

The National Future Farmer

August-September, 1988



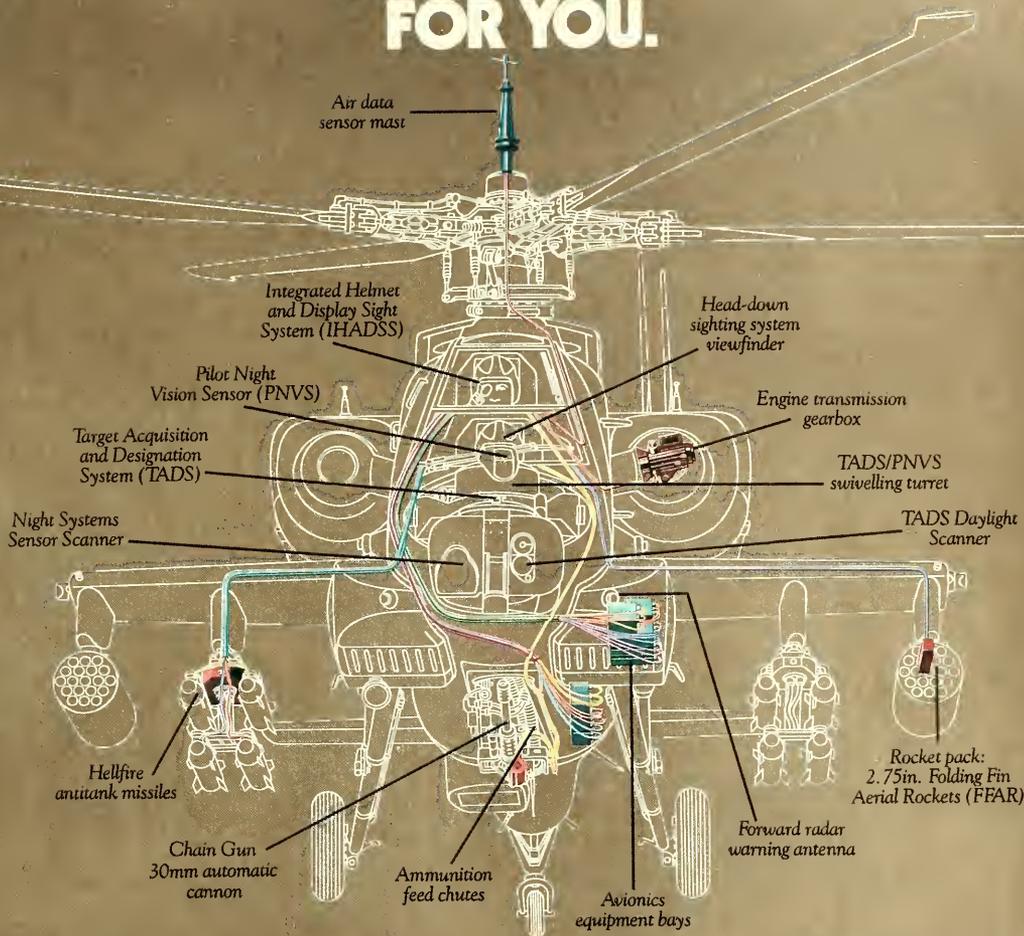
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14

Cover Story

14 *Rodeo!*

Tee Jay Miller of Ashby, Nebraska, tells of the intense, exciting and unpredictable world of competitive rodeo. On the cover, Tee Jay takes a break from barrel racing with her horse, Joe. Photo by Andrew Markwart.



20

FFA

16 *Making the Grade Across the Ocean*

Two students, a German and an American, tell what it's like to attend school in the other's country.

44 *FFA Takes Pride in America*

The Oak Ridge Boys talk about their role in helping to preserve the environment and how FFA members can help.



22

Careers

20 *Which Way Do I Go?*

Some points to think about when choosing a college.

Member Features

18 *Farming in the 1990s*

Three North Dakota FFA members offer different strategies on how to succeed in farming in the next decade.

22 *Over the Top*

Loree Crow excels in equestrian events and the classroom.

24 *FFA Ranch*

Wild animals are finding a temporary home with FFA members in Raton, New Mexico.

In Every Issue

8 News in Brief

10 Looking Ahead

12 Mailbag

28 Chapter Scoop

36 FFA in Action

51 My Turn

52 Joke Page

The Bottom Line

National President Kelli Evans tells us to mark our calendars for the 61st National FFA Convention in Kansas City, November 10-12. She promises "eight intriguing sessions" in addition to the many other activities that will be taking place.

The convention is further described by Coleman Harris, executive secretary, as "...the culmination of many years of work and preparation by many FFA members and chapters."

The convention could be described in other ways but to really understand, it is something that should be experienced. The convention involves travel, fun, meeting members from other states, leadership

workshops, contests, awards, business session, tours, outstanding speakers, the career show and much more.

But most important, it is the best educational, inspirational and motivational event a high school student can attend. Just ask those who have been there.

While the convention is held in November, there are some things that should be done now if your chapter plans to be represented.

First, be sure you have your school administration's approval to attend. The superintendent or principal should sign the registration form found in the convention brochure sent to each state in the spring for

distribution to local FFA chapters.

Next you need to plan for your housing. Hotels and motels are full during convention week so you must have reservations. There is a form, also in the convention brochure, for making reservations. The form should be sent to the 1988 National FFA Convention Housing, Box 26310, Kansas City, MO 64196.

Other details can be taken care of as the convention approaches. Keep in mind that attendance is limited to six members or 10 percent of the chapter membership.

The national officers are working now to make the 61st convention the greatest ever. See you in Kansas City!

Wilson Carnes

The National FUTURE FARMER

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News In Brief

Hi-Tech Conference To Be Held in October

A food-producing space station, a fish production system and the Land Pavilion at EPCOT Center at Walt Disney World are a few of the planned highlights at the upcoming National Conference on Agriscience and Emerging Occupations and Technologies to be held in Orlando, Florida, October 11-16.

The national conference for high school agriculture instructors and other agricultural education professionals will focus on the newest developments in agriculture and how those areas can be taught in high school agriculture classrooms. Areas such as water resources, integrated pest management, animal science, agricultural engineering technology, crop science and biotechnology will be explored in instructional workshops.

The conference is being presented by the National Council for Vocational and Technical Education in Agriculture (The Council).

Advisors and other individuals interested in the conference should write to: The Council, P.O. Box 15035, Alexandria, VA 22309 or telephone 703/360-8832. A brochure is available upon request.

Maricle Named AIC Vice President

National FFA Talent Director Gary Maricle has been appointed as vice president, education administration of the American Institute of Cooperation (AIC). The AIC is the national education organization for agricultural cooperatives. AIC's membership is made up of all types of agricultural cooperatives; supply, marketing, farm credit, rural electric and farm business service.

Maricle served as the 1985-86 National FFA Alumni president and received the Honorary American

Farmer Degree in 1986. During the past two years he has served as director of the National FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference.

Tractor Donated

The John Deere Company has donated, through the National FFA Foundation, the use of a John Deere 850 tractor to the National FFA Organization. The tractor is being used in the upkeep of the National FFA Center grounds. Use of a rotary cutter was also donated by John Deere. Caton Hall, manager, maintenance and services, and his staff have been working with the 3-cylinder diesel tractor since late April.

FUTURE FARMER News

There are some changes taking place at the National FUTURE FARMER magazine we thought you'd like to know about.

First, your magazine is now produced on an Apple Macintosh desktop publishing system. The new system basically eliminates some of the steps it used to take in preparing the editorial pages of the magazine. Stories are typed into Macintosh computers and the pages are designed right on the screen. Some free-lance writers now send their articles on computer disk in the mail and some have been sent over phone lines via computer modems.

A key person in adopting the new computer system has been Jo Colley, the National FUTURE FARMER's publishing assistant. Mrs. Colley, pictured below, has been helping produce the magazine and the *Between Issues* newsletter that FFA advisors receive since 1974. After more than 13 years of service to the magazine and FFA, she has decided to retire from the publishing business. Her many talents and good humor will be missed by the FUTURE FARMER staff.



The National FUTURE FARMER

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Looking Ahead

Beef Wins Big

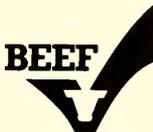
Nearly 79 percent of beef producers who cast their ballots in the May 10 beef checkoff referendum voted "yes" to continue national beef promotion, research and consumer information efforts.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that of the 256,505 valid ballots cast, 202,408, or 78.91 percent, favored the program and 54,097, or 21.09 percent opposed continuing it.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service conducted the referendum with the assistance of USDA's Extension Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Since the majority of producers and importers supported the program, the Cattlemen's Beef Board will continue to collect \$1 per head on all cattle sold in the United States and an equivalent amount on all imported cattle, beef, and beef products.

The money generated under the checkoff program will continue to finance promotion, research, and consumer information activities designed to strengthen the beef industry's position in the marketplace.



Speaking of Checkoffs...



Pork producers and importers will vote on continuing their checkoff during the 100% Pork Checkoff Referendum which will be held September 7-8, 1988, at local county extension offices in all 50 states.

One of the promotional programs funded by the checkoff is the "Pork—The Other White Meat" campaign. The campaign was launched in March of 1987 by the National Pork Producers Council to help reposition fresh pork in the minds of America's consumers.

