

FFA

APRIL-MAY, 1992

New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION



PROJECT PALS
For those who care!



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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

April-May, 1992

Volume 40 Number 4



FFA

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It can be a jungle out there. Interviewing is stressful. But, by following these simple survival tips you can emerge triumphant.

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Photo by Lawinna McGary

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Do you know a boy or girl who would like to experience some of the wildest country left in the West, learn to shoot, hunt and sharpen his or her outdoor skills?

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Participants will learn the fundamental skills of shooting rifles, pistols, shotguns and muzzleloading rifles. Also, they will be introduced to the competitive sports of smallbore rifle, pistol and smallbore rifle silhouette, highpower rifle silhouette, highpower rifle and trap and skeet. All shooting equipment and ammunition will be provided.

The first camp will be held June 21-July 3; the second from July 5-July 17. The fee for each session is \$525.

For more information, or to enroll a camper, contact Pat Boyle, NRA Whittington Center, at (505) 445-3615.

FFA

THE FRONT LINE

Few things have caught on as fast as the word "Not!" Example: "Maybe I'll eat those Brussels sprouts because I know they're good for me... *Not.*"

Another term catching on fast is recycling. Everybody seems to be doing it. The majority of our writing contest winners mentioned it (see page 28). It's one of those ideas that is hard to argue with—it benefits everybody.

Some FFA members have written us asking if we could print our magazine on recycled paper. We looked into it and found that right now, recycled paper is just too expensive based on the \$1.75 members pay for their yearly subscription to *FFA New Horizons*. As soon as we can afford recycled paper, we will switch to it.



Our printer did tell us about a new ink, called Envirotech ink. We decided to start using it with this issue. It's made of 18 percent soybean, corn and linseed oils. That's oil grown by American farmers instead of oil being pumped out of the ground. Even though about 80 percent of the ink is still petroleum, we feel it is a step in the right direction—just like recycling that first soda bottle or piece of paper.



In making the decision to switch, we are trying to maintain the quality of the color pictures in the magazine while using renewable resources, in this case, oilseeds, to get the job done. We hope you don't notice any difference in the quality. We also hope that someday farmers notice the difference in the market for their products.

In this issue, associate editor Lawinna McGary reports on Project Pals, a new FFA program that captures the leadership abilities of FFA members to help elementary children who need a positive role model in their lives. (See page 12.)

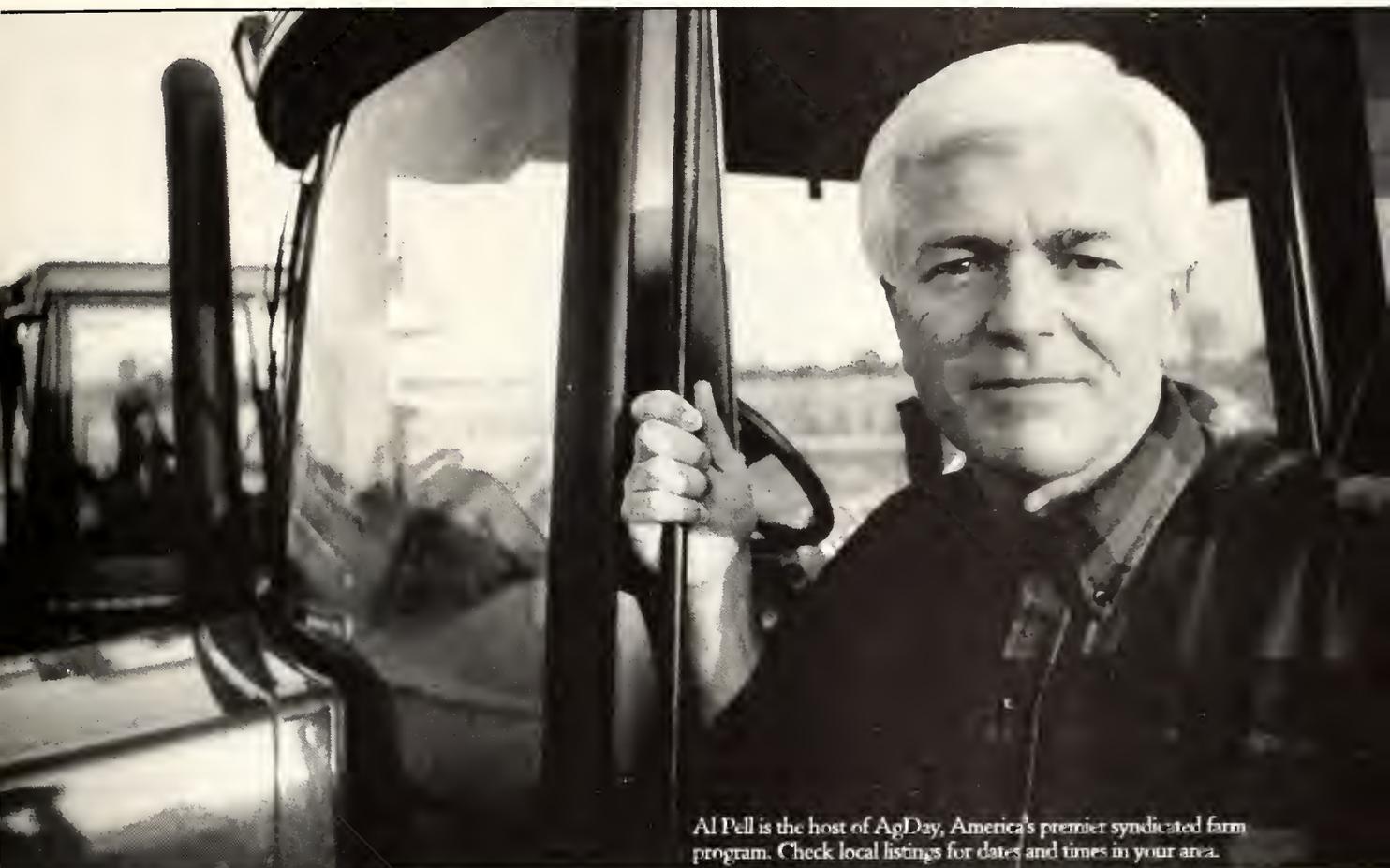
It's no secret that children today deal with tougher personal problems at a younger age compared to children 10 years ago. FFA members in Arkansas and Michigan are getting positive results from these children, results that have escaped teachers, parents and other adults.

It looks like Project Pals could have a life-altering impact on thousands of kids all over the country in just a few years. Tell your FFA advisor if you would like to be involved.

And eat your Brussels sprouts. They're good for you.

Andy Markwart

"WHEN YOUR LIVELIHOOD DEPENDS ON THE LAND, YOU'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO DEPEND ON YOUR EQUIPMENT!"



Al Pell is the host of AgDay, America's premier syndicated farm program. Check local listings for dates and times in your area.

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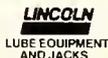
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Publishing Assistant, Joyce Berryman
Circulation Fulfillment Manager, Dottie M. Hinkle
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Advertising Offices

FFA New Horizons
 P.O. Box 15160
 Alexandria, VA 22309 703-360-3600

The Brassett Company
 1737 Fairgreen Drive
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 Chicago, IL 60601 312-236-6345

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 New York, NY 10036 212-840-0660

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Board Of Directors Determine FFA Direction

National officers, and other members of the Board of Directors met January 27-30 to get an update on FFA activities and to decide on major issues affecting the organization. Here are some highlights.

- New fees of \$450 per student were set for the Washington Conference Program.
- Middle school agricultural education/



According to my watch it's break time! National President Lee Thurber and national advisor Dr. Larry Case.

FFA task force survey results were presented. Below are a few preferences of the middle school students.

Things Members Liked Most About FFA: learning new things, traveling.

Things Members Liked Least About FFA: paying membership dues and wearing the FFA jacket.

Favorite Subjects For Members: computers, animals and mechanics.

Most Popular Hobbies For Members: team sports, pets and church.

Most Popular Hobbies For Non-Members: team and individual sports, dancing/gymnastics and social activities.

Win An Arabian Horse With Your Essay

"My Arabian Horse is History in my Hands" is the theme for the 1992 International Arabian Horse Association's annual Youth Essay Contest. Essay winners will receive an Arabian gelding or a

savings bond.

The contest is divided into two age groups, 9-13 and 14-18, with categories in each group for non-horse owners and horse owners.

To compete in the non-horse owner category, neither the contestant nor an immediate family member may own a horse or pony. The first place non-horse owner in each age division wins an Arabian gelding and second place wins a \$250 savings bond.

To compete in the horse owner category, either the contestant or an immediate family member must own a horse or pony. The first place horse owner in each age division wins a \$500 savings bond and second place wins a \$250 savings bond.

For complete rules and an entry form, please phone 303-450-4774, or write to this address: IAHA, Youth Department, P.O. Box 33696, Denver, CO 80233-0696. To enter, send your essay, the \$5 entry fee and a completed official entry blank, (post-marked by June 15, 1992), to IAHA.

A panel of college students at a major university will judge the essays on originality, accuracy, spelling and grammar.

Make Way For The Washington Conference Program

A fun-filled, action-packed week of personal growth and leadership development awaits you. With the Washington Conference Program (WCP), you'll meet FFA members from all parts of the U.S. while you learn about teamwork, building your self-image, goal setting and public relations.

Dates for the 1992 WCP are June 9-13, 16-20, 23-27; July 7-11, 14-18, 21-25; and July 28-August 1.

Staff members are: Directors: Sarah Braasch, Idaho and Michael Bennett, New Mexico. Counselors: Branch Carter, Georgia; Krista Fritz, Indiana; Stewart Kennedy, Oklahoma; Nichole Phillips, Utah; Jennifer Barber, Arkansas; Kelly McIntire, Oklahoma; Emily Read, Oregon; Scott Shuman, Colorado.

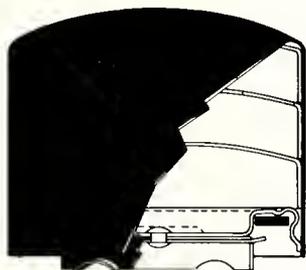
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LOOKING AHEAD

Making Bucks From Corn Smut

It's repulsive-looking, but when the fungus swells yellow corn kernels into a gray mass, some see big money in the rediscovery of an ancient delicacy...corn smut.

Chefs and diners are taking a liking to corn smut. Agricultural scientists are even seeking ways to cultivate it. A few farmers are taking a new look at something they once plowed under as nature's garbage.

Elite places serving the maize mush-

rooms include the Plaza Hotel in New York and Frontera Grill in Chicago. The fungus can be cooked up as the foundation for a dish or as a flavoring in foods as diverse as meats, soups, sauces and even ice cream.

Farmers can get from \$1 to \$2 for two smutty ears, compared with three to five cents for a pair of healthy ears of corn.

Source: *Farm Profit AGRISEARCH*, a publication of Massey Ferguson.

Listen To The Mummichog

A beautiful small fish called the mummichog may be the environmental canary of the 1990's, at least along the East Coast. Mummichogs develop tumors when carcinogenic pollutants are in the water.

Carcinogens can come from industrial discharges, municipal waste, agriculture and even natural sources.

"We're testing mummichogs as biological indicators of water quality, to be sure farm chemicals—fertilizers and pesticides—are used safely," says George Gassner, an ARS biologist in Beltsville, Maryland. "The mummichogs would be living sensors something like canaries used to detect toxic gases in mines at the turn of the century."

"But unlike exposing canaries to potentially fatal doses of gas, we're not threatening mummichog lives," Gassner adds.

In fact, Gassner's work with mummichogs very much resembles the care of people in the best of hospitals.

He removes fish from one of three saltwater aquaria and gently anesthetizes them and wraps them in plastic foam blankets that protect the fish from handling damage and drying.

The blanketed fish is carefully placed in a plastic tube and inserted into a nuclear magnetic resonance imaging scanner. The machine produces views of the fish's interior.

Gassner says keeping the fish alive allows repeated measurements on the same fish.

