year universities averaged \$2,137 per semester this fall, according to the College Board. The average room and board charge is \$3,351 per year. Add books, transportation and other personal expenses, and you can expect to spend \$7,584 at a four-year public university. That's over \$30,000 for a college education from start to finish.

And that doesn't even include money for pizza.

So what can you do about college costs, outside of a second mortgage on the house? Start with scholarships and grants, suggests Heather Hampton. Remember that some scholarships are based on interests and activities. For example, if you plan to major in food processing, contact food processing organizations and companies. "There are a lot of scholarship programs out there if students are in the right curricula," says Warren Wessels, assistant dean at the University of Illinois College of Agriculture.

Look to community organizations, such as the local Lions Club, the Jaycees, or Daughters of American Revolution (DAR). Consider Veterans groups or government groups.

Many grants and low interest student loans are available. Write to the director of financial aid at the university or institution you plan to attend. Also, contact your high school guidance counselor, suggests Wessels. "I went to my guidance counselor and picked up one of each brochure

he had on scholarships," Heather says.

Heather earned her state FFA degree and twice placed second in the state Beef Proficiency award program. She looked at FFA and 4-H scholarship programs, contacted breed associations, commodity groups, and the local Farm Bureau.

Heather completed over 12 applications for scholarships and grants. She received six scholarships, including one from the National FFA Foundation for \$1,000, sponsored by the American Maize Company.

"Some of these scholarships have led to other opportunities," she says. "Winning my state's Angus auxiliary scholarship made me eligible for national competition, where I placed fifth. Because of the scholarship and my records, I was a candidate for Miss American Angus last fall."

Many students work their way through college. That doesn't mean just flipping burgers at McDonald's, either. Says Wessels, "There are opportunities for students to work in the departments of their field of interest. We encourage students to work in their major area of interest, so they can become familiar with their career area."

Heather adds, "If it's a job on campus, the college is usually very flexible. They'll let you work between 8 and 20 hours a week."

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There are 664 scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$10,000 through the National FFA Scholarship Program. If you are interested in continuing your education in college—why not apply for a scholarship? FFA scholarships are available for high school seniors and for FFA members currently enrolled in college.

Selection is based on your FFA leadership activities, academic record, supervised agricultural experience program and community involvement.

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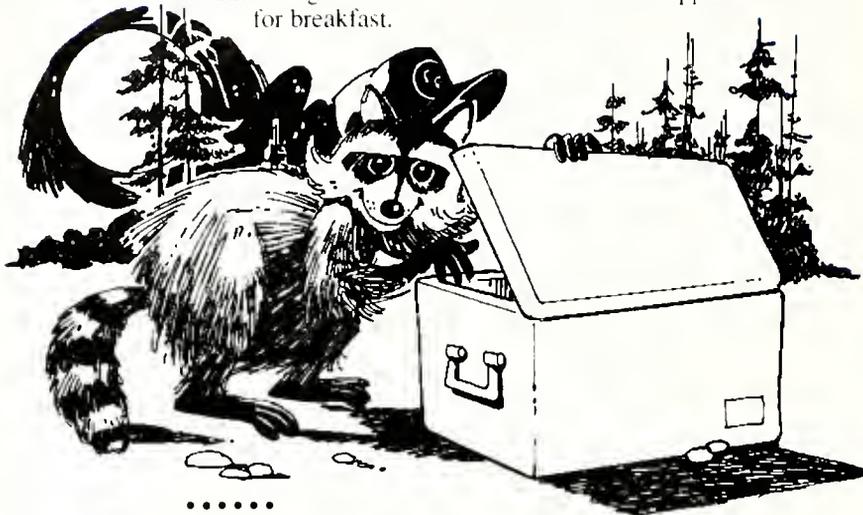
FFA scholarships are sponsored as special projects of the National FFA Foundation. Several of these companies also sponsor other FFA programs.

Applications may be duplicated

Completed applications are due on or before  
March 2, 1992.

# CHAPTER SCOOP

During the annual Ceres, **California**, chapter trip, the members welcomed a guest to their camp. "Randy" the raccoon got into the cooler and ate all the supplies for breakfast.



.....

Columbus, **Texas**. Chapter has increased membership from 77 to 130 this year. Chapter officers took an active role in recruiting members.

.....

Russellville, **Missouri**, cleaned up the county fair grounds every morning from 7 until 11 and earned the chapter \$2,000.

.....

When kids stopped at the tractors on display at the St. Johnsville, **New York**, FFA school program, the FFA members stressed that tractors are not toys, but dangerous machines.

.....

Officers from the Round Rock, **Texas**, FFA posted the colors at the governor's tourism banquet.

.....



The FFA at Livingston, **California**, hosted Japanese culture students for a week, according to Rachel Moore.

.....

Every member of the Ford Central, **Illinois**, Chapter who sells at least three cases of rodent bait gets a free trip to a University of Illinois basketball game.

.....

Officers of the Nowata, **Oklahoma**, FFA spoke at their school's second "freshman bash" which is an orientation for incoming freshmen and their parents. The chapter recruited 17 new members.

.....

Maple Valley, **Minnesota**, members toured a no-till crop demonstration at a local farm.

.....

Matt Walsh reports that the Medicine Lake, **Montana**, Chapter is building bleachers for the local softball field.

.....