Record Tree Planting

In 1987, for the first time, Americans reforested over 3 million acres with 2.3 billion tree seedlings, an area about the size of Connecticut. It was the fifth consecutive year the record was broken.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), established as part of the Food Security Act of 1985 (the Farm Bill), contributed over 1 million of the 3 million acres planted. The CRP is de-

signed to remove highly erodible agricultural land from cultivation and plant it to grass, trees, or other vegetative cover.

Eighty-seven percent of the tree plantings in 1987 were on private lands, primarily in the South. Private forest owners and farmers have shown the largest percentage increase in the last decade.

Corn Starch Trash Bags



The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) has designed a new official logo they hope to see on all degradable plastic products made from corn starch.

The new design depicts an ear of corn surrounded by stylized arrows to represent corn's benefits as a renewable resource. The design will be available to certified companies who want to draw attention to their new plastic products made with corn starch.

When corn starch is blended with common plastic products such as polyethylene trash bags, soil microbes present in landfill begin eating the corn starch almost immediately.

Several companies are now marketing the new trash bags made from corn starch, according to Steve Wentworth, NCGA first vice president of Oreauna, Illinois. He said 30,000 of the new bags were used in a recent cleanup project in Page, Arizona.

"There's a great deal of enthusiasm among consumers for this type of new, improved plastic product," Wentworth said. "And of course, corn growers like the idea, because corn is a renewable resource, and we have more than adequate supplies here in the United States."

Ag Graduates in Demand

New college graduates with agricultural majors are enjoying the strongest job market in a decade, but their dropping numbers may foretell a coming shortage in critical food and agricultural specializations, report U.S. Department of Agriculture and college officials.

"The demand comes in part from recent advances in agricultural science and technology, and from the need of U.S. agribusiness to improve its position in international marketing," says J. Patrick Jordan, administrator of USDA's Cooperative State Research Service.

That's good news for the current crop of agriculture graduates who are entering a job market of increasing opportunities with starting salaries higher than any time in the past. Starting salaries for graduates with bachelor's degrees averaged around \$20,000 across the country earlier this year.

Particularly bright spots in the employment picture, say college officials, include food science, poultry production, agricultural education, chemistry, engineering and journalism, dairy science, entomology, landscape architecture and ornamental horticulture.

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Mailbag

Vests a Hit!

I would like to say thanks to the Pinedale, Wyoming, Chapter and alumni for the vest proposal. They look very neat. Things change in time—it's time, and I think the vest would be a good one.

Bonnie Holifield
Laurel, Mississippi

I just got through reading the June-July magazine and I am interested in the item about the blue corduroy vests that the Pinedale, Wyoming, Chapter had on. I would definitely wear it, no matter what the cost. I think the vests are a great idea!

Linnette Tudyk
San Antonio, Texas

Helpful Bees

I am on the entomology judging team at my local FFA chapter. I realize that entomology isn't a very popular field, that is why I truly appreciated the item "Bees Breathe Easier" in the June-July issue. It was very helpful in my studies.

Jeremy Woodruff
Red Oak, Oklahoma

Leadership: A Natural

I'd really like to thank you for publishing the article about Wyoming FFA leadership camp in the June-July issue. Leadership camp gives me the inspiration and motivation to make it through another year. It's a great place to grow.

Tomie Sue Bousman
Pinedale, Wyoming

More to Come!

I really enjoyed my first issue of Future Farmer and I look forward to receiving future issues. The cover story "Stars on Tour '88" and "FFA's Fifth Decade" (June-July) were very interesting and right to the point.

Peggy Lee Leal
Concepcion, Texas

I want to commend you for your excellent editorial "The Bottom Line." Also for the very interesting issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER* which you and your talented staff put together. Every time I read one, it seems to be better than the previous one.

Archie Holdridge
Madison, Connecticut

I really like the part of the magazine

called "My Turn." It gives those who read it a chance to find out about the national officers and their activities throughout the year.

Annette Willis
Bryan, Texas

Every time I get my Future Farmer magazine and read it, I'm always looking forward to the next issue.

Kevin Phillips
Wrightsville, Georgia

On the Road

I really like the article "On the Road to Tokyo" in the April-May issue. The new officers are taking charge of their duties.

Cassey Hebert
Houston, Texas

FFA—the Greatest!

I am grateful for what FFA has done for me. FFA has let me expand my leadership abilities and my agriculture program. I have also been able to meet many new friends.

Michelle Morgan
Weatherford, Texas

When my daughter first informed me she was joining FFA, I was confused. Now, at the end of the school year, I am really glad she joined. FFA has given her and all members the opportunity to grow personally. It's the only class I know of that teaches leadership, group effort and, most important, how to really care.

Niki Jo Anderson
Middletown, California

I am enclosing this letter with my son's survey form to give you a better understanding of Randy's answers.

Randy is moderately retarded and his educational level is in the range of a third-grader. Through the care and understanding of our local ag department, Randy is an official FFA member. They have given my son the opportunity to function and work side-by-side with other students in the ag program. You will never know how deeply we appreciate this attention give to our very special son.

Linda Ford
Redwater, Texas

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The National FUTURE FARMER



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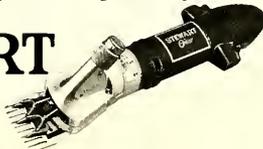
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Tee Jay Miller spends an average of four to five hours every day training and caring for her horses.

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Rodeo!

Chase Larson of New Underwood, South Dakota, (left) never missed a second of rodeo action. University of Nebraska bull rider Thad Ita is stalked by the bull that had just thrown him. He was not seriously injured.

Photos by Author



Over 10,000 high school and intercollegiate rodeo athletes will enter the arena this year.

By Andrew Markwart

As Tee Jay Miller and her Paint horse, Joe, enter the rodeo arena at the Hart Ranch in Rapid City, South Dakota, she singles out a familiar voice from the crowd. Her mother, Sandy, is yelling out some last-minute words of advice and encouragement. It is a scene that has been repeated hundreds of times between mother and daughter.

Ten minutes later, the scene is duplicated, this time between a father and his son, who is about to climb on-board 1,700 pounds of a bad-tempered bull. This year over 10,000 high school and intercollegiate rodeo athletes will enter the arena to compete in one of America's most action-packed and original sports.

The crowds who assemble to watch these highly-skilled athletes see short bursts of intense action as contestants race against the clock in pursuit of prize money and points that could qualify them for the national finals. What they don't see are the many hours of training and preparation that go into the sport of rodeo.

"In high school, I'd get up at six in the morning, go to school, get out of volleyball practice at six (p.m.), go home and ride until nine o'clock and then do my homework, sometimes until midnight," remembers Tee Jay Miller, 19, of Ashby, Nebraska. "The next day it would start all over again at six."

There may be no one more committed to the sport and to her own personal standards of excellence than Tee Jay Miller. Tee Jay is the winner of the 1987 national FFA horse proficiency award, sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

It is through those many hours of training and hard work that Tee Jay has excelled in rodeo. Her top honors include Nebraska high school state champion in the barrel racing and goat tying events, both at the state finals and in the year's accumulated points in 1986. It was the first time anyone had ever captured both titles in those two events.

She advanced to the National High School Rodeo Finals each of her four years in various combinations of goat tying, breakaway roping, barrel racing and pole bending. She was named to the

All-American Rodeo team her senior year of high school. Her leadership skills were also recognized when, as a senior, she was elected secretary of the National High School Rodeo Association.

Tee Jay is now a freshman at National College in Rapid City, where she is a member of the school's rodeo team and on a scholarship that pays for three-fourths of her tuition. She, like many athletes, sometimes feels the strain of trying to balance her time spent on academics and in preparation for her sport.

"I like to keep my grades up and practice to the point where it's going to help my performance," says Tee Jay. "At home (in Ashby) it was actually better because Mom would tell me to go to bed and would get me up in the morning, but now I'll stay up all night sometimes working on a speech or something."

The pressures in such an intense and competitive sport can be difficult. "My first year in high school, I'd get to the point to where I'd almost get sick before a run," recalls Tee Jay. Those early jitters now give way to concerns over recovering entry fees through prize money.

"Something a lot of people don't realize about rodeo is the time factor and how much money that little bit of time can cost you," says Tee Jay. "It can be really frustrating because you can be just a hundredth of a second out of it (placing in the

money) and lose \$100 just because of that hundredth of a second—and being a college student, you don't have a lot of money to throw around."

Miller says high school and college students competing in rodeo also tend to be overlooked as athletes. Besides personal training, Tee Jay points out that "people don't realize the extra care it takes for your horse. When you go to a rodeo, you have to pay for your horse's feed and a place for your horse to stay, the gas to haul your horse—all those little things add up."

Like most athletes, Tee Jay admits she would never have succeeded in the sport had it not been for a constantly supportive family. Both her mother and father, Gene, an agriculture teacher, have been active in the sport all their lives. "In high school they hauled me everywhere," says Tee Jay. "We would go to at least 17 rodeos a year, most of the time leaving on a Friday night and not getting back until Sunday night. They've dedicated a lot of time to me. They're the best."