"Using this approach, environmental scientists and managers from federal, state and local agencies can periodically monitor fish from various waterways, tag them for future studies and return them to the rivers and bays unharmed," Gassner says.

He says the fish could be used to monitor estuaries worldwide. And fish aren't the only candidates for the MRI early warning system. Gassner is already considering crawfish, clams, oysters and other shellfish.

Source: *Agricultural Research, USDA*



Photo by The University of Georgia College of Agriculture

Although it doesn't look very appetizing, corn smut is considered a delicacy.

Concocting The Ultimate Beetle Juice

As alluring as the scents of fermenting fruits may be to dried fruit beetles, even more attractive are such scents when mixed with chemical attractants recently patented by USDA scientists.

The "perfume" put into a custom-designed beetle trap could help farmers and warehouse managers gather the information they need to make decisions on pesticide applications.

The chemical attractants synthesized by the research team are similar to those produced by a male beetle when he's found a food source (such as a farmer's crop). Many female and male beetles sense the pheromones from afar, and join

into one big party to dine and mate, says entomologist Robert J. Bartelt of the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Peoria, Illinois.

Besides damaging fruit through feeding and egg laying, the beetles may carry such crop-destroying diseases as smut, mold and rot.

In some recent years, California fig growers have spent as much as \$100,000 to control the beetles, which are an intermittent problem. If any company licenses the synthetic pheromone, fruit growers could better decide when or whether to spray their crops, says Bartelt.

Source: *Agricultural Research, USDA*

MAILBAG

To Drink or Not To Drink

I must hand it over to you. The article, To Drink or Not To Drink, in the December-January, 1992 issue was great!

I've shared the article with my fellow state officers and members.

It gave me a wonderful feeling just reading it and asking those questions to myself.

*Nimala Fagater
Wah., Hawaii*

Safety Hazard

I am writing in regard to a picture and outline that appeared in your December-January, 1991-92, *FFA New Horizons* (FFA in Action, page 34.) The article was titled, "Ohio Classic Tractor."

One of the people in that picture is seated on the tractor fender. I believe this is an unsafe practice and does nothing to promote farm safety. I know the full intent was to promote the antique tractor, but it would have been in better taste if one of the young men had been standing beside the tractor.

The thing that bothers me the most is that DuPont published a 1992 calendar with this picture.

I hope a review of farm safety practices will be used in the future when selecting photos for your publication. I would also appreciate your notifying DuPont of this safety hazard.

*Mike Jones
Safety Program Coordinator
Indiana Farm Bureau Inc.*

Outstanding!

I was impressed with your story, "Outstanding" (December-January, 1991-92 pages 16-20).

I was unable to attend the 64th National FFA Convention. But after reading your article, I felt like I was there.

FFA New Horizons is a great magazine. Keep up the good work.

*Matt Stefanel
Zephyrhills, Florida*

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to MAILBAG, FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.



M E N ' S L A C E - R S



PROJECT PALS

For Those Who Care

FFA members are taking part in a bold new program that pairs high school students with elementary kids who need help

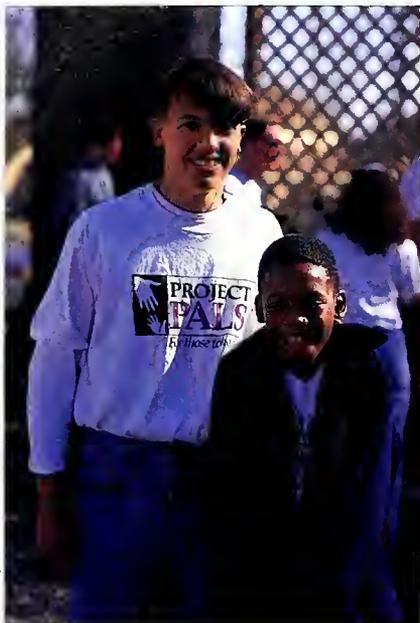


Photo by Lawinna McGary

Their common interest in music helped Shirley, Arkansas, FFA member Chuck Hollis and Paul Jenkins together.

By Lawinna McGary

Arkansas, says what Project Pals does is really nothing new. "This type of mentoring took place all of the time in the one-room school houses. Older students always helped younger ones with schoolwork. If a child couldn't hit a baseball, the highschooler would bat for him, and the younger student would run around the bases. We lost that interaction when we separated the big kids from the little ones. Project Pals just brings these two groups together so natural caring can take place again."

The program is made possible through a three-year \$1 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation. Bernie Staller, FFA's Chief Operating Officer, says FFA provided a good fit for the foundation. "They wanted to start mentoring in small school systems that usually don't have the funds for this sort of thing," he says. "And while FFA does exist in large schools, it's really more common in small communities."

Also, the continued success of Project Pals depends on community involvement (when the Kellogg funding is gone in 1994, the plan is for local dollars and support to take over). "With programs like Building Our American Communities (BOAC)," says Staller, "agriculture education has involved communities in its activities for many years."

To keep the kids coordinated in each community, six school staff members and one person who is not a school employee work together. High school students who want to be a part of Project Pals usually have to fill out an application. "We want to make sure they're serious about the commitment to the program. A child will be counting on them," says Charles Franklin, FFA advisor in Hamburg, Arkansas.

Elementary teachers pick kids they think will benefit most from having a pal. Once parents give the okay, students are paired with an FFA member.

In all there are more than 400 students and 20 schools in Michigan and Arkansas with Project Pals. By next year students in 80 schools and two new states will be mentoring too. Eventually, says Project Pals Director Josie Garza, "we hope there will be a program in every state that wants one."

Unfortunately for now, there isn't enough room for everyone who wants to be involved. Here are just a few examples of

I almost dropped out of school in fifth grade," says one FFA member. "My grades were really low. I felt like running away from home. All I had was me. In the sixth grade I decided the only way out of poverty was to stay in school. I want to teach that to my pal and encourage him to stay in school."

Through studying, playing games with or just listening to their little pals FFA mentors are boosting the younger kids' self-esteem and grades. Says one elementary teacher, "this program accomplishes far more in developing self-esteem in both the high school and elementary kids than any other program I've ever seen."

Parents see changes in their children too. Says one mom of an FFA member, "My son is much more adult in his decision making process now. He's learning responsibility and a lot about caring."

Mr. Glen Hackitt, Project Pals Coordinator in Shirley,



Elementary student Kayla Watts, Shirley, Arkansas, and her mentor Kim Lockard share a love for horses. Kayla watches Kim compete in local rodeos.

students who have been able to take part.

One mentor made a Christmas present for her pal in the school's agriculture shop. When she gave it to the student, tears flooded his face. No one had ever given him a Christmas gift before. "Now we make something in the shop for him every week," says the FFA advisor.

An elementary student used to write 'I hate myself' over and over again. But after just a few months he changed his notes to 'I love myself. I love my classmates. I love school.'

One high school student even had to deal with death. "I couldn't believe it," he says, "one day my pal was okay and the next day he was dead. It was hard because he was a special friend."

Spinal meningitis, suddenly took the elementary student's life. Most of the FFA members went to the funeral. "We were all affected because we're like family," says one student.

"Before we closed the casket for the last time, I bent down and put the Project Pals pin on his lapel," says the mentor. "Something inside of me said he would always be a part of me. He was someone special. I wanted to let people in the community know." ...



Photos by Andrew Markham

Shirley, Arkansas, FFA member Andrew Michelle, and fifth grader Derek Watts study for an hour just about every Wednesday.

If you would like to be a part of, as one mentor put it, "endless possibilities to help kids," write Josie Garza or Beverly Wilson in the Project Pals office at: 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA, 22309-0160.



For those who care!

Environmental Career Sources

• **Environmental Protection Careers Guidebook** (\$7.50 each)
Superintendent of Documents
Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20402
(202) 783-3238

• **Opportunities In Environmental Careers** (available at bookstores)
Author: Odom Fanning
Published by: VGM Career Horizons

• **Environmental Careers** (entry level jobs available after college)
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68 Harrison Ave.
Fifth Fl.
Boston, MA 02111

• **Youth Conservation Corps**
If you're 15 to 18 years old you're eligible to work, learn and earn wages while working for the Park Service's Youth Conservation Corps. Their public lands projects include constructing trails, building campground facilities, planting trees, collecting litter, clearing streams, improving wildlife habitats and office work.
United States Youth Conservation Corps
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 343-5951

Federal Agencies

• **Agriculture Department, Natural Resources and Environment**
14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250
(202) 447-7173

• **Environmental Protection Agency**
401 M St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20460
(202)382-4361

• **Geological Survey (Interior Department)**
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.
Reston, VA 22092

• **Interior Department**
Main Interior Bldg.
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 343-7000

• **Justice Department**
Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 23985
Washington, DC 20026

Agriculture Gives You An Edge With Environmental Careers

Do you speak the language of agriculture? If your answer is yes, you're a minority, and you're in demand in the environmental field.

"As an agriculture student and FFA member, you have the inside knowledge it takes to work with farmers and the technical skills you need to understand biology, chemistry and other issues," says Bob Ehart, Issues and Policies Manager, Environmental and Public Affairs Department, CIBA-GEIGY Agricultural Chemical Company.

"The biggest benefit that someone with a rural background has is terminology," he adds. "We speak the same language as farmers. We come in as a partner with the farmer, not as the police. They [farmers] can see that we're trying to improve things for them and the environment."

Ann Sorensen, assistant director, Natural and Environmental Resources Division, American Farm Bureau, agrees that knowing agriculture helps meet farmers needs. "Growing up on a farm is an experience so few people have now. There are so few scientists that really understand what farmers need and how to work with them.

"Only two percent of the American public is actively involved in farming, while 20 percent are involved in the food industry," she explains. That means 18 percent of the workforce involved in agriculture in some way don't have any agricultural experience.

Because of this shortage, she says, "We especially need kids with an agricultural background. We're looking for people who can act as resources and help educate farmers about the environment."

Learning Environmental Language

"To succeed in the environmental field you'll need a good background in ecol-

ogy, botany and entomology," says Sorensen. "Organic chemistry and toxicology make a potent combination too."

But Sorensen also believes science is not the only area you'll need to be sharp in. "I think we're finding in the information age you almost have to have background with computers. Speaking skills come in very handy and there's no way to I can put enough emphasis on writing skills. They're *tremendously* important. If you don't have those skills you either learn them very quickly or you sink."

Below are a few environmental areas to keep an eye on.

- **Agronomy**-the theory of crop production and soil management; management of farm lands.

- **Biology**-the science of life and living organisms.

- **Biotechnology**-the applied science of controlling and adapting living organisms to meet the needs of man.

- **Demography**-the statistical study of the characteristics of human population and their effects on the environment.

- **Ecology**-the effect human activities and other organisms have on the environment.

- **Energy Conservation**-developing alternative forms of energy or finding ways to decrease energy use.

- **Environmental Engineering**-Using engineering skills to help preserve the environment. A few job examples that fall under this category are:

- performing EPA compliance audits (at farm dealerships, etc.,)

- designing and implementing ways to store and manage waste, pesticides and fertilizer

- designing and implementing ways to decrease soil erosion

- **Hydrology**-the science dealing with the properties, distribution and circulation of water.

•••



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Two tons of trash disappears in El Paso, Texas. Elementary students learn about water safety and conservation in Schuyler, Nebraska.

The Morgan County landfill in Madison, Georgia, is spared 120,000 pounds of waste.

No...special environmental organizations didn't take over in these towns and counties...FFA members and their communities did. Through task forces such as Earth Team and R.S.V.P. (Recycle Soon It's Vital To Our Planet), students all around the United States are educating, recycling, reusing and reducing.

Cleaning up your community, says Debbie Martinez, a member of the Ysleta FFA in El Paso, Texas, "affects your house and your economic future. It ensures the stability of the community."

El Paso borders Juarez, Mexico, a city with unregulated air pollution and a tremendous amount of truck traffic heading to and from the United States. That presents special problems for his community says advisor Steven Forsythe. "We found out first-hand that we need to be concerned about where we live, breathe and raise our family because we get so much exhaust from our sister city."