The North Mahaska, **Iowa**, FFA helped work on the restoration of the local Capri Theater to convert it to a community theater.

.....

A peanut boil is the feature attraction for an opening event in the calendar of the Bradford, **Florida**, FFA. State officers are guests and meet the members and prospective members.

.....

At the county fair, the Chappell, **Nebraska**, FFA held a free watermelon feed and organized games for kids.

.....

Lexington, **Tennessee**, members give a safety presentation at every chapter meeting.

Members of the Yamhill-Carlton, **Oregon**, FFA cut, split, stack and deliver wood annually to raise money for travel to state and national conventions. The work begins in early September and lasts until mid-October. Members cut the wood on land donated by Laughlin Logging.

.....

Advisor Kaminishki of the Sealy, **Texas**, FFA had some fun trying to catch the chickens that escaped from the FFA Barnyard during the Sealybration over the July 4th holiday.

.....

The Sonoma, **California**, Chapter's petting zoo provided an opportunity for Latin speaking children to learn English words for part of animals.

.....

Mohawk, **Ohio**, FFA contributes to the Rural Christian Overseas Program and to the local children's hospital from proceeds made at their annual chicken barbecue.

.....

Title of the Odessa, **Texas**, Chapter newsletter is *The Insight*.

.....

When the Arkansas state officers visited the Calico Rock Chapter they filled in their parts to the opening ceremonies.

.....



Burlington, **Oklahoma**, had a fun evening with the state officer team. They charcoaled hamburgers, had homemade ice cream, and challenged the state officers to basketball. The local officers won.

.....

Members of the Yamhill-Carlton, **Oregon**, FFA cut, split, stack and deliver wood annually to raise money for travel to state and national conventions. The work begins in early September and lasts until mid-October. Members cut the wood on land donated by Laughlin Logging.

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# “To Drink, or Not to Drink”

## Now, that’s a question teens have to answer

By Deb Olcott Taylor and Loy McGaughey

**D**rinking is a personal decision. “As you probably know, a lot of adults would be shocked to hear that. The same people who encourage you to be open minded and nonjudgmental want you to be appalled to know your classmates drink. And they’ll tell you so with a drink in hand. Pretty confusing, huh?”

American society does a good job at confusing the drinking issue. Alcohol advertisements promise excitement and affection while TV shows portray drunks as worthless bums. One preacher sermonizes about the evils of drink while a nearby church raises money selling wine and cheese baskets. Your friends talk about the great time Friday night but complain they felt grossly sick Saturday.

So where should you stand on drinking? What does it mean if you drink? Or if you don’t? In the long run, drinking now—or in the future—is a personal decision. The resulting responsibilities are all yours (although, legally, your parents could be held financially responsible for damages you cause while a minor).

Should you let drinking “just happen,” or think it through? The following information and some comments from other FFA members may help you make up your mind.

### Why Drink Now?

*“Teens drink because they’re bored. There’s not much else to do.”*

*“We’re not supposed to drink, so we do.”*

*“Younger teens drink because they want to impress older ones who drink.”*

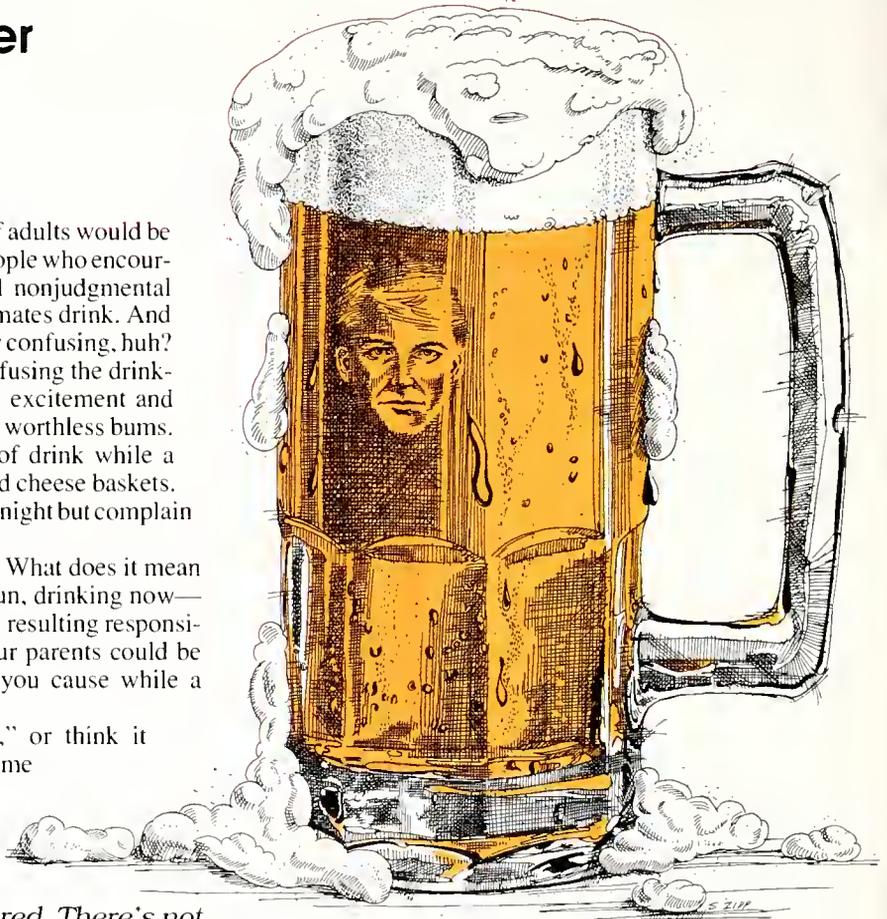
*“It’s just part of life.”*

No doubt about it, drinking can seem attractive. Drinkers may seem to have more friends, go to more parties, have more “inside jokes” to tell. Perhaps that’s why, by the time they’re seniors, 92 percent of American students have tried alcohol. Thirty-five percent of seniors have had five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks.\* That’s more than enough to get nearly anyone drunk.