Despite the long hours of training and the strain of juggling a busy schedule, Tee Jay says she intends to stay with rodeo even after college. For years to come, Tee Jay will, no doubt, be sitting on her horse, filled with excitement and determination, and listening for her mother's calming words of advice. ●●●



Tee Jay Miller's parents, Sandy and Gene, traveled thousands of miles to as many as 17 rodeos a year with their daughter.

Making the Grade Across the Ocean

Students on the World AgriScience Studies Program learn lessons that will last a lifetime

The University of Wisconsin-Madison will have to wait for Susan Coughlin. Susan was enrolled and ready to start her freshman year at Madison in agricultural journalism last fall when she was notified that she had received a full scholarship to West Germany on FFA's World AgriScience Studies program.

After studying four years of German language in high school, Coughlin put those skills to the test when she enrolled in the *Landes-Lehr- und Versuchsanstalt* school in the town of Bad Kreuznach in Rheinland-Pfalz, a region near the Rhein River in West Germany famous for its wines.

She was placed in the technical level of classes called *Technische Schule*. Coughlin, 19, found the school to be quite different from her high school back in Watertown, Wisconsin. The school is a combination technical agricultural institute and regional government experiment station.

Susan is enrolled in the *Betrieb Secretarien*, a curriculum that teaches mainly farm business administration classes. All of her classmates are girls except for one boy. Because of the area's agriculture, the class is often divided into two groups and instruction is specialized for students interested in the wine industry and in farming.

Coughlin says her class schedule may seem strange to Americans. "I go to school on Thursdays and Fridays," says Coughlin. Her classes, which run about 45 minutes long, cover such topics as local and world agricultural policy, computer record keeping and economics.

Earlier in the year she had a marketing and sales class and a math class, which was comprised of all math story problems written in German.

Other curriculum areas like Susan's *Betrieb Secretarien* are the *Winebau* for students studying viticulture and the *Landbau*, which concentrates on farming, especially dairy and beef production.

What surprised Coughlin about German schools is that they are not the center of attention of the students' lives. "The German school system is totally different here. In America, school is it. That's where your sports are, that's where your social life is, it's everything. Here, the kids are really on their own. If they want to do something, they go off and do it by themselves. The peer pressure here is not as heavy."

Coughlin believes this may be the result of German students having to choose their scholastic and career path much earlier than Americans, usually at the age of 14 or 15.

She says that German students are much more serious about their studies than American students and that Germans are "more skeptical and more apt to ask questions."

Along with school, Susan has had ample time to work with her host family, the Schillings, in the family's winery. Her host father, Ulrich Schilling, grows and processes his own grapes,

then bottles and markets the wine under the family name.

Working on a family operation is nothing new for Susan. She was raised on a 700-acre dairy farm near Watertown, with one sister and three brothers where she fed calves and helped with other chores.

When asked about her decision to postpone college and live in Germany for a year, Coughlin said, "I wanted to learn about agriculture abroad and learn a different language very well. I expected to learn a different attitude of farming—a different way of thinking, marketing, techniques of production."

Susan says her experiences in Germany have far surpassed her original expectations. "I'm fascinated with this country's history and the people who live here. Most of all, you pick up a lot of self-confidence doing something like this. You learn a lot about yourself when you live in another culture."

Neither rain nor snow nor a challenging foreign language have kept Susan Coughlin from enjoying her year in Germany.



Photo by Bill Stegg

In the fall of 1986, the first wave of applications from members interested in the new World AgriScience Studies (WASS) program arrived at the National FFA Center. Since then, over 75 students have spent a full year in various countries attending school and experiencing the new culture around them.

The program was introduced by the National FFA Organization in response to the large number of members who were too young to participate in the Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program. Incoming WASS exchange students must enroll in American high school agriculture and FFA, English and either history or government.

Outgoing students from the United States are not required to enroll in particular classes, but they are expected to take a full

America took some getting used to for Ralph Schlotmann, 18, of Burscheid, West Germany. When he arrived in the United States last August, he found people speaking a language he didn't expect. "I had six years of English, but it was British English and not American English!"

He had two weeks with his host family, Joel and Leslie Koch of Elkton, South Dakota, to adjust to American slang before starting classes at Elkton High School.

Today, his class schedule includes speech, chemistry, English, accounting, geography and agriculture. How do those classes compare to his classes back in Germany? "The classes in Germany are much more technical than they are here in the U.S.," says Ralph.

"(In Germany) we have more mathematics and physics-type classes than what there is in the United States. In Elkton, there is a variety of shop and practical classes for the students to

After school, Ralph Schlotmann helped raise cattle on his host family's farm in Elkton, South Dakota.



Photo by Theresa Schumacher

class-load and join an appropriate rural youth organization. Countries participating in the WASS exchange program are Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands, Finland, New Zealand and recently, the group of islands that make up Micronesia. Australia will join the exchange in 1990.

The fee to participate on the WASS program is currently \$2,500, but nearly half of the WASS students so far have received full scholarships. These scholarships were made available from the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag through the United States Information Agency. Two of those scholarship recipients, Ralph Schlotmann of West Germany and Susan Coughlin of Watertown, Wisconsin, talked to *The National FUTURE FARMER* about their international experiences.

choose from. I think that is a major difference."

Schlotmann had the varsity football team at Elkton which was quite an achievement, given he had never played the game before coming to America. "I knew nothing about it," remembers Ralph. "It was interesting to learn the different rules because we do not have that type of football in Germany." "Football," translated in German is *Fussball*, a sport known to Americans as soccer.

Ralph says that the people in Elkton have been very friendly to him since he arrived. He observes that Americans tend to be more friendly to strangers and each other than in Germany.

Since last August, some of the strongest friendships Ralph has made have been in the FFA. Like most other countries, Germany does not have an organization like FFA. There is a rural youth organization, called *Bund der Deutschen Landjugend*, but it is more community-based and not part of the agriculture school.

Schlotmann has been active in FFA activities all year. He advanced to the state finals in South Dakota's Job Interview contest, helped with chapter fruit sales and worked at the chapter's mushroom farm, which won the state Building Our American Communities award in 1986.

"I've met a lot of people and got to see more of the United States because of FFA," says Ralph, giving credit for many of those experiences to FFA advisor Dennie Brendon. "He is easy to get along with and has helped me in a number of ways. He wants me to have the chance to see many different places in South Dakota," adds Schlotmann.

Ralph and two other FFA friends saw more than South Dakota when they took a vacation to the West Coast in April that led them through Wyoming, Salt Lake City, Reno, San Francisco and Los Angeles. "Once I got the opportunity to be in the United States, I want to make sure and see everything there is to see," said Ralph.

Schlotmann still plans to visit a number of dairy farms, especially in Wisconsin, before he leaves. This travel would be more research than sightseeing for him. "I live on a dairy farm (in Germany) where we have 75 dairy cows and 120 acres of land. We are in a program where the government cuts down on the amount of milk that we sell."

Because of that production-control program, Ralph says his parents are considering a switch to beef cattle, a topic Ralph will be well-versed in by the time he leaves the U.S. He has been helping host father Koch run a 200-head cow/calf farm during his stay in Elkton. The Kochs also run a 500-head farrow to finish swine operation. "I like working with the cattle the best," says Schlotmann. "It will be good experience for me to have when I return home." ..

Bill Stagg and Theresa Schumacher contributed to this story.

They Want to Farm in the 1990's

Three North Dakota FFA members have different approaches to farming in the next decade.

By Andrew Markwart

"I believe in the future of farming, with a faith born not of words, but of deeds...even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years." — E.M. Tiffany

The 1980's will not be remembered as a glowing decade for farming. As input prices rose, commodity prices didn't. Among other factors, many farmers and ranchers who borrowed too much money in the 70's found the credit burden to be overwhelming in the 80's and had to sell their land.

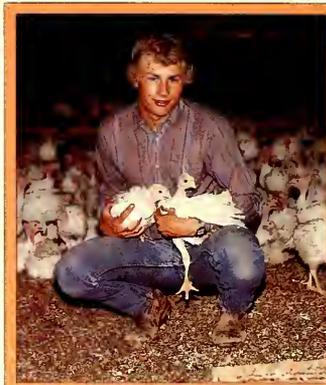
And in 1988, just when things seemed to be on the rebound, the worst drought since the "Dust Bowl" era is baking most of the United States. As crop producers watch their plants wilt away, livestock producers watch feed prices escalate.

Three young men from North Dakota,

Will MacDonald, Paul Anderson and Mark Hagemeyer have seen their neighbors and, at times, their own families endure these "struggles of former years;" yet they are determined to farm.

They are part of an emerging generation of young farmers who have seen difficult times and, ironically, have benefited by watching other people make mistakes. Their attitudes are very similar to post-Depression farmers who were very cautious with credit and built their farms slowly.

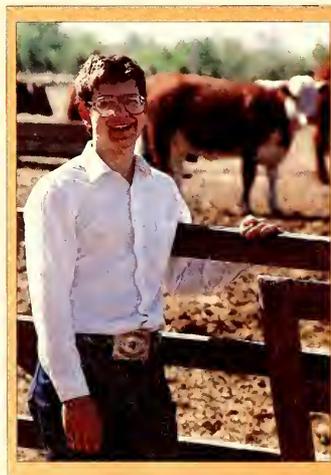
Although these three Dakotans have different approaches to farming in the 90's, there are some common factors that tie them together. They respect the importance of farm management—if it doesn't work in the recordbooks, it won't work in the fields. They also believe some type of college education critical to success back home.