Since there is so much traffic and activity on El Paso roads, there is also quite a bit of trash. So FFA members decided to adopt-a-highway. In one year they picked up two tons of trash.

They make sure to recycle aluminum, but instead of pocketing the profit, they turn it back to the city highway department where it's used to help maintain local roads. "We're going to make El Paso a better, nicer place to live...a place we can be proud of," says Forsythe.



Blue & Gold

By Lawinna McGary

Three states north of Texas in Schuyler, Nebraska. FFA members are also dealing with unique environmental challenges. Recently, their community landfill was closed. Something had to be done with all of that trash. To respond to the crisis, the Building Our American Communities committee formed the "Earth Care—Because We Care" project.

Members began a recycling center. They worked with FFA Alumni, local farmers and other local organizations to design a five-year groundwater protection plan. And they educated elementary students about water safety, toured several water conservation plants, plugged abandoned wells and tested wells for nitrates.

President Bush and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was even im-

pressed by all of this activity. They awarded the chapter one of the President's Environmental Youth Awards."

Meanwhile in Madison, Georgia, FFA members caught recycling mania. "We started off on a small scale, just thinking about what we could do here at the school," says Blane Marable, chapter advisor.

Soon they were offering recycling services to everyone in the community. To help get the word out members printed and distributed flyers. "Everybody's bringing items to us now," says Marable. "The response has been tremendous."

Just a year and a-half since the start of their project they've cut the amount of trash that goes into the Morgan County landfill by 120,000 pounds. "According to the county administrator," Marable says,

"we've made a sizable dent in the waste our community has to deal with."

A bonus to saving on waste is the money recycling earns. The \$100 a month the chapter gains goes right back into developing an outdoor environmental study area.

These are just a few examples of what FFA members all across the country are doing to help the environment. Here are some ways you and your chapter can get involved.

- Conduct energy audits of schools and members homes in cooperation with local electric utilities.

- Proper insulation can save 20 to 30 percent in heating costs and 15 percent in air conditioning expenses.

- Hold community forums in your school auditorium. Feature environmental club members, recycling center personnel or soil conservation staff members.

- Start test plots demonstrating conservation tillage or integrated pest management (IPM) programs. These methods help cut down on soil loss and chemical use.

- Start a nature trail in a wetland or forest area.

- Raise money while you contribute to the environment. Recycle glass, plastic and aluminum; sell and plant trees or sell mulch. Donate the money you earn to an environmental group such as the National Wildlife Federation.

- Start an elementary coloring or writing contest on an environmental subject.

- Produce a recycling booklet for the community.

- Start an anti-styrofoam campaign.

- Raise money to adopt rainforest land. You can do this by selling environmental singing telegrams, raffling environmental items, selling jungle juice punch, etc.

For \$30 you can preserve an acre in Latin America (Phone the Nature Conservancy at 1-800-628-6860).

- Put up environmental displays at a local library or in your school.

- Start a quarterly environmental newspaper for the community, highlighting local efforts.

- At gas stations volunteer to check tire pressure and change oil free (customer buys oil). Hand out pamphlets on environmental savings earned with proper car maintenance.

- At grocery stores give away reusable shopping bags.

- Promote special community and school parking spots for people who carpool.

- Recycle Christmas trees. Turn them into mulch.

...

Goes Green



Matt Stuthman and his advisor Tom Wheeldon of Schuyler, Nebraska, received the President's Environmental Youth Award from President Bill Clinton and EPA Administrator William Reilly (far right) in 1991.



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ARE BUILT FORD TOUGH.

Buckle up— together we can save lives.

INTERVIEW

By Linda May

I was gestured to a small wooden chair in the middle of the floor. The room...humid. Facing me was a panel of five. The interrogation began. "Do you deserve the FFA scholarship?" My glasses steamed as I choked on my words. Slumped in my seat, I stared at the floor. They dismissed me. I barely got out of there alive.

It can be a jungle out there. Interviewing for a part-time job, FFA office or scholarship is stressful. But, by following these simple survival tips, you can emerge triumphant. Soon you'll be Queen or King of the jungle, just like Jane and Tarzan.

Mapping Your Safari Adventure

Before you step into the thick of the interview, you should plan ahead. Research everything you can about the interviewer and the company or organization. What service or products do they provide? What qualities are they looking for from you? What are their goals and how do you fit in?

You might find answers to these questions from company literature, your local library, business associations, local newspaper file or even past employees or candidates you know.

Packing for the jungle is next. Gather these supplies and venture out.

- ✓Pen
- ✓Two resume copies (makes filling out an application easier)
- ✓List of high school courses and grade point
- ✓Social Security card
- ✓Letters of reference or a typed list of references (at least three)
- ✓Samples of previous work or talent (if needed)

Tarzan Is Not A Fashion Statement

A loincloth is not appropriate for the interview. And I doubt Tarzan would make a great first impression.

When it comes to interviewing, appearance is everything! If you dress sloppily, the interviewer will think you're careless or lack initiative, or that you may need close supervision. In one major survey:

•95 percent of employers said personal appearance affected their opinion of the applicant.

•91 percent believed dress and grooming showed an applicant's attitude toward their company.

Common sense and simple good taste are the best guides to making a first impression. Plus, knowing you look great gives you added confidence.

When it comes to dressing for an interview, follow this simple rule of thumb. *Dress at least a level above what the job requires.* If the job calls for dress slacks and shirt, men wear a tie. For women, if skirts are the dress code, show up in a dress or suit.

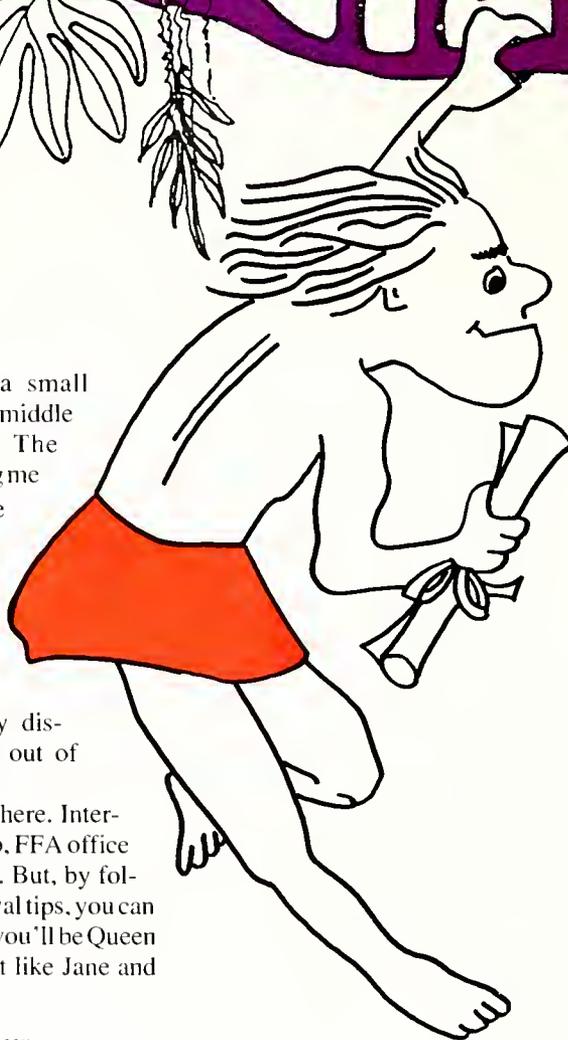
Be Prepared For Anything

When Jane was in trouble, Tarzan would arrive in time to save her. But when asked a tough question, you're left alone to fight the crocodiles.

You can expect certain questions to come up. Practice, practice...and practice again. Write out your answers and rehearse in front of a mirror, or in role play with others. When a tough question comes your way, you'll be relaxed and ready.

The most important point? **SELL** yourself. Smile...be enthusiastic...lean forward...and listen! Don't hold back. Be yourself.

Explain how your skills and experience are exactly what they're looking for.



SURVIVAL TIPS

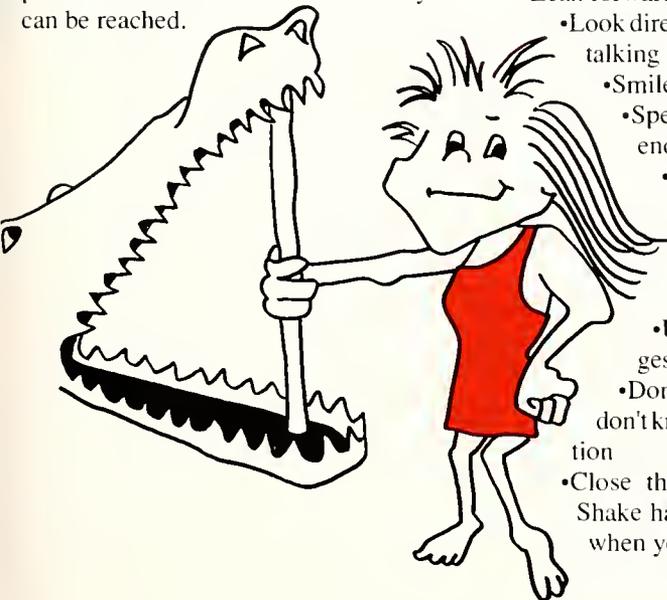
Show off your work experience through your Supervised Agricultural Experience program. Boast your community spirit by describing volunteer work on your chapter's Building Our American Communities program. When talking leadership, tell about being a chapter officer, committee chairman, or committee member and stress examples of when you've spoken in front of a group.

Never leave without asking for the job. Briefly tell why you're interested. Then thank the interviewer and ask when you can expect to hear from him or her. If you have not heard anything after a week or two, give the interviewer a call.

After The Excursion

You made it out of the jungle. But it's not over yet. You have one more chance to make a positive impression.

Write a thank you note and mail the letter by the next day. Play up your greatest strengths. And remember to give a phone number where you can be reached.



Quick Reference Guide

Things To Do

- Keep hair combed and neat
- Be clean-shaven or trimmed, or use fresh make-up
- Have clean teeth and fresh breath
- Shine shoes, clean face, hands and fingernails
- Wear clothing that is clean, pressed and wrinkle-free
- Dress conservatively in preferred colors of blue, gray or brown.
- No jewelry...wear small earrings and a simple necklace
- Arrive at least five to 10 minutes early
- Immediately shake the interviewer's hand firmly
- Wait to sit down only when the interviewer offers you a seat—or sits down first
- If possible, open the conversation
- Stand and sit straight when listening
- Lean forward and show interest
- Look directly at interviewer when talking
- Smile...and be pleasant
- Speak clearly and loudly enough to be easily heard
- Stay on the subject. Keep answers to one or two minutes
- Use the interviewer's name
- Use modest hand and face gestures
- Don't be afraid to admit you don't know the answer to a question
- Close the interview positively. Shake hands and ask for the job when you leave

Things To Avoid

- Jeans or overalls, open neck shirts or open or low necklines
- Tennis shoes, sandals
- Loud-colored or faddish clothing
- Hair in a ponytail, or outrageous style
- Hat, cap or large barrette
- Excessive or gaudy jewelry
- Looking at your watch like there's something more important to do
- Having a "limp fish" or "vice grip" handshake
- Fidgeting in the chair
- Slumping your shoulders
- Making no eye-contact, staring at the floor
- Taking notes during the interview
- Bringing personal items into the interview (shopping bags, book bag, groceries)
- Mumbling or talking softly
- Speaking unnaturally loud
- Talking too slowly or too fast
- Use the phrases "you know," "like" and "um" or "ahh"
- Using poor grammar or mispronouncing words
- Answering with a simple yes or no
- Interrupting the interviewer
- Making complaints about work, school, peers
- Talking about personal troubles
- Lying

(Continued on Page 22)

Prepare! You'll Be Asked These Questions

- Tell me about yourself (answer in one minute or less).
 - What do you want to be doing five years from now?
 - Why do you want this job?
 - What can you do that the other applicants can't?
 - Why do you think you are qualified?
 - What are your strengths and weaknesses?
 - How well do you get along with others?
 - What hours can you work and when can you begin?
 - What are your hobbies or special talents?
 - What are your favorite classes...why?
 - Who do you admire and why?
 - Do you have strong writing skills?
- Are you organized?