### Why Not Drink Now?

*“Inside, teens do regret the stuff they do when drunk. Eventually, it falls back on you.”*

*“Drinking has a lot to do with how you feel about yourself. With the self-esteem I’ve gained*



*through FFA, I don’t feel a need to drink.”*

*“I often wonder what’s so appealing about drinking. Drinkers just act stupid and get sick.”*

You’ve sat through countless lectures about the effects of alcohol. Repetitive as it may seem, what you hear over and over is true. Alcohol is a depressant that clouds judgment by affecting control centers in your brain and central nervous system. Alcohol slows you down and decreases your ability to perform—in driving, in sports, in studies and socially.

And you know there are very real dangers. Fifty-three percent of fire deaths, 45 percent of drownings and 22 percent of home accidents are caused by drinking. Alcohol is associated with 34 percent of rapes, 41 percent of assaults and 64 percent of murders. It is estimated alcohol is involved in 50 percent of all highway accidents each year.\* And there’s no way of knowing how many cases of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases have resulted from poor decisions made under alcohol’s influence.

“It’s easier to say no to a drink if you’ve made up your mind not to drink,” comments Michelle Rouleau, member of the Hillman, Michigan, FFA chapter. “And it’s easier to make up

your mind if you feel good about yourself and get involved in other things.”

### **Influences**

*“Ninety-nine percent of teen drinking is a result of peer pressure. One person starts to drink, then persuades another. It’s like a chain.”*

*“If you walk up to people at a party with a pop instead of a beer, they’re going to ask why you’re not drinking.”*

*“The peer pressure you feel to drink depends on who you are and who your friends are.”*

Teens unanimously report person-to-person influence is the biggest reason teens start drinking. When friends talk up the glories of drinking, stop to consider:

- Are the messages I’m hearing consistent? Do they make sense?
- Are the statements true and based on facts?
- Are the attitudes in tune with my values and feelings?
- What are the motivations behind this person’s arguments for drinking?

*“You see an adult drinking and wonder, ‘Why can’t I? I’m basically an adult.’”*

*“If you know an adult drinks, you’re just not going to pay attention when that person tells you not to drink.”*

It’s easy to think adults who drink are hypocrites for telling teens not to drink. But there are good reasons drinking is illegal until you’re 21.

No, nothing magically changes the instant you turn 21. But drinking is more psychologically, emotionally and physically dangerous for younger people than for older ones. In study after study, teen alcohol use is connected with auto accidents, school failure, delinquency and early unwanted pregnancy. Early use of alcohol is also associated with greater involvement in other drug use and more frequent use of alcohol.\*

“I think it’s a matter of control” says Matt Schalk, Pendleton County, Kentucky, FFA member. “Adults generally are more mature and know how to handle alcohol and the situations it can create.”

### **When Drinking Is a Real Problem**

*“You figure, ‘Well, one won’t hurt.’”*

*“I know teens who drink too much, but I don’t really think they’re problem drinkers now. If they keep on, though, they are headed for trouble.”*

Many people believe only people who drink hard liquor every day and become clearly drunk are problem drinkers (those whose drinking causes problems for them, their families and their communities) or alcoholics (those addicted to alcohol). It’s just not true. Each year close to 5 million high school students experience negative consequences from alcohol use, like arrest, involvement in accidents, sickness or job troubles.\*

The fine line between an average drinker and an alcoholic is

a matter of control—alcoholics have lost control of their drinking. Alcoholism strikes without regard for age or social standing. And although children of alcoholics are at greater risk for developing alcoholism, others develop it as well.\*

“Problems with alcohol don’t just affect you as a teen,” says White House, Tennessee, FFA member Becky Gill. “You can carry them into the rest of your life, including your future family.”

“If you can realize you’re a special person, that you’ve got a lot going for you and your whole life ahead of you, you see drinking is not worth the risk. You cannot hold high goals for yourself and do the wrong thing.”

\* Sources: “Alcohol and Youth,” Focus on Families (Blacksburg, Va.: Virginia Cooperative Extension Service); Alcohol: Facts for Decisions (New York: New Reader Press, 1983); Healthy People 2000 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 1990); NCADD Fact Sheet: Youth and Alcohol (New York: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc., 1990).

### **Helping a Problem Drinker**

Are you concerned someone in your life drinks too much? Although there are no clear tests that apply to everyone, the following are generally agreed to be warning signs that drinking is becoming a problem.

The drinker...