Paul Anderson, 18
Harvey, ND
Strategy:
Agribusiness experience

The Anderson family has a strong heritage in agriculture and FFA. Along with capturing a state livestock production proficiency award this year, Paul was named North Dakota's 1988 Star Farmer. What makes that award so special is that his father, Quinton, was the state's first Star Farmer in 1946.

Quinton Anderson remembers the Depression vividly, and for 44 years he has managed his farm with caution. Now the second generation Anderson is finding that his father's methods are sound. "I'm not concerned with being the big-



Will MacDonald, 19
Bismarck, ND
Strategy: New Technologies,
Marketing

Will MacDonald lives on a purebred cow/calf ranch with his parents, Bill and Linda and his sister, Beverly, just outside of Bismarck, North Dakota's state capital. Their ranch features the Salers (pronounced Sa-lair) breed of cattle, originally imported from France.

The MacDonalds average about 350

cow/calf pairs annually of which Will owns between 25 and 30, depending on sales and time of year. What is striking about the MacDonald ranch is that newborn Salers calves are usually found close to their Holstein and Polled Hereford surrogate mothers. Will and his family use embryo transfer technology in getting the most out of their herd.

Embryo transfer allows the MacDonalds to produce as many as six calves out of a single donor cow. The procedure involves administering a hormone that allows the donor cow, in this case, a top Salers, to release many eggs, sometimes up to 25, rather than just one. The eggs are fertilized through artificial insemination, and embryos begin forming.

The embryos are then flushed from the cow by a veterinarian who checks and

**Mark Hagemeister, 20
Fessenden, ND
Strategy: Diversification**

This year, Mark Hagemeister and his family expect to grow 1,300 acres of durum wheat, 500 acres of navy and pinto beans, 250 acres of sunflowers, 175 acres of barley, 70 acres of corn, 30 acres of winter wheat and raise 13,000 turkeys and 65 silver fox.

The Hagemeister family has been farming

this way since 1957 when Mark's father, Gerry, settled in Fessenden. Now it is a family operation that includes their mother, Loraine, and a partnership between Mark and his brother, Jerome. In the future the brothers expect to form a corporation with their parents.

The Hagemeister family sees a number of benefits in diversifying the kinds of crops and livestock they raise. They feel that diversification brings financial stability—that when prices are low in one commodity, they will be strong in others. This way, the financial well-being of the farm does not depend on the price of one commodity.

Diversification also helps the soil through the rotation of different crops.

For example, the Hagemeister family used to grow up to 1,500 acres of sunflowers but will only grow between 200 and 300 acres this year. Dry edible beans, such as pintos and navy beans now grow in place of the sunflowers because, says Mark, "The beans are better for rotation. They're isn't as much need for moisture as sunflowers."

Mark's father started raising turkeys, but turned that part of the operation over to his sons in 1983. The Hagemeister family are one of the few turkey producers in North Dakota. In fact, there are more fox producers than turkey producers in the state. The silver fox are raised for their pelts,

(Continued on page 30)

gest farmer," explains Paul, "I believe you need to do the best, most efficient job you can with what you have to work with."

Paul's father insisted that he start farming on his own and that all records be kept separately. "I started with nothing," remembers Paul. Today he rents 180 acres of cropland and pasture near the banks of the Sheyenne River in Harvey. His main enterprises are registered Simmental cattle, swine, wheat and barley. According to Paul's FFA Advisor, Wade Anderson, "Paul has worked for everything he now has. Nothing was handed to him."

Paul uses the Adult Farm and Ranch Management Program offered in North Dakota to track his expenses and income. He will use the money he has earned from his various enterprises to pay for college this fall as an agricultural economics major

at North Dakota State University.

Advisor Anderson helped Paul experience agriculture's larger scope by placing him in an agribusiness co-op position at Lault Feed and Supply in Harvey. Paul says working for David Lault has "helped me get to know people and I'm more at ease talking with strangers now."

Paul says this agribusiness background has taught him responsibility and attention to detail, but it has also whetted his appetite for the business world. His long-range goals call for a few years experience in an agribusiness, anywhere from communications to elevator management, but he emphasizes that this would only be a temporary career.

"Eventually I want to come back and farm," says Paul. "When I look at the lifestyle and rewards farming has to offer, for me, it's the ultimate occupation."



then implants them into recipient cows—the Holsteins and Herefords. A large number of recipient cows are given a drug called Lutalyse early on in the process so they are all in heat when the embryos are ready.

When there are more embryos available than recipient cows, the extras are frozen in liquid nitrogen until a time when they're needed. More than 70 percent of these frozen embryos usually survive the thawing process. "To see a live calf that,

at one time was a frozen embryo, is a real payoff for me," says Will.

About 15 percent of the MacDonald's herd are products of embryo transfer and, according to Will, that number is expected to rise.

The reason Will and his family use this complicated and expensive process is to produce as many superior Salers cattle as possible to market to other cattlemen.

That marketing effort takes place mostly at stock shows and involvement in cattle associations. Will plans on touring with his cattle to at least ten stock shows this year because, "It's our best way of contact with potential customers," says Will. "It plants seeds in people's minds. It is expensive, but it's a promotional expense that pays off for us in the long run."

Will sits on the board of directors of the American Salers Junior Association. At

the end of his term, he will have served for two-and-a-half years. He recently worked on the North Dakota Stockman's "Yes for Beef" Commission at North Dakota State University signing-up absentee voters for the national beef checkoff referendum in May. He is majoring in agricultural economics and minoring in mass communications at NDSU and has a current grade point average of 3.93.

In his work with associations, Will draws from his leadership skills he polished as 1987-88 North Dakota state FFA president. He also won this year's state proficiency award in beef production.

Will says the embryo transfer technology allows him to "offer a product that's better than other producers. With artificial insemination, we used bulls to improve our herd; with embryo transfer, we're doing it with cows."

"We want to offer a product that's better than other producers."

Higher Education: Which Way Do I Go?

By Michael Wilson

So you want to go to college? Fine. That's one decision, but there's more to be made. Which college? How much can you afford? Which one is best? More importantly, what do you want to study? What do you want to do with your life?

Let's start with some of the basics. Higher education can be broken down into three major categories:

- A university, where you will study for four years and try to earn a Bachelor's Degree;

- A junior college, or community college, where you will study for two years and try to earn an Associate Degree. You can also elect to attend a junior college for two years, then transfer to a university to finish your bachelor's degree with two more years of education;

- A vocational, trade, or technical school, where you will study one or two years learning a specific skill or trade,

such as drafting or mechanics.

Job opportunities

Ken Olcott, dean of the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Cobleskill College of Agriculture and Technology, Cobleskill, New York, says a big difference between a four-year university and a junior college education is the hands-on experience; you get more at the smaller, junior college, he says. A university education may place more emphasis on basic theory.

"It's a difference in philosophy of education," Olcott says. "I think the four year schools are likely looking at a more professional, theoretical education. A student spends less time at a two-year school. There's less time to get students into classes, educated, and out. At a



Unless you have a full scholarship to Harvard or a million bucks hidden away, life after high school graduation will require some decisions. If you'd like to continue your education, here are some options.

four-year program you have more time."

Olcott says job opportunities for two-year degrees come earlier and may be more abundant. But in the long run, higher-paying, higher-management promotions usually go to those who hold bachelor's degrees from four-year colleges or universities.

"Two-year programs allow students to graduate into middle management, technician-type jobs," he explains. "Many of our ag students (after a two-year program) take jobs in parts, service and sales.

"A four-year education is focused more toward management," says Olcott. For example, in dairy, a student from a two-year program will likely find a job as a herdsman, or feed and supplies salesman. A four-year student might get a job as herd manager, nutritionist, or work in management in the feed industry or in a science-related position.

"As people get more experience they move up the ladder," Olcott says. "In my experience it's hard to separate the two year student from the four year student after they've both been working in a career four to ten years."

But Olcott has seen one negative trade-off in the two-year, junior college or technical school degree: many larger companies won't often hire two-year graduates because it's harder to promote them after 10 years, he says.

"That's where the 4-year student has the edge in the long run—in promotions, and responsibility. This is especially true in the larger companies."

Attending junior college and transferring to a university is a good way to lower college costs and still get the benefit of a bachelor's degree from the larger, more prestigious university. Often you can take basic, required courses—chemistry, English, or math—at a junior college, then take classes related to your field of study at the university.

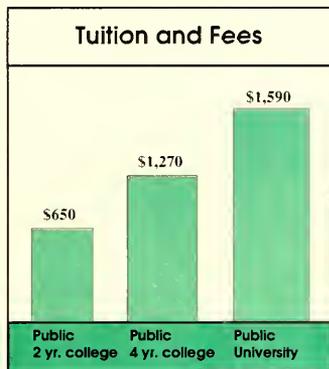
If you follow this path make sure your academic advisor understands your wishes. Make sure a majority, or all, of your junior college classes are eligible to "transfer" to the university.

Public and private

Higher education institutions are categorized as either private and public. A

"public" university means the college or university is supported by taxpayers, and is open to any student who meets its qualifications. Public universities are usually less expensive than private ones.