When The Questions Get Tough, The Tough Answer

- What do you want to get paid?
- It will cost a lot to train you. How long will you stay with us?
- Why haven't you tried to find a job before this?
- What can you do that the other applicants can't?
- Why do you think you are qualified?
- Describe a difficult obstacle you had to overcome.
- How well do you get along with others?
- How would your friends, teachers, etc., describe you?
- How do you handle stress or tight deadlines?
- Have you ever gotten angry or lost your temper?
- Do you believe the customer is always right?
- Give an example of a mistake you made and how you corrected it.

It's Your Turn To Ask These Questions

- What will be my daily duties or responsibilities?
- What do you expect from me?
- When can I expect to hear from you?
- How often will my work be evaluated?
- Are there opportunities for advancement?

How To Fill Out A Job Application

Many times the job application is the first step to getting a job interview. Here are some ideas for how to fill out your job form correctly.

- Read the application form carefully all the way through *before* you fill it out. Then you'll know what information goes where without having to guess or erase.
- Write detailed answers to questions on a separate piece of paper, if you believe the details are important enough to justify the extra effort.
- A clean, neat application is a must. If your paperwork is dirty, why should the employer believe you will be clean and well kept?
- If a question doesn't apply to you, don't leave the answer blank, instead, make sure to write or type none, "0" or "N/A" for not applicable. If you don't answer, the employer may decide that if you don't carry through on an application, you might not carry through on the job either.
- Ask if you can take the application home. This gives you time to type your answers and to check for spelling and grammar errors.
- Just in case you can't take the application home, make sure to bring:
 - ink pen
 - pocket dictionary
 - resume
 - social security number
 - personal references

Your FFA advisor, counselor, other teachers or minister are good sources to list. You'll need their address, occupation, title and telephone number. Be sure to ask their permission ahead of time.

- Writing with a blue ink pen is the next best thing to typing. Since most forms are written with black ink, blue ink stands out.
- When asked, what type of work you desire, *never* write general worker. This shows you didn't check out the company before filling out the application.
- When writing the name of the position you want, be as specific as possible. Don't be afraid to call ahead and ask the potential employer what types of positions are available.
- Always be specific about when you can work. If you say you'll work "any-

time" the employer may decide you're a little too desperate to work with them. Giving particular times also shows you are time management oriented. It also lets them know you're expectations up front, possibly eliminating conflicts after you're hired.

- Know what date you will be able to begin work.
- When you go to fill out the application, dress up. The supervisor may call you in for an on-the-spot interview.
- List your phone number and times you are most easily reached.
- If you don't have your license, but plan to get one soon, tell the employer.
- List all education—from grade school to the present. Special courses, such as a summer typing class or Red Cross safety lessons should also be shown. You may be asked to report your class standing, or the subjects in which you are receiving your best grades.
- If you are in normal health, write "excellent" or "very good." If you have any health problems or limitations, the employer can't legally refuse to hire you for that reason, unless it would impair your ability to do the job.
- Special interests, hobbies and special skills show responsibility and initiative.
- Some applications require a short, handwritten self-evaluation or biographical sketch. You may want to prepare a draft statement on another piece of paper before or at the time you complete the application. The employer will be looking for legible handwriting, good grammar and your ability to express yourself.
- Don't forget to sign and date the application. Sounds simple, but experience shows that two or three out of every 10 applicants neglect to complete this part of the form.
- Tell the truth. Most employment applications end with the statement that any false answers or misrepresentations can be cause for termination. Most misleading information is uncovered during reference checks. ...

Source: Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations

WHAT'S ON HIS MIND?



He's Thinking About the Future. And So Are We.

He's thinking about the future. About his farm and his family. He wonders about the legacy he'll leave for future generations. He knows he has important environmental responsibilities. Starting with the quality of his family's drinking water. And extending to the water we all drink.

That's why we have prepared this Special Section especially for FFA members. It offers important information on protecting water

quality and following safe pesticide handling and use practices.

The crop protection industry also shows its continuing commitment to water quality protection through hundreds of individual company programs and jointly

sponsored efforts such as ACRE. Putting sound, factual information into the hands of people like you is the best way we know to preserve our rural heritage.

After all, it's up to you to mind the future.

This Special Report is sponsored by:



Monsanto

REMEMBER THE:



Safe Use of Ag Chemicals Involves More Than Luck

by Dr. John Thorne
Director, ACRE

Taking a little extra time to follow these commonsense tips can help protect you, your farm and the environment.

As anyone living and working on a farm knows, agricultural chemicals are an important part of managing crop production and ensuring healthy yields at harvest time. But just as crop yields can't be left to chance, neither can the safe use of ag chemicals.

That's why FFA members throughout the country have helped lead programs designed to improve handling practices and make sure farmers are applying the right amounts of ag chemicals. In one such project, the National FFA

teamed up with the Alliance for a Clean Rural Environment (ACRE) and Spraying Systems Co., to remind farmers to calibrate their application equipment each spring. These and other efforts help protect the environment as well as the farmer's investment in crop production inputs.

Agricultural chemicals have been an active part of the farming scene since the 1940s. Chances are, your granddad used them, and you and your dad use them today. But it's important that we not become too casual with them. Like any specialized technology, use of agricultural chemicals must be approached with a healthy measure of respect, caution and planning. Aside from applicator safety, it's also important to remember that your family's drinking water and your farm environment can be directly affected by how well you handle and apply ag chemicals.

As you carry out your crop production plans, take the extra time to follow ACRE's "Smart Seven" ag chemical management steps. If you have any questions or want more information, call ACRE's toll-free number (800) 545-5410.



Read the label.

The pesticide label is your key to proper product use. It holds a wealth of information, including the

levels for proper pest control under various conditions, the relative toxicity of the product, directions for safe mixing and application and any special environmental precautions. The label also lists the product manufacturer's name and address, required protective clothing, warnings about groundwater contamination and hazards to wildlife.

This information isn't advertising – it's solid science. Pesticide label information has been referred to as some of the most expensive literature in the world! The products approved for crop use have traveled an incredible distance to reach their destination in your field. Each pesticide had to pass more than 120 safety and environmental tests required by the Environmental Protection Agency, taking eight to 10 years, at a cost to the manufacturer of \$35 million to \$50 million before earning its label. The pesticide you buy is the **one in 20,000** which has survived the journey from the chemist's laboratory to your farm!



Consider your soil and site characteristics.

Reducing soil erosion and protecting surface and groundwater are more important today than ever before. Your choice of tillage practice and pesticide can have a direct impact on the environment **and** your farm's bottom line. But, how do you go about making the choice? First, take a close look at your farm.

How would you describe your soil and land conditions? Do you farm highly erodible land? Is the soil's texture porous so that water moves through it rapidly? Or does silt, clay or organic matter readily bind ag chemicals? Is the depth to groundwater shallow? Are there wetlands, streams or lakes nearby? Do your pesticide use plans protect

them and the wildlife they hold? Your answers will guide your choice of when, how, what and how much pesticide to apply.



Wear protective gear. Safety begins with the proper use of protective clothing and equipment.

Like any line of work or sports, you shouldn't tackle the use of ag chemicals until you're suited up with the right personal protective equipment. A respirator or goggles may seem uncomfortable, but protective clothing is designed for safety, not style or comfort. Read the label; it's your personal guide to safety.

During mixing, loading or applying chemicals, you might accidentally splash yourself with the product, so start by wearing a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and chemical resistant gloves. You should also wear high top shoes or boots...never sandals or sneakers! Even better, wear rubber boots or rubber shoe covers.

Another important but often forgotten piece of "safety equipment" is water. Keep a supply of clean water handy where chemicals are mixed and on any application equipment in the field. Be sure to carry an eyewash bottle, too. If you ever need it, you'll be glad you had a fresh supply handy.



Calibrate spray equipment.

After you've read the label and chosen the right product to apply, how can you be sure your spray equipment is delivering the right amount per acre? The only way to be certain is through routine calibration. Calibrating your sprayers makes more than good economic sense, it also helps protect our rural environment. A simple guide to quick calibration is available free from ACRE. Just call ACRE and ask for the Sprayer Calibration Fact Sheet and plastic pocket guide.



Prevent spills and backsiphoning.

Proper pesticide storage and secondary containment are important measures to contain spills that may occur. But how do you **prevent** them? By using common sense. It's very easy to take a hose from the nearest water spigot and run it into your spray tank for easy filling, but whenever you do this, you run the risk of spills and water contamination. How? If the tank is left unattended and overflows, you would be so close to your well that the spilled chemicals might end up in your drinking water. Also, when you put the end of the hose down into the liquid in the tank, you run the very real risk of backsiphoning – having the hose suck water and chemicals back into the well when you turn off the water.

You can prevent these serious mistakes by mixing and loading as far away from the well as possible. You may need to use a "water only" nurse tank for in-field mixing, or buy extra lengths of hose so you can mix a safe distance away from the well. Also, never put the hose down into the tank; keep the end of the hose above the chemical/water level in the tank and always pull the hose completely out of the tank before turning off the water. And never leave a tank unattended during filling.



Use conservation tillage methods.

After heavy spring rainstorms, runoff from cropland can wash away valuable topsoil, nutrients and pesticides. This runoff can end up in wetlands, rivers, streams or groundwater. By using conservation tillage and best management practices, you can slow runoff and trap it on the field.

Steer clear of lakes, streams, wetlands, sinkholes and abandoned wells, too. Surface water and groundwater protection starts with you.



Properly rinse and dispose of containers. The difference between an empty ag chemical container and a properly rinsed empty ag chemical container is that one is considered hazardous and one is not. Improperly rinsed pesticide containers will not be accepted by sanitary landfills – and most states prohibit burning them.

So, how can you best rinse the containers to avoid a problem? Probably the fastest, most efficient and convenient rinse method is pressure rinsing. Special hose-end attachments are available which easily puncture plastic and metal containers, producing a forceful spray inside the container. By holding the container over the opening to the spray rig while rinsing, the rinse water can be captured as it drains from the container spout. Manual rinsing methods, such as triple rinsing, are also effective.

And what do you do with the container once it's rinsed? One option is container collection and recycling. Several programs are being organized in a number of states as pilot programs. Call ACRE for more information about recycling programs near you. Or contact your local ag chemical dealer.

That's it. Seven steps to wise management of ag chemicals. Follow these Smart Seven every time you use ag chemicals and you'll be doing your part for a clean rural environment – and a healthy bottom line for your farm. ■

What is ACRE?



ACRE is a vital information resource on water quality, agriculture and environmental policy, safe pesticide use practices and other concerns impacting farmers, dealers, consumers and the environment.

For fact sheets on any of the topics discussed in this article, call ACRE's toll-free number (800-545-5410).



Blaine Jorgenson researched ways to reduce farm chemical use.

This FFA Member researched a problem of global proportions and says part of the solution may lie in our own backyards

Backyard Solutions

By Shirley Sokolosky

Blaine Jorgenson respects the earth. Growing up on a 1200-acre farm outside Williston, North Dakota, he was taught that farmers are caretakers of the land. Like many others, he is concerned about the possibility of contaminated water, and whether farm chemicals contribute to the problem.

Jorgenson's upbringing was the foundation for his nationally recognized agriscience project about groundwater safety. A crop problem on the Jorgenson farm actually spurred his thinking, along with a suggestion from his father that soil, chemicals and a few water supply are subjects very much on the minds of Americans.

"We had some chemical damage to some wheat," says Jorgenson. Though it wasn't severe he was puzzled that it oc-

curred in a wet spot. "You'd think the water would take the chemical down through the ground," he says, thus sparing the plants. Evidently that wasn't the case, and a project was born. Perhaps something

in the soil prevented the chemical from moving downward. Was this a way to keep chemicals out of the underground water supply?