- \_\_\_ loses time from school or work because of drinking
- \_\_\_ has lapses of memory while or after drinking
- \_\_\_ drinks to relieve stress, fear, insecurity, shyness
- \_\_\_ needs a drink the morning after drinking
- \_\_\_ needs a drink at a definite time each day
- \_\_\_ gulps drinks hurriedly and sneaks extras
- \_\_\_ often drinks to escape the blues
- \_\_\_ becomes moody, irritable or jealous after drinking
- \_\_\_ likes to drink alone
- \_\_\_ experiences unhappy home life because of drinking
- \_\_\_ loses ambition

Source: Drugs of Abuse Digest (Vero Beach, Fla.: Institute for Substance Abuse, 1987).

If you know someone who fits most of those descriptions, you may want to try to help him or her. It won’t be easy—most problem drinkers deny they have a problem and resent anyone telling them otherwise. The only person who can make a drinker change is him- or herself. But here are things you might do to express your concerns, help the problem drinker recognize the situation and feel good about yourself, too.

- Express your concerns, but realize you cannot make an alcoholic stop drinking.
- Offer to go with the drinker to a professional counselor.
- Be a true friend by NOT covering up the drinking and NOT taking on the alcoholic’s responsibilities.
- Learn all you can about problem drinking and teach others, too.
- Try to involve your friend in nondrinking activities that build his or her self-esteem.
- Find someone to talk with about the problems this person’s drinking causes in your life.

Source: Adapted from an Alateen brochure produced by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, New York, N.Y.

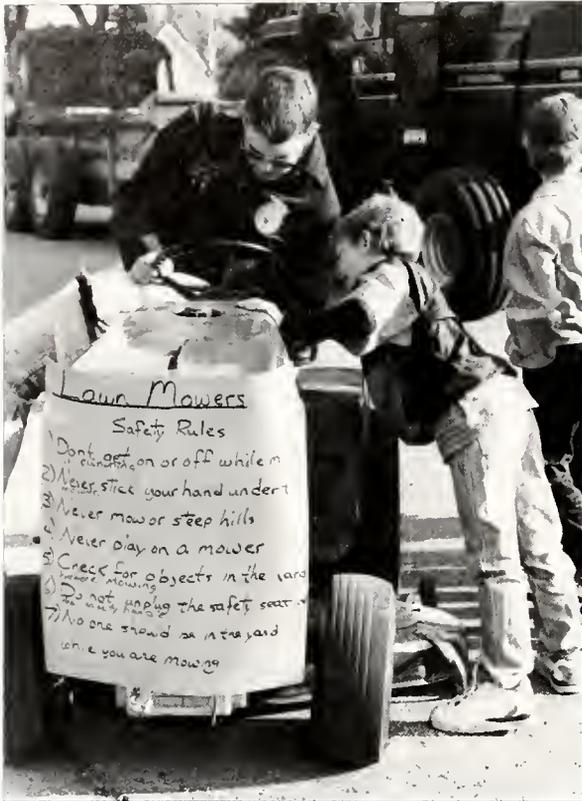


Photo by Author

Chapter president Matt Raasch shows a fourth grade student lawn mower safety tips.

# Helping Children See Danger

## This Iowa chapter's Farm Safety Day targets young students

By Rebecca Schossow

Odebolt-Arthur High School FFA students feared area children were taking farm safety for granted, so they developed a program to teach young students about dangers they face on the farm.

"Because kids take for granted going out and working on the farm, they don't realize how dangerous an innocent-looking piece of farm equipment really is," said Matt Carlson, FFA advisor.

The safety program was started by FFA members at the Odebolt-Arthur School three years ago. The program alternates between elementary students and middle school students from year to year. This allows younger students to be taught the basic lessons in safety and to reinforce what older students have learned in the past.

Matt Raasch, Odebolt-Arthur FFA president, said it is important to educate the children while they are young because often third, fourth and fifth graders have already been out helping on the farm for some time.

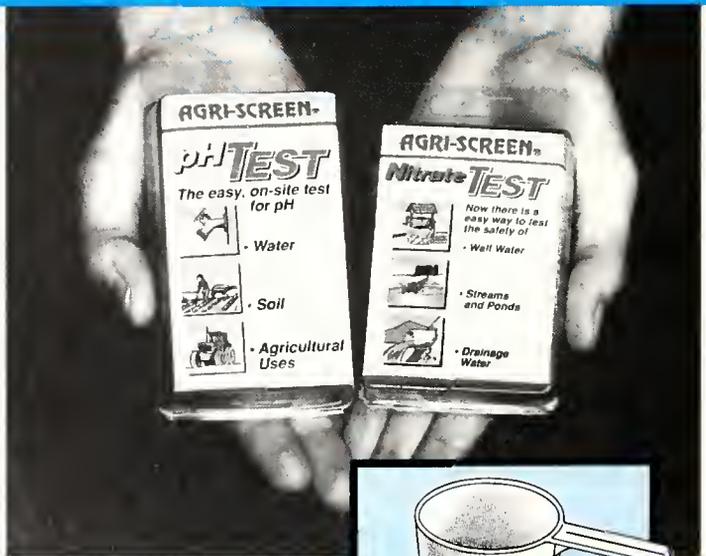
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Since its beginning, the program has seen some major changes. The first year of the program, toy farm machinery was used for the demonstrations. This worked fairly well, but FFA members still didn't feel it had enough impact.

"Before, the kids weren't getting the full effect because there weren't actually any working parts for them to see," said Raasch.