Most universities offer a four-year education in agriculture. You can study many specific areas related to agriculture.



like business, agronomy, engineering, economics, education, veterinary medicine, animal science, or communications. If you're returning to the farm, you can also get a degree in production agriculture.

Junior colleges offer two-year programs in several of these areas, with major emphasis on business and science. The American Association of Community and Junior Colleges (AACJC) compiled a nationwide list of accredited Associate Degree programs at two-year colleges. The list includes 178 programs in ag sciences, 88 in ag technologies, 63 in agronomy, 25 in ag education, 35 in ag economics, and 227 in ag business (some of those programs are listed more than once since the college offers more than one degree program).

Money

College is expensive—and in most areas it's getting more and more costly each year.

Norman Brandt, of the U.S. Department of Education Information Services, says charges for tuition and fees at all U.S.

public education programs for in-state students averaged \$1,100 in 1986-87. Specifically, tuition and fees at 94 public universities (enrollment: 2,141,112) averaged \$1,590 per year; at 470 public four-year colleges (enrollment: 3,068,428), tuition and fees averaged \$1,270 per year and at 929 public two-year colleges (enrollment: 4,269,733), tuition and fees cost \$650 per year.

Tuition costs are only part of the total cash outlay for college. If you live on campus, you will pay for room and board. Here you'll find a real advantage to junior colleges: if you commute from home, you can save anywhere from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year in dormitory costs or apartment rent and meals.

Brandt says total costs for tuition, plus room and board, at all public institutes averaged \$3,820 in 1986-87. That breaks down nationwide to \$4,370 at public universities, \$3,940 at other four-year public colleges, and \$3,160 at two-year public colleges.

It seems like a lot of money—unless you plan to attend a private college or university. Average costs for tuition and room and board at private universities (weighted by enrollments) was \$11,870 in 1986-87. Costs for private four-year colleges—there are nearly 1,400—averaged "only" \$9,070 per year.

In-state residents

You'll pay less tuition if you go to a public college in your home state. Colleges charge much higher tuition to those students who come from other states, since the institution is being funded with taxes from inside that state.

At Cobleskill, for example, 1987 tuition per semester was \$675 for New York residents, but a hefty \$1,600 for out-of-state residents.

Besides tuition and room and board, you should also figure costs for books (\$175-\$250 per semester), transportation, insurance or health fees, a dorm damage deposit, spending money, and a student activity fee.

You might want to talk to your guidance counselor if you have more specific questions. But remember, it's never too early to start thinking ahead—even if you're only a Greenhand. ...

Over the Top



Loree Crow and her Thoroughbred, Sir James, clear a railing near her home in Hilmar, California.

Photos by Author

By Andrew Markwart

A lot of people go through life searching for one thing they can do very well. Loree Crow has found two—school and horses. The difference between the two is that she enjoys school, but she loves horses. She owns seven of them. A walk through her family's ranch just outside of Hilmar, California, reveals an unlikely collection of Quarter Horses, Morgans, Thoroughbreds, Appaloosas and a Welsh pony.

Loree, 18, started riding horses when she was 11, after a friend introduced her to the sport. She bought her first horse, an Appaloosa, at 12 and has been training and showing horses in English and western style equestrian events ever since. In her sophomore year of high school, she went to work for Mary Townsend and her daughter, Dorothy, at the C Bar T Appaloosa Ranch. The ranch specialized in training horses for jumping events, which held the most excitement for her.

It was her job to prepare the Townsend's horses for various shows. After seeing her level of skill and enthusiasm, the Townsends gave Loree a chance to show one of their horses. When she placed well, they asked her to become more involved in showing for their ranch.

That was in January, 1985. By the end of the year, Loree had won national high point rider in working Jumpers and Hunters from the Appaloosa Youth Associa-

Loree Crow excels in equestrian events and the classroom.

tion. Jumpers are judged strictly on speed and ability to clear jumps cleanly. Hunters are judged on jumping ability and the style of both horse and rider. That same year, she also won the Youth Hunter Championship and placed in four other classes at the National Appaloosa Horse Show in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

All the while Loree was working with the Townsends, she was applying the very same training methods to her own horses and riding them in local shows, many of which she won. None of this would have been possible if it had not been for the support of Loree's parents, Gary and Dana.

"My parents weren't into horses at all," remembers Loree. "We lived in town and they actually moved to Hilmar because of my horses. We bought a 20-acre ranch so I could keep my horses with me."

Along with her parents' sacrifice, Loree's success in the ring did not come without some personal sacrifice, especially after school. "In my sophomore and junior years, I was putting in between three and four hours of practice every day after school," remembers Loree. "On weekends it would be more like six or

seven hours every day. Horseshow, of course, were an all-day event." She averaged a horse show every other weekend for the entire year.

Although she may have made sacrifices socially, Loree never let her academics slip because of her horses. She was named valedictorian of her graduating class of about 90 students with a 4.0 grade point average. Even with her time demands in training horses and other activities such as FFA, Loree maintained all "A's" all four years of high school.

Those excellent grades paved the road to \$7,000 worth of scholarships that Loree is now using at Stanislaus State University in California. She is majoring in agricultural business.

Loree's dedication also paid off when she was named FFA's 1987 Horse Proficiency Award winner of the western region. The award is sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

According to Karen Falconer, Loree's FFA advisor, Loree's excellence in school and her ability with horses were a major help when it came time for FFA horse judging contests. "Loree taught me, as well as the students, all about English equipment. She did demonstrations for the team and found places to do judging. By the time we lose Loree to a permanent job after college, she'll have me trained by then."

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**AIR
FORCE**

Advisor Ray Chelewski shows Gene Best and Cheryl Bada how to handle a two-month-old bear cub without being injured. Safety around wild animals is a priority at the FFA Ranch.

Photos by Dan Ward



Wild Animals Find a Home at FFA Ranch

The Raton FFA Chapter is licensed by the state of New Mexico to care for injured and orphaned wild animals.

By Elizabeth Morgan, chapter president

This is really an extraordinary feat for the FFA...it's certainly something for a state that prizes its wildlife to have young people who care enough to help them become rehabilitated," said Governor Garrey Carruthers during the dedication of a new wildlife rehabilitation center in Raton, New Mexico, March 4, 1988.

Raton FFA members had finished the rehabilitation center, named the FFA Ranch, in nine days so it would be done in time for the governor's visit. Workers had to level the land, build both inside and outside fences, install waterers and repair and paint existing structures. The effort received a great deal of community support, including labor, donations of sup-

plies and financial assistance. It took 1,500 hours of labor to complete the \$30,000 wildlife laboratory, but the total expense to the school district and FFA was only \$500.

The FFA Ranch is the only wild game rehabilitation center in New Mexico to be licensed by state and federal departments of Game and Fish to specialize in caring for four-legged animals. The goal of the lab is to nurture young or wounded animals until they are strong enough to be released in the wild. The Ranch is best equipped to handle animals such as deer, elk and antelope, but any animal is accepted until it can be transferred to a zoo or released into the wild. Local veterinarian Truman Smith donates his time to the ranch administering any medical care needed by the animals. The FFA chapter

pays for his veterinary supplies.

According to Advisor Chelewski, the FFA Ranch has recently received a Federal Migratory Bird license which would allow the chapter to rehabilitate birds. Prior to this license, injured birds had to be released to state game officers.

The first animal to arrive at the center for care was a pet yearling bull elk who had become unmanageable. The second and third animals were three-week-old mountain lions who were found abandoned in southern New Mexico. The lions were relayed to Raton through a system of Game and Fish officers who would receive them at the southern border of their district and transport them to the northern border, passing them on to the next officer. After the lions' stay at the

(Continued on page 26)



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Local artist Joe Apache and machine shop owner Gary Boggs donated the FFA Ranch entrance sign. Chapter officers, from left, are Carol Bada, Doreen Wiseman, Charlie Luksich, Tim Barraclough, Elizabeth Morgan and Cheryl Bada.

(Continued from Page 24)

FFA Ranch, they were released to the National Geographic Society who moved them to Idaho where their development in the wild is being recorded on film for a documentary.

Starting with the 1988-89 school year, the center will be used as a lab for a newly-developed wildlife science program. The class will be taught by agriculture instructor Ray Chelewski.

The FFA Ranch and new wildlife science program are part of many changes taking place at Raton. Four years ago the local agricultural education advisory board worked on revising the department's curriculum and decided wildlife, forestry, computers, horticulture and animal science were necessary parts of the program. Over the past four years these areas have been gradually phased into the production agriculture program. However, the advisory board didn't feel the students were getting enough technical knowledge in each of the fields, so during the past two years, labs have been built for each area.

The first lab was a greenhouse for the horticulture class. Members of the chapter, along with FFA Alumni, moved a 10,000-square-foot greenhouse ten miles from a local business to its present location behind the high school. At the same time, the agriculture classroom was relocated to a new area provided especially for the program.

Since the FFA Ranch has been completed, the third lab being constructed is a

tree farm. The school owns 27 acres of land, ten of which are suitable for planting trees. Because of the arid conditions in Raton, a time-release drip irrigation system stretching four-miles long was installed to water the trees. The lab is operating under a cost-share program with the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service and is being engineered by the Soil Conservation Service.