Jorgenson began his project by "hypothesizing." He made an assumption and then set out to prove or disprove it. He hypothesized that chemicals would be less likely to "leach" or move downward through the soil if there were

higher percentages of organic matter like humus. Humus is decomposed animal or vegetable matter and exists in the soil in varying amounts. Chemicals are attracted to or have an "affinity" for organic matter.

As he gathered the information, Jorgenson said he was dogged by a nagging fear: "Is this project really practical? There are so many other things in the soil that can affect the chemicals."

But the knowledge he had about how chemicals react in the soil convinced Jorgenson he was doing important work.

The testing of chemicals only took a couple of weeks. Using a mixture of charcoal, which is pure carbon, as organic matter and sand, Jorgenson filled two-foot sections of plastic pipe. These he called "soil columns." He then mixed the chosen chemicals with water, poured them into the columns and collected the leached water. The water was put on plants, and the plants were studied to find out which water had carried the most residues.

Jorgenson says he found a clear relationship between the amount of organic matter and how much chemical made its way to the bottom of the soil. Such results were exciting for Jorgenson, he says this means that in the future, chemicals may be formulated for soil types and farmers can know how a chemical will behave once it has been applied.

Everyone concerned with the water safety problem could benefit, believes Jorgenson, especially farmers. Being able to use just the amount of chemicals they need, says Jorgenson, may help farmers convince the public that they do care about conservation and the environment.

...

Jorgenson's project took him to the 1990 National FFA Convention as a regional finalist.

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

Through Japanese Eyes

During their tour of Japan, the national officers asked students, teachers and business executives what they thought of Americans

By Paul Vaughn

Americans workers are lazy. They lack pride in the products they produce. Does the average Japanese citizen *really* think of us this way? Well...maybe, but they also seem to think some pretty positive things too.

Take a look through Japanese eyes. What you see may surprise you.

Milk...It Does A Body Good

The Japanese view American young people as being very handsome and healthy. They admire the physical stature of Americans and often speak of how the Japanese are trying to improve their diet to improve their health and growth. It is a general perception that Americans look good because they drink milk. (Many Japanese try to include milk in their diet although they prefer American soft drinks.)

Just Say No To Imports?

On the flip side, there is almost universal agreement among the Japanese people that most Japanese products are superior to those produced in America. This is especially true for American automobiles. The national officers found this attitude about all American products surprising as many United States items are top sellers. The younger generation especially tend to admire American culture. For example, American clothing, computers, music and movies are number one sellers in Japan.

The Japanese consume many American foods, including \$1 billion of McDonald's products as well as \$1 billion of Coca Cola each year. If a product or



Photo by Coleman Harris

National officers went casual while touring the Asakusa Kannon Buddhist Temple in Tokyo. Their two-week trip in February was sponsored by Mitsui Grain Corporation and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. Tokyo. The officers explored agriscience technologies and international marketing policies of both the United States and Japan. "This was a great experience," says Lee Thurber, FFA president. "I wouldn't trade it for anything." Left to right, Lee Thurber, Wesley Barefoot, Shane Black, Louie Brown, Chad Luthro and Mike Stevenson.

service is considered good, it is often assumed that it was developed in Japan. Many of the Japanese youth were surprised to discover that 7-11 stores originated in the U.S.

Less Work, More Play

More and more young people in Japan are refusing to work at jobs they consider to be dangerous, dirty or difficult. Many companies visited by the officers spoke of the difficulty they had in recruiting workers. Quite a few businesses are reducing work hours and trying to improve working conditions and benefits.

Illegal immigrant numbers are increasing as they seek out jobs that many Japanese now refuse to perform. Many Japanese also feel they are working too hard, should decrease their work hours and spend more time in leisure activities.

Help Wanted—In Agriculture

Agricultural businesses in Japan admire the FFA and our agricultural education programs. Middle-aged Japanese agribusiness officials are not happy that few Japanese students are choosing agricultural careers. It is a general perception that Japan will have to depend more and more upon the rest of the world to produce its agricultural products.

A Matter Of Taste

Americans have different standards for many agricultural export products than the Japanese. For example, Japanese agribusiness firms prefer high moisture corn, while much of the corn produced in the U.S. is dried to a low-moisture content. Still, most of the corn and soybeans processed by food and feed processing plants in Japan comes from the U.S. ...

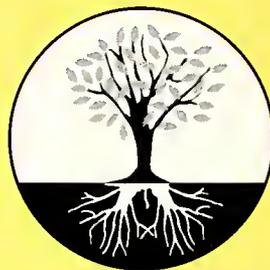
Up With Agricu

Writing Contest Winners

What is your role in preserving the environment? These top four essay winners answered this question with style and intelligence...and all in 100 words or less.

National winner is Sarah Grant, Grass Valley, California. She receives \$500 as national winner and an additional \$50 for first place in her state.

Angela Stump, Blue Rapids, Kansas, placed second. Third and fourth place essay winners are Jeffrey Missling, Jeffers, Minnesota, and Brett M. Birchmeier, Chesaning, Michigan. Each of these FFA members will receive \$250 for placing in the top four.



My role in preserving the environment is to help children understand the value of every living creature on earth. I propose that from kindergarten through twelfth grade, a class exclusively about the environment be taught alongside reading and arithmetic. In so doing, children will be educated from an early age to realize the importance of a clean, healthy land.

Many adults are more involved with maintaining a particular lifestyle than overt concern for the environment. Children, in contrast, are innocent and idealistic—they seem to have a knack for determining right from wrong. What they learn when they are young, I guarantee, will stay with them forever.

National Winner

Sarah Grant, 15
Nevada Union FFA Chapter
Grass Valley, California
Advisor, Jim Drew



My role in preserving the environment becomes apparent as I stare into the burning fire. The flames dance in what seems an endless pattern. When one is gone another replaces it.

Our environment is very similar to the fire. We have enjoyed what seems to be an endless supply of resources, when one is gone another has always been there to replace it.

Now the fire grows dim. I must learn to conserve, recycle, and restore our natural resources. Then I must educate and persuade others to do the same. If not the eternal flames of our environment will be extinguished.

Second Place

Angela Stump, 17
Valley Heights FFA Chapter
Blue Rapids Kansas
Advisor, Dan Palmateer

My role in preserving the environment is to educate, identify and promote. As an FFA member, I must educate others about the agricultural products we purchase, market and consume. I must identify, where possible, products that have a positive impact on waste disposal. I must also make every possible effort to promote the sale of environmentally friendly consumer goods. Ways of implementing the above ideas, as related to the agricultural industry, include reading labels, planting trees, recycling used motor oil, using non-aerosol products, recycling old chemical jugs and using fuel which contains ethanol.

Third Place

Jeffrey Missling, 21
Storden-Jeffers FFA Chapter
Jeffers, Minnesota
Advisor, Gerald Dammann



My role in preserving the environment is..."Think Globally, Act Locally." This phrase illustrates that to preserve the environment, we must recognize the global impact of our local actions.

Preserving the environment can not be done by the national government or by big industries alone; it must be done on an individual level. Each individual must take responsibility in reducing waste, reusing resources, and recycling.

Along with these individual responsibilities, the greatest role I can play is becoming active and taking a leadership position locally. By setting an example, educating, and encouraging others, I, in cooperation with others, can make a lasting impact in our environment's preservation.

Fourth Place

Brett M. Birchmeier, 18
New Lothrop FFA Chapter
Chesaning, Michigan
Advisor, Robert Taylor



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

One Moment in Time



Photo courtesy of STAR TRIBUNE Minneapolis-St. Paul

Mrs. Karen Thompson says she hopes her son John's accident will help others realize how much inner strength you can find in a crisis.

John Thompson's accident brings national attention to farm safety

By Lynn Hamilton

It took less than a second to change John Thompson for the rest of his life.

During that terrifying moment on Jan. 11, 1992, the 18-year-old FFA member's arms were ripped off when he slipped on some ice and fell onto a whirling grain auger shaft while he was unloading barley.

John's mother, Karen Thompson, says, "I don't even think John really knows what happened. He remembers going around [the shaft] and hitting his back. When it was over, and he realized his arms were gone, I knew if he didn't do something he would die."

Most of the nation has heard his extraordinary story of survival—how the teenager from Hurdsfield, North Dakota, ran bleeding 400 feet to the house, used

his mouth to open the door, dialed for help with a pencil between his teeth, and waited for the life squad in the bathtub so he wouldn't get blood on his mother's carpet. When the ambulance came, he reminded the shocked emergency squad to retrieve his severed arms and told them where they could find garbage bags and ice to pack them in.

After being rushed to a nearby medical center, John was airlifted to North Memorial hospital in Minneapolis, where his arms were reattached in a six-hour operation that turned out to be one of the few successful double-arm reattachments ever done in the United States. *People Magazine*, CNN, ABC, NBC and scores of other media have spread the word of his courage and recovery to the nation. More

than 20,000 contributions have flooded in from every state and several countries.

An Accident Epidemic

Though John's story has been told repeatedly, the mainstream media has not covered the pressing issue of the dangers of farming and how it affects people of all ages. Thompson is now one of approximately 130,000 people who will suffer serious injuries from farm accidents in the United States this year. In 1990, about 1,300 people ranging from toddlers to grandparents were killed on the farm.

John Shutske, extension agricultural safety specialist at the University of Minnesota, is one who is concerned that the media has overshadowed this crucial issue. "The media has highlighted what

an unusual accident this is," he says. "But in rural areas, almost everyone knows of a neighbor, relative or friend who has been seriously hurt."

The Thompsons have tried to be careful on their 1,600 acre-farm, but the statistics caught up with them. Shutske says that nationally, about one in seven farm families will experience a serious injury *per year*. "It's a substantial part of the farm population that's affected by this problem," he says. Tractors and farm machinery account for more than half of the serious injuries.

Mrs. Thompson and her husband Larry had every confidence in their son's ability on the farm. "Larry has always said he could walk away from the farm and John could take care of it," she says. So on that Saturday morning, while his parents were visiting a sick relative in Bismark 90 miles away, no one worried about John working alone.

What contributed to the terrible chain of events was the missing shield on the auger shaft, which would have covered the shaft's deathly speed of about 500 revolutions per minute. "There was a plastic tube covering the shaft," says Mrs. Thompson. "With the North Dakota winters though, it freezes and cracks. It has been replaced before, but you can't keep up with it.

"An accident is an accident—we don't plan for these things to happen," she says. She thinks the economy plays a role in the dangers of farming. "Farmers run older machinery because we can't afford new equipment, so we work in more dangerous conditions."

Safety specialist Shutske agrees. "As long as we have old equipment that's not up to standard in safety technology, education about safety can only go so far. It will take time to overcome the problem."

But he believes people who work on farms can make choices to help avoid accidents, such as putting guards on PTO shafts, installing roll-over protection on tractors and not allowing children to ride on tractors or other machinery.

Shutske says that FFA members can and do help raise awareness about farm safety in their communities. "When a community really rallies around a cause like farm safety, many times it's because FFA chapters or 4-H clubs have taken it on as a project." He adds, "I really encourage young people like your members to get involved and jump into it." You can get

information on safety from extension offices, insurance companies and machinery manufacturers, says Shutske.

Thompson's story is sure to affect many people, but Shutske notes that the media has focused mainly on the positive aspects—the fact that he got help, had his arms reattached and seems to be doing well.

The Pain Goes On

But John has had more operations than his mother can keep track of, and the doctors aren't really sure how much use he will have of his arms. His life, like so many farm accident victims, is changed forever.

"John said he's having nightmares about farm machinery," his mother says. "Thinking about going home brings back a lot of memories for him." John, a senior, will probably graduate on time and has been tutored to help catch up with the schoolwork he's missed while recovering.

During a press conference at the hospital in early February, John said, "It's scary.

YOU might not be so lucky

John Thompson had several things going for him that not every farm accident victim is able to take advantage of, says John Shutske, extension agricultural safety specialist at the University of Minnesota.

The first is that he was conscious and able to think clearly enough to get help. Mrs. Thompson notes, "Like John says, 'In the face of crisis, if you can just try to keep your head.'" That helped him to get timely medical care. Shutske says that many rural victims aren't so lucky.