Five stations were set up on school grounds and the children were taken in small groups from station to station by FFA members. At each station, FFA members instructed the students on operation and safety procedures for each piece of equipment. With the machinery operating, and while FFA members had the younger students attention, areas of danger were pointed out and questions were answered.

"It was the best demonstration because it was outside with real machinery," said fourth grader, Steven Currie. "Now, when I'm the auger man that stands by the wagon and makes sure the auger gets enough corn or beans, I'll know what to do around that piece of machinery."

"This program is two-fold," said Carlson. "It not only educates the younger children, it also helps the high school students reinforce what they already know."

Raasch said the children were amazed when they were shown how quickly a rag doll was sucked down and through a gravity flow wagon. It made a lasting impression on them and he feels it was something they will not soon forget. "It was much more effective when the kids saw the actual size of the tractor and equipment and when they were able to see equipment operating," said Advisor Carlson.

Raasch said that in the future he would like to see the types of machinery alternated. This would allow the children to be educated on more types of equipment.

Following the demonstration, students participated in classroom discussions and projects concerning farm safety. These discussions allowed students to share what they had learned on farm safety day.

"Since the farm safety program, I have

been more aware of all the dangerous equipment on the farm," said fourth grader Angie Schroeder. "I think this program is a good idea because at one time or another you will be on a farm. A farm can be a fun place, but you need to be aware of the dangerous hazards."

"It makes us feel good to know that the kids have a better understanding of what can happen to them and hopefully they will be more careful the next time they go out and work with farm equipment," said Raasch. "All it takes is one time and that one chance they get to be careful might be the only chance they get."

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"First it's, 'Go clean your room.'  
Now I'm suppose to clean the  
whole planet."

# Wanted: Creative Minds for Marketing

## A new FFA activity is tapping into members' business sense and imagination

By Shawn Oliver

Students in a California agriculture class find their seats as the bell rings for class to begin. Fullerton High School agriculture teacher, Sheila Barrett, begins class saying, "The topic for today is *marketing*. We will begin by investigating the importance of marketing in business. We will look at the products on the market and evaluate how they are marketed."

Barrett and her students are participating in a new project in agricultural education—the Marketing Plan Project.

"The project has provided students at Fullerton with a new perspective on agriculture," says Barrett. "Instruction and competition in the area reinforce that there are agricultural careers outside of production. Students enjoy this area because it gives them the opportunity to be challenged and develop creativity."

California is one of seven states that tested the activity in 1989-90. The Fullerton chapter and the Nettleton, Mississippi chapter conducted a workshop at the 1990 National FFA Convention introducing the program nationwide.

Nicole Anderson, a member of the Fullerton team, said that the activity helped remove some of the mystery of the agribusiness world. "It provides students with real-life experience in the area of sales and marketing," she said.

### What is this marketing thing?

Marketing is the process of finding what consumers want and then producing and delivering a product that fills that want. It includes researching the marketplace; developing a new or improved product; transporting, advertising and selling the product and evaluating the success of the process. Almost everything we buy—clothes, food, cars—all reach consumers through a marketing plan.

"Without successful marketing schemes, many products would go unnoticed and ultimately fail in the market," Jeremy Kavanagh, Fullerton FFA member, said.



Teams are judged on their presentation, knowledge of the subject, and research of the marketplace.

The Fullerton students established a marketing plan for the Rain Bird "Do-It-Yourself" sprinkler system. They studied the buying trends of people in their community and set realistic goals to increase sales to the high-income population group. The plan included altering magazine advertisements and expanding the product's visibility in stores. They developed the plan's budget and created an evaluation plan to determine whether or not they met their goals.

### Presentation Time

Students participate for awards through the Marketing Plan Project Activity which includes a written plan, a live presentation and a question-answer session.

The entire class/FFA chapter or a few members may be involved in developing a marketing plan for an agricultural product, supply or service available in their

community and/or FFA chapter.

After developing the written plan, a two- or three-person presentation team presents the marketing plan to judges at the Marketing Plan Project Competition. Students use posters, slides or flip charts to illustrate their plan.

"The presentation was fun because of the interaction with the judges," Courtney Hunt, Fullerton team member, said.

The competition finishes with a question-and-answer session where students clarify specific points of the presentation and show an understanding of the marketing process. The students are judged on their presentation of the plan and the plan's research.

Students who participated in the Marketing Plan Project say it has introduced them to career opportunities in agrimarketing. "The contest provides students with great insight on career choices," Kavanagh said.

A recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study found that for agricultural college graduates, only eight percent of the jobs in agriculture were in production oriented careers compared to over 50 percent in the sales, marketing, management and financial career areas. ...

The Marketing Plan Project is sponsored by Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

# MARKETPLACE

## G.E.N.E.S.I.S. (Continued from Page 12)

FFA members were also helping to rear the salmon that would inhabit their project. After seven months of work, 220,000 fall chinook salmon were released into their new home in March of 1991.

The G.E.N.E.S.I.S. project is expected to boost the area's sagging economy. The Department of Fisheries estimates the project will bring \$250,000 to the community through sport and commercial fishing and tourism, and \$1.25 million to the state economy. That's not a bad return on a project that was completed under-budget at \$12,000.

The salmon project will also serve as an educational resource. A kindergarten through 12-grade curriculum and educational laboratory is being developed so the whole school will benefit.