The New Mexico Department of Forestry donated 1,000 trees to the Raton FFA Chapter which were planted the first year. Twenty different varieties of trees, including Ponderosa Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce and Scotch Pine were planted to provide a diverse stand. Over the next ten

years, the chapter will be planting a minimum of one acre of trees each year. The goal of Raton is to have a forest of over 10,000 trees. The remaining area that is not used for the tree farm will be used for a range management study unit.

The chapter has also received help from a national FFA supporter. Yamaha has donated the use of a Terrapro with PTO to help the chapter conduct the daily work of the lab. Without this and several other community donations of time, money and expertise, this and the other labs would not be a success.

The rangeland, trees and wildlife labs will all assist in the animal science class. Today's rancher in northern New Mexico must manage all of these areas along with the beef and the sheep in order to show a profit. The modern rancher could receive \$5,000 for an elk permit, \$2,000 for a deer permit and \$1,000 for an antelope permit.

Future plans are to allow for the construction of a modern domestic livestock operation on a small scale. This would allow for the lab facilities specifically for the animal science class.

The most recent program being offered at Raton High School in agriculture is agricultural business computers. The school computer lab has been made available to the agriculture program to allow agriculture students the time needed on computers. The computer is taught as a management tool and the students must be able to use them as such in modern agriculture.

The vocational agriculture program in Raton, New Mexico, is unique, but reflects the current type of agriculture in the community. By working with the school and community, the Raton FFA Chapter now offers students a program that is challenging and provides excellent practical experiences.

...

These young mountain lions were turned over to the National Geographic Society after their stay at the FFA Ranch.

Photo by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish





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These Fords are built tough. So tough that their maximum payloads (up to 5270 lbs.) exceed those of virtually all other pickups.

SOLID COMFORT.

Ford cabs are roomy, comfortable and laid out for easy driving.





Ford Division... 3-Star Sponsor of the FFA

Behind the sporty A-frame steering wheel is a full set of gauges.

Ford Twin-I-Beam independent front suspensions are fully adjustable. They're designed to track true and help extend tire life.

Try a big, tough Ford — best-selling pickup for 10 straight years.*

6/60 WARRANTY.

Covers powertrains for 6 years/60,000 miles and body-panel rust-through for 6 years/100,000 miles.

Restrictions and deductible apply.**

SPECIFICATIONS

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- 4.9L EFI Six
- 5.0L EFI V-8
- 5.8L EFI V-8
- 7.5L EFI V-8
- 7.3L Diesel V-8

PAYLOADS

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- F-Series 4x4 pickups: 2135 lbs. to 4275 lbs.

CABS

- Regular Cab—seats 3
- Ford 2-door SuperCab
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LIFETIME SERVICE GUARANTEE.

Participating dealers back their customer-paid work with a free Lifetime Service Guarantee, good for as long as you own your vehicle.**

BEST-BUILT AMERICAN TRUCKS 7 YEARS RUNNING.

Based on an average of owner-reported

problems in a series of surveys of '81-'87 models designed and built in North America. At Ford, "Quality is Job 1"

*Based on latest available calendar year manufacturers' reported retail deliveries.

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Famous for holding an edge!



CHUCK BUCK, our president — one of three generations of the famous knifemaking family active in the firm today.

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Great knives, with blades that hold an edge, backed by a lifetime warranty; and innovative designs. These are Buck traditions that mean a lot to you when you buy a knife. They ensure that you'll have a knife you can depend on, a knife you'll be proud to own. Whether you prefer one of the longtime favorites or one of our new models, please look for the name BUCK on the blade. If it doesn't say BUCK, it's not a genuine Buck Knife!



SlimLine Knives in our "500" Series are time-tested favorites. Ranging from the Duke (3 1/8" blade and leather sheath) to the Knight (2" blade), all SlimLines give you Buck's positive lock-open action. Bolsters and liners are stainless steel. Birchwood handle inserts on four models; Buckarta for the White Knight.

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Mail \$3 to Buck Knives for your copy of our new 24-page full-color knives catalog, which includes a Knife Rebate offer.

"Farming was my best opportunity and it was the best time to get into the business."

(Continued from page 19)

which average about \$100 each. Mark plans on expanding fox production in the future, but for now, "It's still a paying hobby," says Mark.

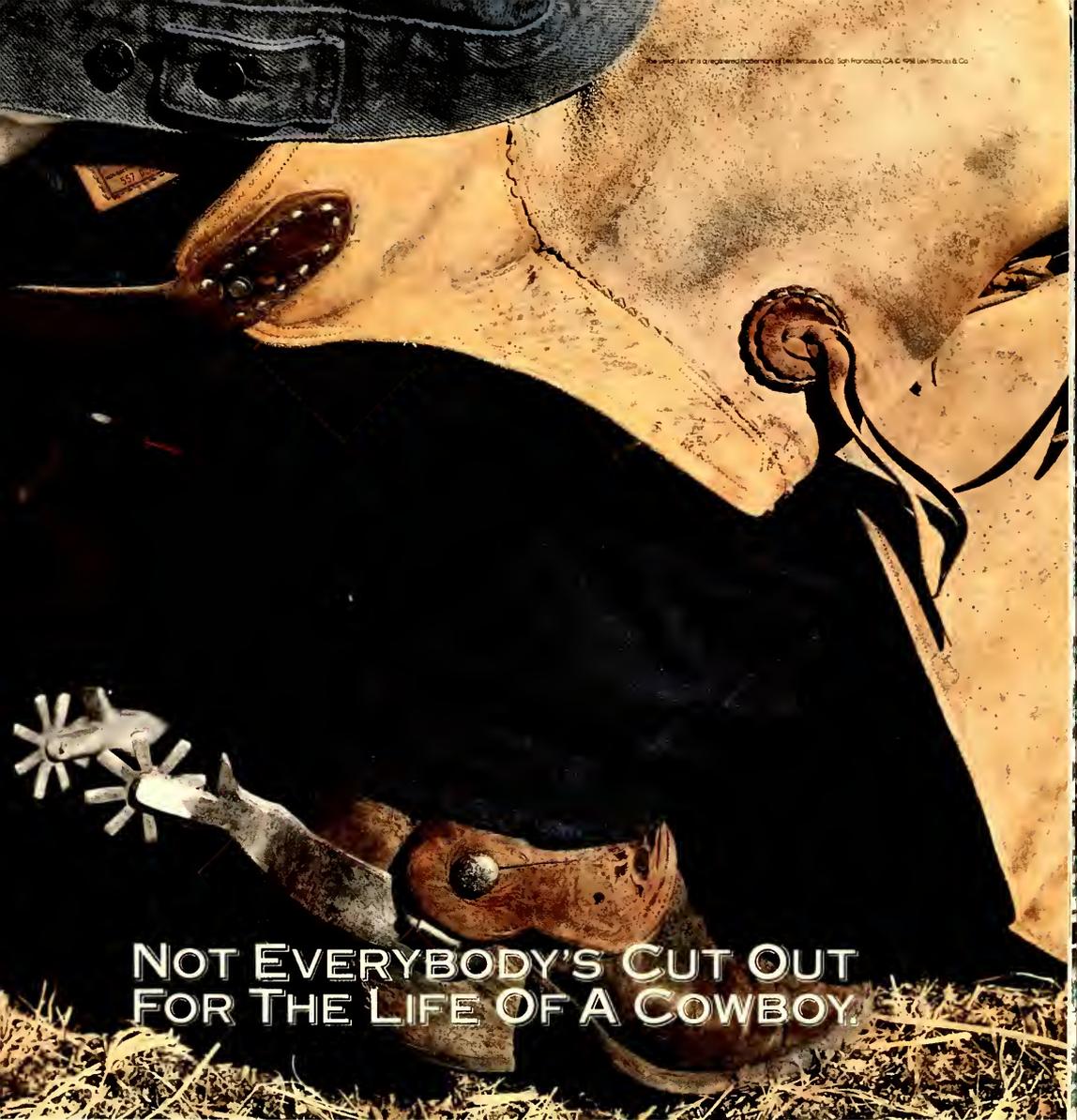
Mark has received his associate's degree in Farm and Ranch Management from Bismark State College and pursues his bachelor's degree by attending North Dakota State University each winter term.

While attending school in Bismark, Mark was active in the National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS). Like FFA, PAS offers contests and other leadership-building events for students attending junior colleges and technical schools. In 1984, Mark was the state's high individual in the Farm Business Management contest and placed fifth nationally.

Mark says the payoff for his time in PAS has been, "An exchange of a lot of good ideas. I hear of different ways to do things and then analyze my operation and ask myself, 'Am I doing this the best way possible?' The awards also make you put extra effort into your work because there's a reward there."

After two years of school, Mark looked at his options. With land prices low and an attractive family situation waiting, Mark decided, "Farming was my best opportunity and it was the best time to get into the business." ...





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Maybe you, a handful of others, and new Levi's® 557™ jeans. They're cut a little roomier. A little longer for your boots. A little wider in the pockets. And with enough belt loops to keep your jeans where they belong—even in the roughest territory.