"Time is really critical, and it compounds the seriousness in rural areas," he says. An hour or more can elapse between a call for help and getting a patient to a hospital, time that can be crucial to a patient's survival.

Another is a rural life squad's ability to deal

not knowing how much use I'm going to have of my arms...the things I won't be able to do now...the big changes I'll have to make in my life."

Mrs. Thompson says John is uncertain what he will do after graduation. He has applied to several colleges, but might put off his decision until he knows how much he can do with his arms. He has a strong interest in music, and also loves to work with animals and be outside.

Back home in Hurdsfield, where John

is a member of the Bodon FFA Chapter, the agricultural education instructor knows that his 17 students have been affected by John's accident. "I know it's made them more aware," he says. "They understand he was one of the lucky ones." Farm safety is taught to freshman early in the school year, and is emphasized year-round in shop. The agricultural instructor says, "From a teacher's standpoint, more time will be spent on farm safety, just to get across the point."

Classmate Jesse Suckut, 18, works with his father on the family grain farm. He says John's misfortune has made him more aware of how dangerous farm machinery can be. "You really don't realize how you can be hurt by that PTO [power take-off]," he says. "I'm sure I'll be a lot more cautious."

John's story might have already saved one life. A young boy in Arkansas recently got his hands caught in a feed grinder while feeding chickens, and lost both hands. "He remembered hearing about John and used his mouth to get out

with farm accidents. In Thompson's case, the emergency squad knew that to save his arms, they would have to be packed in ice. But many times, squads haven't been trained to deal with the special problems of farm accidents. "If there's a 25,000 pound tractor on top of a person that's still running, that presents a new danger," Shutske says. He works with emergency squads around Minnesota, training them to respond to various types of farm injuries.

The type of health care in rural areas is also an issue in dealing with farm accidents. "John Thompson was fortunate to come to the Twin Cities," Shutske says. "In a rural area, people may or may not have access to quality health care."

of the building and get help from his father," says Mrs. Thompson, who had received a letter from the boy's family.

Mrs. Thompson hopes that her son's accident will help others to realize how much inner strength a person can find in a crisis situation. "Too many times we give up before we give ourselves a chance," she said. "I hope somebody can learn something from this and perhaps it will help them." ●●●



By Lawinna McGary

Putting His Idea On The Map

One member introduces a revolutionary plan for new FFA regions

Don't tell Bruce Scammon something can't be done, unless you'd like to see it happen. After breaking both kneecaps in gym class, two years later he was running track. People told him, you'll never run again...but he did.

As a senior he wanted to build a 1,000 gallon aquaculture tank. Some said it would never happen. This fall the tank will be the centerpiece of New Hampshire's first high school aquaculture class.

Even so, when he wanted to set up new regions for FFA, some people were skeptical at first. Some said it just wasn't possible to have the same number of states and members in each region.

After all, others had tried. National FFA staff came up with two options—one focused on equal state numbers and the other on equal membership numbers but they couldn't find a way to make one plan meet both guidelines.

Scammon is the New Hampshire FFA president and was getting ready to serve as a delegate to the national convention last November.

"I just had this feeling that unless I came up with a plan, delegates at the national convention would vote for the proposal that only had equal membership," Scammon says. "Since only one national officer candidate per state can

Every so often we'll feature someone in 'Profiles In Courage'. Do you know an FFA member who's taken a stand on an issue or project...or one who is leading despite some tough challenges?

We're looking for people who are making positive things happen within their community, family or school.

If you know someone who fits this description, please print their name, phone number (with area code), and details of what they did and send the information to Profiles In Courage, FFA New Horizons, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA, 22309-0160.

run, and there would be 19 or 20 states in the Eastern region and either five or six states from the Western region, it would be a lot more difficult for anyone from our region to become a national officer." This made Scammon uneasy, because, "My ultimate goal was to have true equity."

Armed with a list of regions and state-by-state membership numbers, Scammon boarded his flight to the Kansas City convention. He found a United States map in the airline's magazine and sketched out new regional possibilities. Getting just the right combination took three to four hours.

Figuring and refiguring the numbers was frustrating at times Scammon says, but he just knew it had to work. "I've seen my father, who used to be speaker of the house in New Hampshire, work 23 hours a day for three weeks to balance a budget during a year that we had a deficit. That made me realize that there's always a way to accomplish something."

Finally, towards the end of the flight, Scammon had a plan he thought would work. "I presented it to the Pennsylvania delegation on the plane. They seemed to like it."

That was a good sign. But the work was just beginning.

While unpacking his bags, Scammon explained his ideas to his roommate.

Before, after and during dinner he spoke to delegates, FFA staff and other members.

Then he presented his plan to delegates on the National Equity Subcommittee.

Everywhere he went, in elevators and hotel hallways, Scammon talked to people about possible new regions. By 2 a.m. he and a fellow delegate finally finished writing the proposal.

The next day, Scammon presented the 'new improved' version of his plan to the subcommittee. He skipped lunch and went to the *FFA Times* office (FFA's National Convention newspaper) to design a U.S. map with his new regions.

That afternoon, subcommittee chairman Kellee Jones from Utah presented the proposal to the next level, the National Equity Committee. Scammon was there to field questions.

Later on in the evening and the next morning he kept pitching his plan to delegates and state staff.

Just two days after Scammon conceived of new regions for FFA, Membership Development Committee Chairman Andrew Lacy, Ohio, presented them to the delegates. Scammon says he was nervous, but not for long. The delegates voted almost unanimously in favor of the plan.

"It has really raised my confidence level in everything I do," says Scammon. "I've found that all it takes to get a lot out of an experience is to give a little bit extra of yourself."

What's Next With These New Regions?

After the convention delegates passed Scammon's plan, it went on to the National Board of Directors for their approval in January. They decided to find out what state staff, advisors, state officers and other FFA members thought before they passed the proposal.

This is where you come in. Take a look at the United States map below. How would you like regions to be organized? (The number of FFA members in each state and affiliate is listed to help you decide.)

Get together with your advisor and chapter, draft a plan and send it to your national FFA officer by June 1, 1992. They'll make sure to include your input at the July board meeting.

Everybody Into The Pool!

Changes in the way proficiency awards are judged will make a difference in how regions should be set up. Right now only one person from each of the four regions goes on to national competition. Beginning in 1993,

national winners in proficiency and most award areas will be selected from a pool of all state winners. For example, if every state and association selects a beef production proficiency winner there will be 54 entries at the national level instead of the usual four. Pool judging puts the emphasis on the best individual effort instead of on geographic representation. Top entries in the nation are recognized no matter what region they are from.

After 1993, the only things still affected by regions will be national officer, national board of directors and board of trustees selections.

As always each state will be able to enter one national officer candidate. Each region will have one national vice president and the president and secretary can come from any of the regions.

The national Board of Directors will have one representative per region. These same representatives, plus two state FFA executive secretaries (from alternating regions) will be on the Board of Trustees.



Associations And Affiliates	1990-1991 Membership				
Alabama	22,469	Indiana	7,260	Nevada	580
Alaska	121	Kansas	5,165	New York	4,373
Arizona	2,878	Kentucky	11,451	Ohio	15,788
Arkansas	12,524	Louisiana	9,082	Oklahoma	18,926
California	32,668	Massachusetts	778	Oregon	3,719
Colorado	2,640	Maryland	1,563	Pennsylvania	7,618
Connecticut	1,238	Maine	190	Puerto Rico	2,439
District Of Columbia	70	Majuro - Marshall Islands	37	Rhode Island	221
Delaware	1,017	Michigan	4,859	South Carolina	4,220
Florida	11,011	Minnesota	8,741	South Dakota	3,001
Kosrae and Yap	374	Missouri	13,503	Tennessee	11,672
Georgia	10,503	ROTA-Mariana Islands	19	Texas	46,330
Guam	229	Mississippi	6,677	Utah	3,020
Hawaii	413	Montana	1,889	Virginia	11,253
Iowa	8,722	North Carolina	13,621	Virgin Islands	140
Idaho	3,258	North Dakota	3,926	Vermont	470
Illinois	11,361	Nebraska	4,744	Washington	7,304
		New Hampshire	737	Wisconsin	15,164
		New Jersey	1,443	West Virginia	4,593
		New Mexico	3,265	Wyoming	1,471

MADE IN U.S.A.

These winners built their own one-of-a-kind custom trucks

Anybody can buy a truck from the factory," says first place Custom Truck Contest winner, Neil Yung, from the Brunswick, Missouri, FFA chapter. "This way by building my own truck I decided I would be different."

It worked. Yung says his truck is so unique, "everybody knows me everywhere I go."

What is now a 1972 Chevrolet, began as just four wheels. Yung, who has worked in his family's body shop for years, did all the painting, body work and mechanical work himself. "I bought parts and put it together from there," says Yung. "I started when I was 13 and a half years old and finished the day before I was 16." To make sure his truck was ready for its driving debut, Yung worked on his truck at least seven hours a day for two weeks before his birthday.

"I wanted to quit several times, but I had to have it done. When I start something I have to finish it," says Yung.

A senior, Yung is starting on a new project for college. Soon everybody on campus at the



Neil Yung's 1972 Chevrolet won first place. "I've won three car shows with it so far and I've only been to three," says Yung.



Custom Truck Contest sponsor Big A Auto Parts will award Neil with a 3-Drawer Professional Mechanic's Deep Chest Tool Box.



To the left is second place winner Toby Toombs. This 16-year-old worked with his dad to build a 1957 Chevy stepside pickup. Below is Shannon Pugh's 1956 Ford. He won third place with the truck he calls "Bull Of The Woods." Custom Truck Contest sponsor FFA Ventures Supply Service Marketing Group will provide a sterling silver plate belt buckle for Toombs, and a silver plate key ring for Pugh. Both items are available from the Supply Service Catalog.



University of Missouri at Columbia will know him. Yung will be the guy driving a 1966 convertible Supersport Impala.

Puzzling Pieces

What do you get when you put parts from three old trucks and two cars into one vehicle—Bits and Pieces—that's what Toby Toombs calls his '57 Chevy he and his dad put together during 18 months of mix and match.

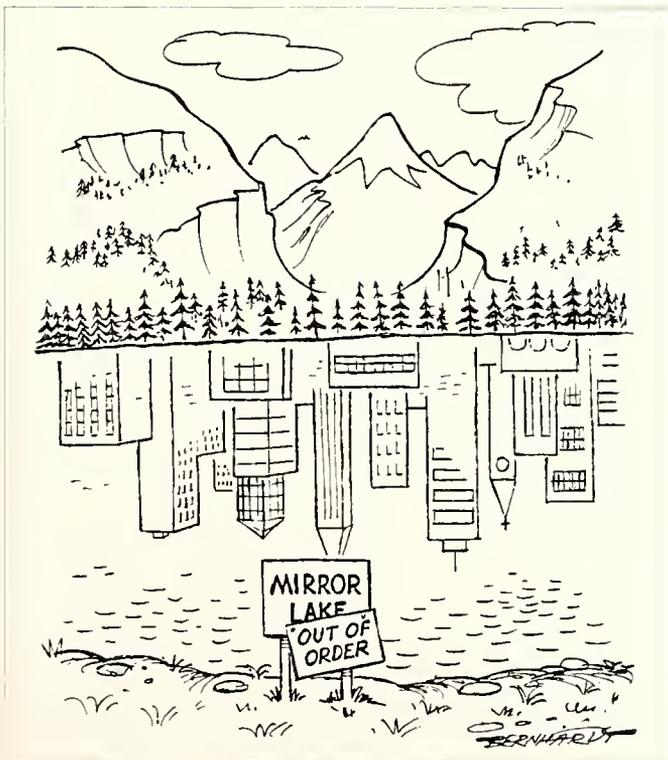
Says Toby, an FFA member from Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, "it took some time, but we [dad and I] believe it is worth it."

Special features of the truck include: a manicured 1974 Chevrolet 350 cubic inch engine with a 465 lift/282 Summit cam. Power is transferred through a Turbo 350 with a TCI Saturday Night Special torque converter.