Lance Souvenir says the project, which gained national recognition as one of the nation's top four BOAC programs, served as a great experiment. "We're a model for the Department of Fisheries to use elsewhere in the state," he says.

In addition to the salmon pond project, the Cathlamet chapter also put on a community safety program, managed the school's 100-acre forest, and continued work on its agricultural science building as part of its BOAC program.

Doumit encourages other chapters in the country to reach out to their communities in planning and implementing BOAC projects. He advises fulfilling specific community needs, whether or not it is agricultural in nature.

"If the agriculture program is taking the lead, so what if it's a CPR program?" he says. "If it's benefitting your students and the people in your area, it's the right kind of project to do."

To get community support for a BOAC project, Doumit says to first have a good plan, then just ask for some help. "People are waiting and willing to help," he says. He recommends making good use of the advisory committee as well, since some of those people could be movers and shakers in the community.

In Doumit's opinion, the people who gained the most from the project were the FFA members themselves. "The real success is in turning out students with a positive attitude who can work in a team and get the job done," he says. "The most important thing we're building here is people."

The Building Our American Communities program is sponsored by RJR Nabisco Foundation Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



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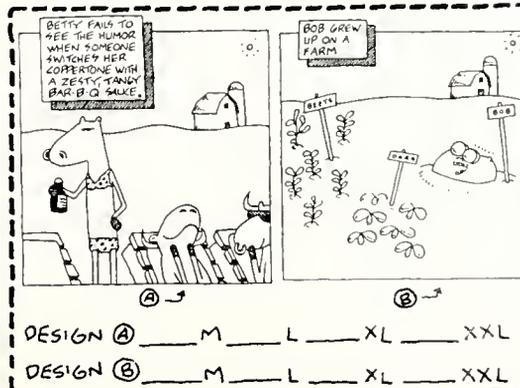
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# FFA IN ACTION

Ohio

## Classic Tractor



James and Terry Thompson, Laurelville, Ohio, will appear on the October page in the 1992 Classic Farm Tractors Calendar published by Du Pont with their carefully restored 1928 John Deere GP. Son Terry and his fellow FFA members did most of the work, and the tractor pulled their Logan Elm High School FFA float in the Circleville Pumpkin Show Parade. The Thompsons show their tractor at many local festivals. The GP was the first tractor with a power lift to raise and lower integral equipment (mounted on the tractor, not pulled with a drawbar). According to James, "This GP model offered four ways to tap its power—drawbar pull, belt pulley, PTO and the power lift." In fact, the PTO shaft was at the rear and an optional PTO was available at the front. The power lift was mechanical, driven off a worm gear adapter on the rear PTO shaft. However, the lift action was sudden and complete; it lacked the smooth gradation of modern hydraulic lifts on three-point hitches.

Illinois

## Tractor Day

The Liberty, Illinois, Chapter held its annual tractor day in September and 14 members drove tractors to the school parking lot. Five implement dealers brought tractors to the school also.

Members competed for seven different awards — the least horsepower, most horsepower, most horsepower 4-wheel drive, oldest tractor, newest tractor plus the dirtiest and cleanest tractors.

During the day members could check horsepower with a dynamometer and compare the new tractors from the John Deere, Deutz Allis, Ford and Case IH dealers in the area. This new feature also attracted many farmers and tractor owners.

FFA provided burgers and baked beans for the guests. (John Obert, Reporter) ...

Montana

## Dirt Movers

Members of the Red Lodge, Montana, Chapter worked hard in May to move an estimated 60 tons of dirt by hand in planting trees.

They embarked on a cooperative project with the county conservation district, county commissioners and state highway department. The objective was to replace temporary wooden snow fences with living tree or shrub fences.

FFA members planted 250 Carigana trees on one site and about 1,000 plants including trees and lilacs at another site. The chapter has also agreed to keep the plantings mulched, weeded and watered for the next five years. In return the chapter will benefit from a grant from the state for \$500 per year. ...

Ohio

## Back Seat Driving Too

A corn toss contest was sponsored by the Mohawk, Ohio, FFA Alumni during the county corn husking contest.

Contestants had two ears to throw and the total distance they got was added together. The first toss had to be underhanded like a hand husker would have done to throw the ear against the bangboard of a wagon. The second throw could be underhanded, tossed like a football or however the contestant wanted. Measurements were made from where the ear first landed, not how far it bounced.

Prizes went to competitors in classes for 3-6 year olds; 7-10 year olds; then boy and girls classes for 11-14 year olds. First place winner in the 19 and over class for women was Lori Schmidt. For the men it was Dave Dauer.

Alumni also ran a Backseat Drivers Contest where a driver of a garden tractor was blind folded and a person in a trailer behind the tractor had to yell instructions to the driver in order to stay within a marked course of straight-aways and turns. The first place team was Ed Needs and Bill Stober from Upper Sandusky. (Marilyn Sayer, Mohawk Alumni) ...

## Ohio Family Grown



Tracy Fliehman and Tricia Fliehman of the East Clinton, Ohio, FFA, placed first in the state fair with their displays of potatoes and tomatoes. Tracy's champion potatoes sold at auction for \$850. Tricia's champion tomatoes sold for \$575. The vegetables came from their SOEP work.