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FOR COWBOYS

What's New In WESTERN STYLE

A Acme's Dan Post line offers a combination of unprecedented comfort and exotic skins such as bison, cobra, elk and deer. The added comfort comes from replacing the standard foam bottom filler, traditionally used in the boot industry, with Poron, which offers superior cushioning, flexibility and shock absorbency.



A

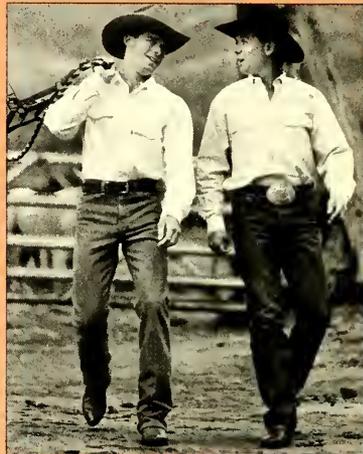
B Here's an eye-catching sport coat from Pioneer Wear design, styled in two shades of acetate-lined soft-suede. With action back and patch pockets, it's available in silver with grey yokes, camel with brown yokes or oyster with taupe yokes.

C Right, champion calf roper Mike McLaughlin wears the Levi's 557 for Cowboys jean in stay-dark indigo denim. The 100 percent cotton straight leg jean fits over boots, is cut full through the seat and thighs and has a higher front and back rise. At left is the 98 percent cotton/2 percent Lycra stretch Levi's Saddleman Boot Jean, which sports the look and feel of washed heavyweight denim with the added benefit of stretch comfort.

B



C



D Spice up your wardrobe with a Sage Creek hat by Stetson. It's accented with diamond vents and a stylish band made of two black cords. With a 6" "Rancher" crease, it's available in 3", 3 1/2" and 4" brim widths.

E Bright colors add interest to Adams Equipment's new 1403 One-ear Headstall of 5/8" biothane vinyl-covered nylon in conventional red, white, blue, brown, black and yellow or in day-glo colors (lime green, candy apple red, pink, fluorescent orange and royal blue).

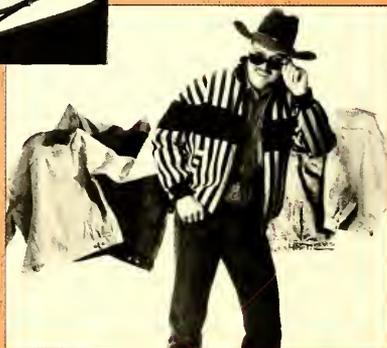
F Every Imperial Handcrafted Ranch Boot features genuine "Cowboy to the Core" 3/4 welt construction. This style also features a dark brown leather top with a contrasting chocolate leather foot and underlay.

D



G The colorful new Rode Walker line of jackets from Circle S in reds, yellows, bright blues and black, is available at fine western wear stores.

G



E



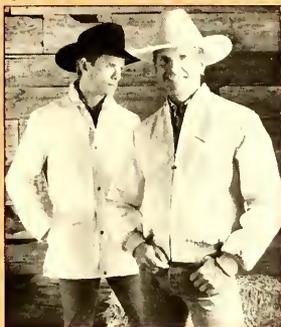
F



H

H This men's back-cut Python Western Boot from Justin offers a chocolate-and-white back-cut python vamp and chocolate kiddie top. The toe is narrow round and the boot has a utility heel.

I The standard of excellence in straw headwear, the Monte Cristi Panama is the premier hat in the Larry Mahan Hat Collection for 1988 offered by the Milano Hat Company.

**J**

J Walls Industries' new Long Rider and Canyon 100 percent cotton canvas jackets blend Walls' traditional great fit and features with unique outershells of natural cotton canvas. The Long Rider offers a brushed nylon tricot plaid lining and rugged corduroy trim on the collar and pocket flaps. The Canyon jacket has western yokes, roomy welt pockets and a zippered front.

K An oversized shirt in a fanciful abstract Indian print is part of Panhandle Slim's spring collection. The shirt is designed with enlarged armholes, long sleeves and Western style back yoke and pockets with flaps.

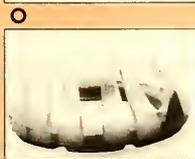
L An all-new American Eagle Buckle is presented by Montana Silversmiths. This new "Ramblin' Rectangle" shape is popular at 3" x 3 1/2". This sterling silver plated buckle is tastefully accented with jeweler's bronze rope edge and eagle figure.

M Tony Lama's new Classic Boot features a low roper-style heel for comfort and a hand-peged, rolled shank for greater foot support. The boots are handcrafted from soft saga leather and the toe medallion gives the Classic a dressier look.

N Walk tall in this handsome Abilene Boot. It has a grey crushed leather foot, grey leather shaft, fully leather-lined, leather outsole and narrow round toe.

O Easy-Glu from Glu-Strider, is a ready-made glue-on horseshoe. Easy-Glu's inner core is a high-quality aluminum horseshoe, bonded in 100 percent polyurethane for wear, strength and shock absorption. Specially designed tabs glue directly to the hoof wall, holding the shoe firmly in place without nails.

P This handsome Royal Roper Hereford brand saddle features a 15 1/2" seat, dark brown suede quilted in white thread; square skirts with rounded corners; acorn and leaf design; 2" bell bottom stirrups in covered leather and laced down the sides.

K**N****M****P**

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Please enter my drawing in your monthly contest. (PLEASE PRINT)

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National Photo Contest to Feature Work of FFA and 4-H Members

A national photo contest for FFA and 4-H members will result in up to 24 student photographs published in the upcoming photo-essay book, *One Day in the Country/USA*. The contest is being sponsored by The New Northrup King.

On October 1, professional photographers across the nation will take to country roads and small towns in an attempt to capture the essence of rural America for the book, *One Day in the Country/USA*.

As a part of that effort, the editors of the book have agreed to include photographs taken by FFA and 4-H members in a special 4-page section of the book through the sponsorship of The New Northrup King.

The book is being produced by Silver Image Productions, Inc. of Champaign, Illinois. It is being modeled after the popular *A Day in the Life* series of photo essay books. Over 100,000 of the books are planned to be produced by early fall, 1989.

"We're setting out to produce an unsurpassed photo document and book about life in the USA countryside," explained Robert E. Smith, editor of the book. "It will be a look at its rural areas, small communities, open landscapes and people as revealed through the camera during one 24-hour period."

Smith said that the kinds of photographs that have the best chance to be published are ones that are, "compelling—something that other people can share that they normally wouldn't see." He advises that the photographs should "differentiate one geographical and cultural region from other parts of the country." He suggests members study quality photoessay books, such as *A Day in the Life of America* to understand the types of entries the judges will be looking for.

Technically, Smith adds, "With today's technology, there is no good reason why high school students can't produce images on the level of professionals." (See "Photo Tips From the Pros.")

Joan Olson, spokesperson for The New Northrup King, said that sponsorship of the contest was "an excellent opportunity to further support the FFA and 4-H. The FFA doesn't have a photography contest, so we were happy to provide an outlet for the members' creativity and give them a chance to show-off rural America."

As Olson points out, the contest is being sponsored and administered by The New Northrup King in cooperation with Silver Image Productions, Inc. The contest is not an official contest of the National FFA Organization.

A panel of photographic experts representing industry and education will select two Grand Prize winners, one from FFA and one from 4-H. Each grand prize winner will have their photo published in the book and receive their choice of a \$1,000 scholarship or a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a copy of the book.

An additional 22 finalists will also have their photographs published in the

Photo Tips From the Pros

To help your chances of having one of your photos selected for *One Day in the Country USA*, Richard Brooks, the book's producer/director and Robert Smith, editor, have passed along some important tips for photographing and selecting your competitive photos. These are also excellent tips for all photography assignments, including coverage of FFA events and award application photos.

• Film

Only color slides—35mm or larger—and black and white prints will be judged. No color prints will be considered. Smith suggests using the slowest ASA slide film possible (25, 50, 64) since it retains its sharpness when it is enlarged for publication. If you are not sure what ASA numbers stand for, ask your school's journalism instructor or a qualified salesperson where you buy film.

• Cameras

Using a 35mm single lens reflex (SLR) camera will work the best since it can be used on automatic and manual settings. This type of camera will allow the photographer to customize exposures and bracket (see technique). Fully automatic cameras, such as the Canon Sure-Shot, are a good second choice, but careful consideration to lighting conditions needs to be given when using this type of point-and-shoot camera.

• Technique

Smith suggest participants "bracket"

Justin Boots.

special section of the book and will receive \$100 and a copy of the book. Fifty honorable mentions of \$50 each will also be awarded for outstanding photos submitted.

Among the contest rules, all photos must be shot on October 1, 1988. Only two slides or black and white prints per contestant will be accepted.

For further contest information and entry forms, interested members should write to: Photo Contest, The New Northrup King, 7500 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, MN 55427 or call 1-800-445-0956.

their exposures to get the best results. Bracketing is done by photographing a scene using the settings your camera registers as correct. Most cameras manufactured recently do this automatically. Then, if you are using an SLR camera, set the camera manually and photograph the scene again making the exposure slightly darker and slightly lighter. This is a popular technique used by all professional photographers.

- **Composition**

Photograph subjects close-up, especially people. Focus on a person's eyes. Eliminate "visual clutter" such as things in the background or too many elements in the picture.