Only One Color Will Do

"One day when I was five I saw a yellow pickup truck. Ever since then I've wanted a yellow truck too." Ten years later Shannon Pugh, Hillcrest High School Blue FFA member from Evergreen, Alabama, started working on his dream. "I bought the 1956 Ford in 1990, and drove it for two weeks in its original form. Then my father and I stripped it all." It took two years before Shannon was totally satisfied with his yellow truck.

Although he says someday he might sell the truck, "for the right price," he plans to keep it for awhile. "It's really special because my dad and I worked on it together." The name of the truck is special too, he adds, "I call it the 'Bull Of The Woods' because that's what my great grandfather called me." ...



You are the star!

1992 Farmland Youth Leadership Conference William Jewell College Liberty, Missouri - June 1-6, 8-13, 15-20



Main Attractions:

Many opportunities – team projects, workshops and hands-on experience – to learn all about the Farmland Cooperative System. And just for fun, a trip to Worlds of Fun Theme Park.

Eligibility:

Single boys and girls, 15-18 who have completed their freshman year in high school and are able to attend *all* sessions and events.

Registration:

\$250 covers on-campus lodging, meals, materials, & souvenir photo. (Transportation excluded.)

Qualified

Sponsors:

Double Circle Cooperative Boards. FFA, FHA and 4-H chapters. Chambers of commerce and city council. Self-sponsorship is an option.

To apply:

Contact a local Double Circle Co-op, call:

**1-800-821-8000
Ext. 6381** or write:

Farmland Industries, Inc.,
Dept. 137,
P.O. Box 7305,
Kansas City, Missouri
64116.

CHAPTER SCOOP



The John I. Leonard FFA Chapter, **Florida**, is helping to clean up a wildlife park including cleaning out the poison ivy growing on the paths.

Midway, **North Carolina**, FFA has started a recycling project for the whole school.

Yuma, **Arizona**, FFA Chapter also has a plan, but they extended it to include the community. Anyone who has paper or cans can bring them to the agriculture department or ask an FFA member to stop by and pick them up.



The Deer Valley FFA Chapter in Phoenix, **Arizona**, held a pumpkin carving contest after the October meeting. The contest was a huge success as members got to know each other, developed leadership skills, learned to work and organize as a team and had a lot of competitive fun. As advisor *Thompson* walked into the shop to film the activities, a pumpkin seed was tossed his way which prompted a pumpkin seed fight.

When El Dorado Springs, **Missouri**, tried to start a recycling effort for classrooms of their school, they ran into some challenges like where to take the paper (nearest was 80 miles away) and what to put it in (FFA got extra boxes from local businesses).

The new classroom computer used by the Eastland, **Illinois**, FFA was purchased with money received from a state grant.

FFA members in Webberville, **Michigan**, are helping elementary students enrolled in Project Pals, the new mentoring program where FFA members help younger students with school work, peer pressure and other challenges.

When Torrington, **Wyoming**, members attended the mid-winter state fair, they organized their own "pick of the litter" contest. Each member chose the two pigs from each market swine class they thought would finish first and second. *Bev Marlatt* won.

Scott McCoy sent in a "hot scoop" item about the Lakeland, **Indiana**, Chapter members building a new FFA barn on the school farm.

Tri-Point, **Illinois**, FFA judging teams won the first and second place at the county spring barrow show and junior judging contest. The blue ribbon team will be honored at the state pork producers expo.

Chapter officers of Jena, **Louisiana**, were presented new FFA jackets so they would represent the chapter well.

For Farm-City Week, the East Troy, **Wisconsin**, Chapter set up a petting zoo, cheese identification contest and an agricultural trivia board for elementary students.

Essex Chapter in **Massachusetts** held a "poultry" auction. The bill of sale ranged from finches to turkeys.

Members of the FFA in Wolfeboro, **New Hampshire**, are building a diorama for the state farm and forestry exposition. The theme is Stewardship: Caring for the Land.



The FFA chapter in Lander, **Wyoming**, has doubled their attendance at monthly meetings from the previous year by moving the meetings to the noon hour and providing a free lunch for all who attend.

At the annual Dade City, **Florida**, FFA Christmas bar-b-que, there was a collection point for toys and warm clothing.

Keep those "hot" ideas coming to the magazine. You can never tell when your chapter's great idea will make this Chapter Scoop page.

Bossie Heats Belcherville

Methane madness makes heroes of small town FFA members

The FFA members at Belcherville, Arkansas, have discovered a way to slash their high school's electricity bill and protect the environment at the same time.

"It's quite a slick operation when you think about it," relates Belcherville advisor Joe Bob Rumen. "We're able to slow down the 'Greenhouse effect,' provide high school agriculture students with a good lesson in agricultural engineering, and save the school thousands of dollars on their electric bill."

The 'slick operation' Rumen describes is an electricity power plant fueled by methane gas captured from, believe it or not, dairy cows.

Long ago scientists discovered that cattle produce methane through their digestive process. Between 15 percent and 20 percent of annual emissions worldwide come from cattle. Some people fear this methane adds to "global warming" of the planet.

But it's not a problem at Belcherville, where the cows' methane is bottled by a contraption made of pipes and tubes that seem to come straight from Willie Wonka's chocolate factory. All escaping methane vapors are captured by a series of old stove fans that hum quietly a few feet above each cow.

The methane gas is then converted to liquid alcohol and moved through a computerized fuel injection system that powers a 250 horsepower generator in the school's boiler room. The 20 milkers needed to make the operation work were donated by area farmers and brought in to the school's agriculture shop, where they



This FFA member is collecting a methane sample for use in researching a more efficient gas-to-liquid conversion ratio.

are cared for by FFA members.

"Our heating and cooling costs are only \$50 per month," Rumen brags. "That's what it costs to keep these girls in hay. We might even make a little with the income we get for the milk."

Newfound Popularity

Rumen and his troops are heroes to the other students and teachers at Belcherville. Their newfound popularity stems from the fact that school officials no longer worry about discontinuing extracurricular sports, since school maintenance costs have been cut to practically zero. "If it hadn't been for those FFA girls and boys, we wouldn't have had a team in the regionals last year," notes Belcherville football coach Jim Shorts. "The teachers

may even get raises this year!"

As for Rumen, he modestly defers credit to his FFA members—especially one Polly Gaston, a 14-year-old greenhand who dreamed up the methane conversion idea while sitting in a freshman livestock class last fall. It was Polly who calculated the precise ratios needed for the methane gas-to-liquid conversion.

"After we put the system together, it was a simple matter of finding a good steady source for the gas," says Polly, who grew up with cows on her family's dairy farm.

Polly says the cows were jumpy at first. They didn't take well to their new surroundings, especially when the school held fire drills. "They don't like their

(Continued on Page 38)

(Continued from Page 37)

routine interrupted," explains Polly.

Music Soothes The Savage Beast

Then she tried an idea offered by her dairy farmer-father: music for the herd. The rest, as they say, is history. Now the cows are content to munch their cud and chew their hay to the tunes of Garth Brooks and the Kentucky Headhunters. If the alcohol tank in the boiler room gets dangerously low, Polly puts a Prince CD in the shop's player and adds a little ginger ale to the cow's drinking water. "He gives me indigestion sometimes, too," she says simply. "No offense intended. The cows seem to like his older stuff better."

The power plant's emissions were checked and approved by the local Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Now some local businesses are interested in duplicating the system in their own shops. Rumen, however, has licensed the power plant exclusively to the Belcherville FFA chapter.

"I figure, if a local business wants to use this system, we'll just add a few more cows to the herd and run a line to their place," says Rumen. "After all, this is an educational activity."

And although Polly refuses to give the EPA her formula for the gas-to-liquid conversion, she has agreed to provide the information to other FFA members so they can set up their own methane-powered generators.

To keep the formula confidential, Polly made a simple code just for FFA members. Here it is.

With a pencil and paper, write Polly's initials, the letters FFA and the FFA motto. Leave plenty of space between letters. Next, number each letter. (Start by putting 1 and 2 below Polly's initials, and follow through to the end of the motto.) Your last number should be 55. The formula will be revealed when you write the letter that corresponds to each of these numbers: 5-1-9-11-39-3-15-17-25-51.

Good luck! And as the Belcherville cows might say, that's the end of this tale.

Example: P G F F A ...
1 2 3 4 5 ...

Sports Champions

By Chris Feaver

Blink. Not fast enough. Okay, now try it again, and blink as quickly as you can. Nope, still not fast enough.

No matter how hard you try, it's impossible to blink, snap your fingers, pick

just .02 of a second. Her 500-meter gold medal in the '92 Olympics was by the relatively comfortable margin of .18 of a second. Blair also won a bronze medal in the 1,000 meters in 1988.

While her gold-medal-winning margins may be small, there is nothing small about her dominance of the sport of speed-skating for the past several years. In the 1991-91 World Cup season entering the Olympics, Blair did not lose either a 500 or a 1,000-meter race. Since 1986, Blair has had 28 finishes among the top three, including 14 victories.

There are several reasons for this domination. Blair is considered to be the best technical skater, either man or woman, for the speedskating sprint distances. She also displays a fiercely competitive nature when she's on the ice. "She is a killer," says Blair's coach Peter Mueller.

But her competitive nature disappears off the ice. She is usually seen with a big smile on her face and perhaps a peanut-butter and jelly sandwich in her hand. She likes to eat them to settle her stomach before a race.

"I just love the sport. There is a lot of hard work that goes with it. It has brought a lot of joy to my life," says Blair.

Ever since her older brothers and sisters helped lace on a pair of old skates over her shoes when Blair was just two years old, there has been no question that she was born to skate. She quickly became a short-track skating whiz, while growing up in Champaign, Illinois, before turning to speedskating.

Her family was on hand in full force for the 1992 games. More than 45 friends and relatives made the trip to Albertville, rooting her on and serenading her with "My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean."

With her success, Blair has become a hero in the United States, a rare thing for a speedskater. Now she must decide if she wants to retire or go for some more gold in the '94 Olympic Games in Norway. If she does stay in the sport, there will be many competitors shooting to beat her. But to do so, they would have to make up that final .02 of a second. When racing Bonnie Blair, that is an eternity.



Bonnie Blair

up a carton of milk at the 7-11, or do most anything else in .02 of a second. But you can win a speed-skating race in .02 of a second (or 1/50 of a second if you prefer fractions). Just ask Bonnie Blair.

Blair, without question the greatest woman's speedskater in United States history, won her second and third Winter Olympic speedskating gold medals in Albertville, France. She was the first American woman ever to repeat a gold-medal performance in any event. No woman in either the Winter or Summer Olympics has ever won more gold medals than Blair.

She wins gold medals with regularity, but displays a knack for winning by the smallest of margins. Victories in both the 1,000-meter race in the 1992 Olympics and the 500-meter race in the 1988 Calgary Olympics, where she set a still-standing world-record of 39.10 seconds, were by

FFA IN ACTION

Georgia

Man-Made Snowflakes



When members finished the first piece of decoration for the holidays, they presented it to the mayor of Hazelhurst, front right.

The Jeff Davis, Georgia, Chapter assisted the city council and local leaders in providing additional Christmas decorations for the town. Businesses provided funds for the metal to build snowflakes to hang on utility poles.

FFA members assembled the snowflakes, a local company sandblasted them and other companies chipped in to paint them. Then members wired each flake with about 100 lights.

The snowflakes were ready

just in time for the Christmas season and made a beautiful attraction for the opening of the new one-way street in Hazelhurst.

FFA made 20 snowflakes as part of their BOAC project.

...

Indiana

Digging for Safety

In hopes of increasing knowledge on flowing grain safety and maybe saving a life, the Southern Wells, Indiana, FFA presented a safety demonstration for the community. *(From the National Chapter Award application)* ...



The training team "buried" two members, chest level, in grain and then the local rescue groups demonstrated accurate rescue procedures for the public to see.

...