(Continued on Page 36)

# Sports Champions

By Chris Feaver



Wayne Gretzky

If you ever have a chance to meet hockey player Wayne Gretzky, you may wonder how on earth he got his nickname.

Here is a man who is modest and does not seek the limelight—a man who lives by the values he learned growing up on a vegetable farm in Brantford, Ontario. He's not at all like a man who would be given the pompous title, "The Great Gretzky."

But after you have watched Wayne Gretzky play hockey, no other nickname seems more appropriate. After all, no other hockey player in the history of the game has so dominated the sport. In fact, a strong case can be made that Wayne Gretzky is the most dominant player in the history of not just hockey, but in all of team sports. No other player, not Babe Ruth in baseball nor Pele in soccer, can come close to equalling Gretzky's numbers.

Gretzky began putting up big numbers as a youth in Brantford. Gretzky was playing in a 10-year-old league when he was only six. By the time he was 10, he was scoring 378 goals in a 69-game season, drawing national attention in hockey-mad Canada. Hockey was his life when growing up on his parents farm. His father, Walter, would freeze their back yard every winter so Gretzky could have a place to skate while his father watched him from the comfort of their own kitchen. If Wayne wasn't at school, he would be out on the ice, usually until 10 p.m. every night.

By the age of 19, he was playing for the Edmonton Oilers, leading the National

Hockey League (NHL) in scoring and winning the Hart Trophy as the league's Most Valuable Player. Now playing with the Los Angeles Kings and in his 13th season, Gretzky holds almost every offensive regular season and playoff record in existence, including most career points. He has won nine Hart Trophies and 10 scoring titles. His record of 92 goals in a season has been challenged by Mario Lemieux and Brett Hull in recent years, but still stands. His record 215 points (goals plus assists) in the 1985-86 season may never be broken. He won four NHL Stanley Cup titles while with Edmonton.

But Gretzky's career isn't just about numbers. His free-wheeling stick-handling style of play has revolutionized the game, making goals much more common. Also, Gretzky's name, which has been a household name in Canada since he was 15, is recognized even in the deep south of the United States, where the number of hockey sticks are outnumbered by Elvis sightings.

Perhaps what makes Gretzky's success even more astounding is that he is not a perfect physical specimen. He is not the fastest player in the league, and he is one of the smallest. He makes up for these physical disadvantages by being smarter than any other player on the ice, always anticipating where the puck or his teammates are going to be.

Gretzky's team play and his sportsmanship have helped add to the Gretzky legend. While many big sports stars become all-too enamored with their own statistics, Gretzky thrives in the team concept. He is a great goal-scorer, but he takes just as much pride in his assists. He has the first-through-eighth most assists in a season in NHL history. He also has been in only three fights in his career—an astounding number given the fondness for fighting in the NHL. He has lobbied strongly to the NHL to stop the thuggery that sometimes reduces a hockey game to a boxing match.

Though he is in his 13th season, Gretzky is still considered by many to be the best player in hockey today. He has transformed the Los Angeles Kings, which he was traded to in 1988, from also-rans to perennial contenders. Another Stanley Cup may be close at hand. By the time his career is finished, sometime around the turn of the century, people may be calling him, "The Really Stupendously No-One-Ever-Better Great Gretzky." And the nickname will fit. ...

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# FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 34)

Idaho  
**What You Say Counts**



Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus presented a plaque to John Tesnohlidek, Fruitland, Idaho, member for outstanding achievement "in support of agriculture, clean air and energy independence." John placed first in the state prepared public speaking contest with his speech "Let's Make America Free — Once Again." He discussed the benefits of using ethanol fuel and encouraged expanding its use to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

Illinois  
**Straw Rentals**

The 1,700 bales of straw that lined the streets for the go-kart races in Quincy, Illinois, were baled this summer by the Payson, Illinois, FFA. Members load trailers and set the bales on the edge of the race course and other areas that need protection. The straw acts as a barrier for the racers that reach speeds of 80 mph. The race organizers rent the straw and hire the FFA members to provide the labor.

When the race is over, FFA picks up the bales and returns them to the barn for future uses. This is the third year for the project. (Shannon Miles, Reporter) ...

Kansas  
**Officer Demonstrations**

The Neodesha, Kansas, chapter officers went to the country club to give a parliamentary procedure demonstration for a local woman's club. The group needed assistance with parliamentary procedures and asked the FFA for help. The demonstration covered twelve different procedures and lasted about ten minutes. ...



**Eastern Victors** Massachusetts

The Eastern State Exposition named two members to top honors at the 70th annual expo held in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Presented on the basis of best overall farming and agribusiness project, the expo named Rob Hodge from Pennsylvania as their eastern states winner of agribusiness. Matthew Syme from Connecticut was named winner of the agriculture production award. The awards are sponsored for the expo by Sears Roebuck and Company. From left to right are Danny Grellner, then national secretary; Galen Young, Sears store manager; Rob; Matthew; and Wayne McCary, president of the Eastern States Exposition. The expo involves FFA members from Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island and Virginia.

Nebraska  
**Greenhouse Becomes a Reality**

The Tri-County FFA Alumni in DeWitt, Nebraska, recently completed their two-year project of adding a greenhouse to the agricultural department at their school.

The 42-foot by 22-foot covered green-



house was added directly onto the school and will be used with separate semester classes in horticulture and nursery/landscaping. Alumni funded the entire \$17,500 cost of the new building and getting it put in place. The school will assume yearly costs and maintenance. The Alumni Affiliate raised the money over two years from pancake feeds, raffles, volleyball tournaments and from donations. This project, along with their computer project, has brought the FFA much local publicity. "This project has placed our local Alumni chapter and agricultural education department in the eyes of our community," states Bruce Wollenburg, current Alumni president. "This has been a community effort with many dedicated individuals and businesses donating to help this project become a reality. The community has been very supportive of our work." The chapter already has its first crop of poinsettias under production. ...

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The chapter already has its first crop of poinsettias under production. ...

# MY TURN

*Julie Classen*



Julie Classen

The spotlights are turned off, the microphones and gavels are held by new hands, and the blue and gold jackets are replaced with business suits, college classes and rent bills. What a challenge I face to practice in the real world the experience that seven and a half years in FFA offered. At the same time, it will be interesting to watch the FFA change, adapt, and react to the needs of America's young people as we approach the 21st Century.

One of the highlights this past year happened in September in Washington, D.C. Mark Timm, past national FFA president, and I were relaxing in a hotel lobby discussing ideas for National FFA Convention. The elevator bell rang, the door opened, and Arnold Schwarzenegger, dressed in work-out attire, stepped into the hall way ten feet from where Mark and I were sitting! Paying little attention to who interrupted our conversation, I glanced over and said, "Oh hi, Arnold!" and kept right on talking. With a split-second double take, I realized that "The Terminator" had just returned a "Hello." Mark and I instantly jumped out of our seats and introduced ourselves to Mr. Schwarzenegger. We visited for a few minutes and then directed him to the hotel's exercise room.

Earlier that day I attended a meeting of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports at the invitation of their executive director. Arnold Schwarzenegger is the chairman of this council which is comprised of professional athletes, past Olympians, and experts in health, education and physical fitness all who are appointed by the president of the United States. In the meeting I learned about the council and their purpose. I was amazed at how curious these celebrities and experts were about FFA. Their interest opened the door for me to share the FFA story. "What is FFA?" is a question you and I

answer quite often, but do we continue the communications to secure a true understanding among individuals and groups?

The number one goal of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports is to promote youth fitness. They are searching for youth leaders across the country who are willing to take on their challenge. FFA has almost 400,000 of those type of leaders. Developing a relationship between FFA and this Council would provide FFA with ideas, materials, and resources gained through existing programs such as MFE, WCP, and BOAC. FFA members would benefit from the results of understanding the importance of fitness and develop habits creating a long-term healthy lifestyle.

It seems we are effective at talking to each other about the value, uniqueness, diversity and opportunities in FFA. However, have we taken advantage of potential outside resources?

Everyone involved in the FFA community at the local, state and national level needs to ask three simple questions. "Are we targeting key groups, are we developing partnerships with service organizations, business leaders, school administrators and legislators, and are we utilizing the expertise of outside resources effectively?" If we explore these questions, we will be on our way to providing better opportunities for FFA members while communicating the current picture of what FFA really is.

My active membership in FFA has ended. Unfortunately, like Arnold Schwarzenegger, I can't say, "I'll Be Back!" but I assure you "I'll Be Watching?" Good Luck!

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# JOKE PAGE

Q: How can you tell when a Greenhand has been using the computer?

A: There's White-out all over the screen!  
*Shep Hudson  
 South Hill, Virginia*



Mother: "When that naughty boy threw stones at you, why didn't you come and tell me instead of throwing stones back at him?"

Practical Kid: "What good would it do to tell you? You couldn't hit the broad side of a barn!"

*Katrina Thudin  
 Tully, New York*

Old Bill Shiftless threatened to leave his parents after they started using four-letter words...like "Find Work or Else."

*Tim Evans  
 Hardy, Arkansas*

John: "Did you hear about the kidnaping in town yesterday?"

Jeff: "No."

John: "They woke him up today."

*Jamie Larson  
 Boyceville, Wisconsin*

Fred: "Hey, Sam, can you say silk ten times?"

Sam: "Yeah, Silk, Silk, Silk, Silk, Silk, Silk, Silk, Silk, Silk, Silk."

Fred: "What do cows drink?"

Sam: "Milk."

Fred: "Gee whiz, Sam, don't you know cows drink water not milk?"

*Doug Hesson  
 North Star, Ohio*

Q: Why shouldn't you tell a secret to a pig?

A: Because he is a squealer.

*Amy Bohannon  
 Gainesville, Florida*

Penny: "Aunt Jane, have you heard that I'm engaged to an Irish boy?"

Aunt Jane: "Oh, really?"

Penny: "No. O'Reilly!"

*Wheatland FFA Chapter  
 Wheatland, California*

After the guests arrived for a special dinner, the mother asked her young son to say grace.

"But I don't know what to say," he protested.

"Just say what you've heard me say," she replied.

"Dear God," the boy began, "why do we have to have these people for dinner tonight?"

*Cammy Beagle  
 Camden, Michigan*

One day in the jungles of Africa, a fierce lion came upon a writer furiously typing on a typewriter.

The lion passed him without a single thought.

A little while later he passed a reader calmly reading a book. The lion jumped on him and ate him because even a lion knows readers digest, but writers cramp.

*Joshua Ringstaff  
 Paducah, Kentucky*



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