California

Presidential Handshakes

The Fullerton, California, Chapter hosted National FFA President, Lee Thurber, during his January experience program. The national officers travel to two states each to meet members, speak with media, conduct school assemblies and prepare themselves for their year of service. Lee spoke to students and administrators and conducted a workshop on leadership for members from the region. ...

Chapter president Courtney Hunt, along with Anna Norris, reporter, left, and Alfredo Quintero, sentinel, right, offered a welcoming handshake to Lee when he arrived at the chapter.



Photo by Jack Hancock, Daily Star Progress

(Continued on Page 40)

FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 39)

Arizona "Mini-Market" Leadership Training

The seventh annual Peoria, Arizona, FFA mini-leadership camp for 300 FFA campers, 16 counselors and many parents, teachers and alumni was a Friday-Saturday night one-stop kinds of FFA leadership experience.

The event started at 6 p.m. when members from 20 nearby chapters registered in the agriculture building on the campus of Peoria High School on the northwest side of Phoenix. After registration, camp chairperson, Kelly Schuster, introduced the staff of Arizona state officers who went into action. For 20 minutes participants danced, sang and screamed as the officers lead the way. Right after this rousing opening campers were divided into eight groups for ice breakers to get to know one another.

After the mixers the whole camp was addressed by Tyson Stuhr, state president. His keynote address was centered around the camp's theme, "Window Shopping or Really Searching?" His challenge was to make a commitment to excellence during the 24 hours of the camp.

Friday evening concluded with reflection. Members were treated to music, videos and talks from current and former state officers—designed to help FFA members assess the nature of risk in their personal lives. Guest appearances were made by officers impersonating Arsenio Hall, Garth

Brooks, President Bush and even "Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf." By midnight most campers were ready for rest.

Early morning music and announcements at 5:30 a.m. Saturday proclaimed morning exercises and the preparations for flag raising and "thought for the day." Parents and alumni members served biscuits, gravy, bacon and eggs until campers were full.

The rest of Saturday morning was filled with workshops on topics like improving your chapter or setting personal goals. In the afternoon, members participated in the annual foot rodeo. During the rodeo members tossed water balloons, slid on homemade water slides and participated in one of the largest scavenger hunts ever held.

By 4 p.m. it was time to lower the flag, take photographs and proceed with the banquet to honor outstanding campers and recognize supporters for their assistance. (Hope Kamler) ...

Oregon

Beach Party Leadership



Perrydale members had their annual fun "in the sun" beach retreat and played mud football, hiked, climbed dunes, socialized and participated in a "snipe hunt."

A big part of the year for the Perrydale, Oregon FFA in Amity, and one of the most important activities conducted by the chapter is their leadership retreat on the Oregon coast.

Sessions are held on professionalism, tact, punctuality and organization for chapter members. The activity has helped the chapter produce top competitors in district and earn

a gold ranking in chapter recognition.

While having fun playing games and swimming at the coast for the two days, officers lead group sessions to discuss how to help each individual improve in every way; and to help other people become the best they can be. (From the National Chapter Award application) ...



Oklahoma

Sawhorse Grand Champion

The Ninnekah, Oklahoma, FFA new member initiation is always a fun event for the community. This year the 15 member class had to dress in costume. One new feature of the evening was a sawhorse competition. Members built wooden sawhorses and decorated them. Kim Whitlow, still in costume at right, constructed the grand champion sawhorse which resembled a Holstein cow complete with udder. In the fund raising auction, her sawhorse sold to Steve Calhoun, a local businessman and alumni member. Michael Mills, left, built the reserve grand champion sawhorse which he had decorated with agricultural mechanics tools drawn on the top and legs. Michael's sawhorse was purchased by his father, standing behind him. (Brandon Dunn, Reporter) ...

(Continued on Page 42)

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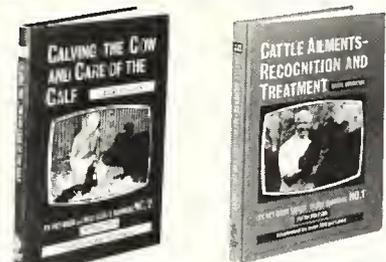
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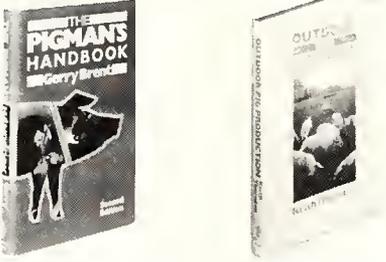
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FFA IN ACTION

Illinois "Missing" Students

The Heritage, Illinois, FFA Chapter's safety committee organized a schoolwide presentation on the dangers of drug and/or alcohol abuse focused mainly on drinking and driving.

The committee selected 25 students at random from the student body to be examples of how easily drinking and driving could take a student's life. A realistic time and cause of death were established for each one of these students. When the time came, the "grim reaper" would go to that student's classroom to take them to the "cemetery" (a room designated at the beginning of school). These students were then considered "deceased" and were kept in confinement where they would not be seen by any other students for the rest of the day.

The student body was informed at the start of the hour as to the circumstances of their "death."

Tombstones were made by the "deceased" students to be placed on the trophy case for additional recognition of the members who had "died."

At the beginning of the seventh hour, the student body assembled to hear Mrs. Tyanna Tozer speak. Her presentation was stern and cast a sombre mood over the student body.

Tozer was in an accident in May, 1988, that put her in a wheelchair. She lives with the memory that one man caused her so much pain and suffering for the rest of her life. The man who hit her vehicle was intoxicated. Since he was uninsured,

Illinois

Flowering Trees on the Expressway



City of Chicago Mayor, Richard Daley, met with a team of members and advisor Mrs. Shaw, who helped plant over 100 crabapple trees on the Dan Ryan Expressway in front of the new and old Comiskey baseball parks in Chicago. The students are FFA members at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Science. They were involved with planting nursery trees and maintenance at a city nursery near O'Hare Airport. ...

she has had to finance her medical bills of over \$250,000.

Despite the hardship, Tozer is currently working toward her Ph.D at the University of Illinois. And although her promising basketball dreams at a former college were crushed, she has taught herself to succeed in wheelchair basketball.

This safety program had a great impact on the students at Heritage. Throughout the following days, students were continuing their conversations about how they were impressed with the program. The program made students ponder about the seriousness and dangers of drinking, driving or use of any other drugs. After all it could really happen to anyone. *(Kent Downs and Dan Ellis)*

Kentucky

Downhill All the Way



With the support of their local Alumni affiliate, the Scott County, Kentucky, FFA Chapter headed east on a ski trip to Blue Knob, Pennsylvania in January. They were hosted by Robert Cox, executive director of the National FFA Alumni. After skiing, the 16 students, three Alumni and two advisors went on to Washington, D.C., for an educational tour and visited the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

Get To Know

Wesley Barefoot



Wesley L. Barefoot

The dirt road was crawling with cars and trucks. They were everywhere...in front of the house, in the driveway, and even pulled up in the yard. All these people gathered just outside of Dunn, North Carolina, to take part in a tragedy.

It was auction day for Wesley Barefoot, his family and their farm. It only took a few hours, he says, and then, "everything we had worked for all of our lives was sold."

Although he was only 10 years old, Wesley remembers his favorite tractor, a 4620 John Deere, being loaded onto a truck. "I really liked that tractor, and I knew it would never return. That meant a lot to me," says Wesley. "I was scared. It hurt to watch my family and to see the emotions." Memories of the auction cut a deep wound for Wesley.

"But we still had our health and family," he says. Two years later Wesley almost lost these things too.

He didn't see it coming. He doesn't remember the pickup truck smashing his side of the car...the glass and metal slicing his face or the ambulance ride to the hospital. All doctors could do in Dunn was clean the wound, pray, and hope Wesley survived another ambulance ride to Duke Medical Center. At that point, says Wesley's dad, "I could have laid my hand inside his face. We weren't sure if he would live or die."

When Wesley woke up in the hospital he remembers only one thing. "I was scared. My face was bandaged, and I

could hear people talking about the scar I would have."

One hundred eighty stitches closed his severed face. The mass of metal and glass had come fractions of an inch from cutting the muscles that control facial and eye movement. One-eighth of an inch lower and Wesley never would have been able to smile again.

Wesley, now 19, has farmed on his own and operates a cotton picker repair business, but he often thinks of the day his family's farm went bankrupt, and of the day he almost died. He says the ordeals shaped his life and determined his direction. "I've wondered what would have happened if there was no auction sale. I don't know if I would have farmed by myself or if I would have

become a national officer. Maybe spending some of that energy of doing things on my own developed me. I think my life would have been changed. I probably wouldn't have been as independent. I would have had a job working at the farm. But since that didn't exist anymore, I knew I had to get out on my own to do things I enjoy."

As a 14-year-old, Wesley set out to create the job and income he wanted. He talked his dad into signing for a \$3,500 loan for him.

With the money he bought a 1963 Ford 2000 tractor and all the two-row equipment that went with it.

Next Wesley rented 20 acres of land and grew cotton. "I did everything from



12-year-old Wesley displays some of his favorite John Deere toy tractors. He has more than 200 in his collection.

planting to marketing. Dad advised me, but I did 100 percent of everything," he says.

Farming fit Wesley. He won first place in the national fiber crop proficiency contest in 1988. The next year he and his brother Glenn farmed 50 acres together. The two bought a cotton picker and harvested cotton for other farmers.

Soon Glenn took over production duties, and Wesley went into the cotton picker repair business full time.

All of this experience in the 'real world' of business helped Wesley assume leadership positions in FFA. "My business prepared me for learning how to deal with different situations," says Wesley. "It gave me the confidence to know I can start and finish projects on my own.

"And having the wreck...coming so close to death...made me realize it's important to try to find out what you want, and to go after it now." ...

•After the bankruptcy, Wesley's father, Joseph, worked for the auction company that sold their farm, and in the custom cotton picking business. His mom Shelby, became a department store manager in home furnishings.

•Wesley's cotton picker repair business in Dunn, North Carolina, kept growing. It now employs four people, two full-time and two part-time. His dad is running the business while Wesley is on the road.

•Wesley plans to major in agricultural business management at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

J O K E P A G E

Q: How do you drive a Greenhand crazy?

A: Give them a box of M&M's and tell them to alphabetize them.

Angela Myers
Bonifay, Florida



"Although I admire your ambition, I think you should try fetching a smaller stick."

There was once a couple, and the wife was constantly telling her husband, "If it wasn't for my money, we wouldn't have this and that, or such and such."

On their honeymoon, she said, "If it wasn't for my money, we wouldn't be here."

When they bought the house, she said, "If it wasn't for my money, we couldn't buy this house."

One day, while the husband was driving their car, the wife said, "If it wasn't for my money, we wouldn't have this nice car."

Finally, the husband turned to his wife and blurted, "If it wasn't for your money, you wouldn't have me!"

Terry Lee Sherron
Portland, Tennessee

Q: Where do tough chickens come from?

A: Hard boiled eggs.

Jessica Fritzler
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Bubba: "Take a look at this puzzle I just finished."

Lisa: "Really! How long did it take you?"

Bubba: "A year."

Lisa: "It took you a year to put that easy puzzle together?"

Bubba: "Hey, that's better than most people. The side of the box said 2-4 years."

Lee Haak
Harlingen, Texas

Romeo: "What is the least expensive animal to feed?"

Angela: "What?"

Romeo: "A giraffe. When it eats, it makes a little food go a long way."

Sherome Ward
Union, Mississippi

A tornado hit a farmhouse in the mid-west, lifted the roof off and picked up the bed the farmer and his wife were sleeping in. It whirled it into the air and sat it down gently three counties away.

The wife promptly started crying.

"Now, now," soothed the husband, "don't cry, we're safe and uninjured, don't be afraid."

"I'm not crying because I'm afraid," she said, "I'm crying because I'm so happy. This is the first time we've been out together in 14 years!"

Mollie Padgett
West Union, West Virginia

Q: What do you call cows with a sense of humor?

A: Laughing stock!

Lynn Garcia
Industry, Texas

Charlie, the Greenhand



"I'm afraid to give this report card to my father in person so I'll FAX it to his office."

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