- **Light**

Early morning and late afternoon light is usually the best. Pictures taken at noon tend to be washed-out and less interesting. Subjects lit from the back or side tend to have more appeal.

- **Exposures**

Don't bother sending bad exposures. If the slides are too dark or too light, they won't have a chance. The colors should look natural and rich.

- **Subjects**

Brooks and Smith are looking for photos that grab people's attention, no matter what the subject may be. Close-ups of people and pretty landscapes are good places to start. Rural-looking photos are what the book is about, so metropolitan-looking shots will be passed over. Smith says he is looking for some humorous photos, something the working professionals are likely to bypass for more serious subjects.



Number 1 in Any Arena.

Justin brings you three new boots to ride, rope, or just strut around in: Men's western boots in setter Wildebeest and grey genuine European Elk and the new lace-up Roper (available in both men's and ladies' sizes). The number one boots in any arena—Justin—American made since 1879.

Chapter Scoop

Douglas, OR, held its chapter award ceremony as part of a dessert social instead of a traditional banquet setting.

There were 32 members of the **Oak Harbor, OH**, Chapter who sold enough cider (75 gallons) and citrus (20 cases) to get to go on the chapter's trip to an area amusement park.

The **Powell, WY**, FFA had a drunk-driving awareness week just before the prom this year. They made lots of signs and put a wrecked vehicle outside school for all to see. The idea came from a past FFA In Action column in the magazine.

Highmore, SD, put on a Food For Fitness program for grades K-6.

Members of **Leland, CA**, Chapter made \$1,200 selling Christmas trees. One new idea was a coupon system that members passed out to promote sales. Then when those coupons were turned in by customers, the member got credit for the sale and points to lower his or her cost for the chapter's ski trip.



Round Rock Chapter in TX held a garage sale and earned over \$1,100.

At the end of the **Eagle Point, OR**, banquet, there was an auction for work services of the officers. It raised enough money to help pay for the banquet.

New sales product for **Kahlots, WA**, is a German-style sausage they made themselves. They sold it all in 24 hours.

Stacy Auclair was winner of the livestock showmanship contest for all of Connecticut. She is a member of **Killingly FFA** and was first place showman in beef, sheep and swine.

The junior high chapter at **Montello, WI**, holds an annual spring picnic with canoeing, paddle boating, volleyball and basketball.

Edmond, OK, FFA set up an animal barnyard at a nursing home that is next door to an elementary school and combined the two audiences.

Keytesville, MO, Chapter poured concrete for a new farmers market in town.

Many chapters recognize Honorary Chapter Degree recipients at banquets. What are some of the credentials or reasons they were honored. Send these ideas back to Scoop so we can share them with other chapters.



Joe Claxton of Harrah, OK, Chapter wrote a rap poem about swine production "...I say fill'em up. I say feed'em best; Take 'em to a stock show and put 'em through the test; This is the FFA and I'm Joe Claxton; And my swine rap is not bluffin'...."

At the **Royal, WA**, FFA banquet they gave thank you certificates to everyone who helped the chapter during the year. They also honored the members with the highest GPAs.

Members of the **Lincoln Chapter in Shinnston, WV**, are working during the summer to restore a horse show ring back to operating standards.

Shellsburg, IA, FFA worked with St. Lukes Hospital in Cedar Rapids to map farms in the school district for landing sites for their Lifeguard Helicopter Rescue Program.

Kanawha, IA, Chapter hosted an FFA volleyball tournament and donated part of the entry fees to the state FFA Foundation.

For the third year in a row the Minnesota State Creed speaker has been a member of the **Kimball Chapter**. This year it was won by **Mona Lampi**.

Food for America activities are always going on in some chapter like **St. Johnsville, NY**, recently.

Tammy Jackson was named Star Green-hoy of the **Stroud, OK**, FFA. Her brother Troy was named Chapter Star Farmer.

To spice up the meeting of the **Idler, AL**, Chapter meeting, they gave away an FFA cap.

Chris Fluharty, Hundred, WV, FFA'er, got \$700 a pound for a 6.14 pound bacon he had cured and showed as part of his SOEP. That was a record price ever for the state's Ham, Bacon & Egg Show and Sale.

The **Kuna, ID**, Vo-Ag Advisory Committee awards annual scholarships to seniors going on to school. This year they gave six at \$300.

During National Ag Day, the **Newcastle, WY**, members gave pony rides to 400 elementary school kids.



Like hundreds of chapters around the nation, the **Tri-Rivers Career Center in OH**, presented awards and recognition to 75 students at their chapter banquet. There were 300 attendees.

During FFA Week, members of the **Brookland, AR**, had a chess and checker tournament that lasted all week. The winners were given new FFA jackets at the banquet.

After the **Stonewall Jackson, VA**, members policed the trash from along five miles of highway, they had a hot dog feast and a hard-fought softball game.

The Scoop column always has room for a newsy item or a useful new idea that could be picked up by another chapter. Besides that, it always makes a chapter feel proud to see their name in print. Send the cards and letters this way!

**We not only give you the money for college.
We also give you the time.**



If you think the best way to pay for college is to put it off for a few years and join the military, you're half right.

Because with the New GI Bill, you can join the Army National Guard and earn over \$15,000 for college.

But best of all, you serve part-time, as little as two days a month and two weeks a year. Which means you can go to school full-time. Right now. On us.

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Army National Guard
Americans At Their Best.



Attendance at the National Convention increased during the decade reaching an all time high of 24,124 in 1987.

FFA's Sixth Decade

The sixth and final article in this series about the history of FFA.

By Wilson Carnes

FFA closed its sixth decade by taking a hard look at the emerging trends in agriculture, coupled with a rapidly changing membership. More emphasis was being placed on computer technology, agriscience and the importance of management and marketing skills. The period from 1978 to 1987 also saw international activities increased. Here are some top events of the decade.

The 1978-79 national officers became the first team to tour a foreign country on behalf of FFA. They toured Japanese farms and agribusinesses, visited government officials and met with the Future Farmers of Japan.

The first national proficiency award seminar was also held in 1979. A 15-day tour of Luxembourg, France, England, Holland and Belgium became an additional reward for the national winners of proficiency awards. The FFA members visited farms, experiment stations, agricultural industries and the world's largest agricultural show.

Byron Rawls became national advisor on May 21, 1979, following the retirement of H. Neville Hunsicker. Rawls had previously served on the FFA Board of Directors and as a program specialist in the U.S. Department of Education.

Two new contests were added in 1979 bringing the number of national contests to eleven. The contests were extemporaneous public speaking and floriculture.

FFA first offered educational scholarships to members in 1983 through the "National College and Vocational/Technical School Scholarship Program." FFA members who are seniors in high school or out-of-school members preparing to enroll in their first year of higher educa-

tion are eligible to receive the scholarships.

Another change in leadership occurred in 1983 when National Advisor Byron Rawls retired, after five years in that position. He was replaced on an acting basis by Thaine McCormick, a longtime vocational educator and supporter of FFA. Then, in 1984, Dr. Larry Case, former director of agricultural education and state FFA advisor from Missouri, was named National FFA Advisor and Education Program Specialist in the U.S. Department of Education.

The FFA took a step into the world of

computers in 1984 with its first "Computers in Agriculture" award and the start of a nationwide computer network for vo-ag classrooms. The network provides vo-ag instructors and students with learning modules, current agriculture and FFA news and electronic mail capabilities. The on-going award program tests FFA members' abilities to adapt SOE programs to computer technology and general computer management knowledge. The award is presented at the Computers in Agriculture Seminar held in Washington, D. C. each August.

To help local vo-ag departments cope with the bewildering amount of software applications being developed for agriculture FFA launched the Agricultural Computer Connection & Educational Software Service (ACCESS). This is a subscription service offering discounted software and hardware, program reviews, a newsletter and advice for instructors making critical software decisions for their programs.

To emphasize the importance of science in today's agriculture, the FFA initiated the Agriscience Teacher of the Year award in 1986. This program recognizes the agricultural instructor for teaching the science of agriculture in class.

A new series of weekend personal development seminars called "Made for Excellence" was started in 1987. The seminars are an extension of the Washington Conference Program and were developed to serve more FFA members in their home states.

Note: For a more complete history of FFA for the years 1979 to 1987, see highlights of the preceding year in the February-March issues of The National FUTURE FARMER.

Milestones

- 1978 - President Jimmy Carter, the first FFA member to become President of the United States, spoke at the 51st National Convention.
- 1979 - National Officers visit Japan, the first officer team to visit another country as a group.
 - Byron Rawls becomes sixth National FFA Advisor.
- 1982 - FFA Hall of Achievement opened at the National FFA Center.
 - Janice Eberly is first girl elected National FFA President.
- 1984 - Dr. Larry Case named National FFA Advisor.
- 1987 - 60th National Convention sets new attendance record of 24,124.
 - Three millionth jacket sold by Supply Service.
 - Contributions to FFA Foundation exceeded \$3 million.

LESSON NUMBER ONE: RESPONSIBILITY

You learn early about responsibility. And that's important when you learn to shoot. The more you shoot, the more you develop the responsibility and the experience to make the right decisions every time you sight in your target. The North American Association of Hunter Safety Coordinators has been helping young shooters—by teaching responsibility and safety so you can be a better shooter and really enjoy the sport.

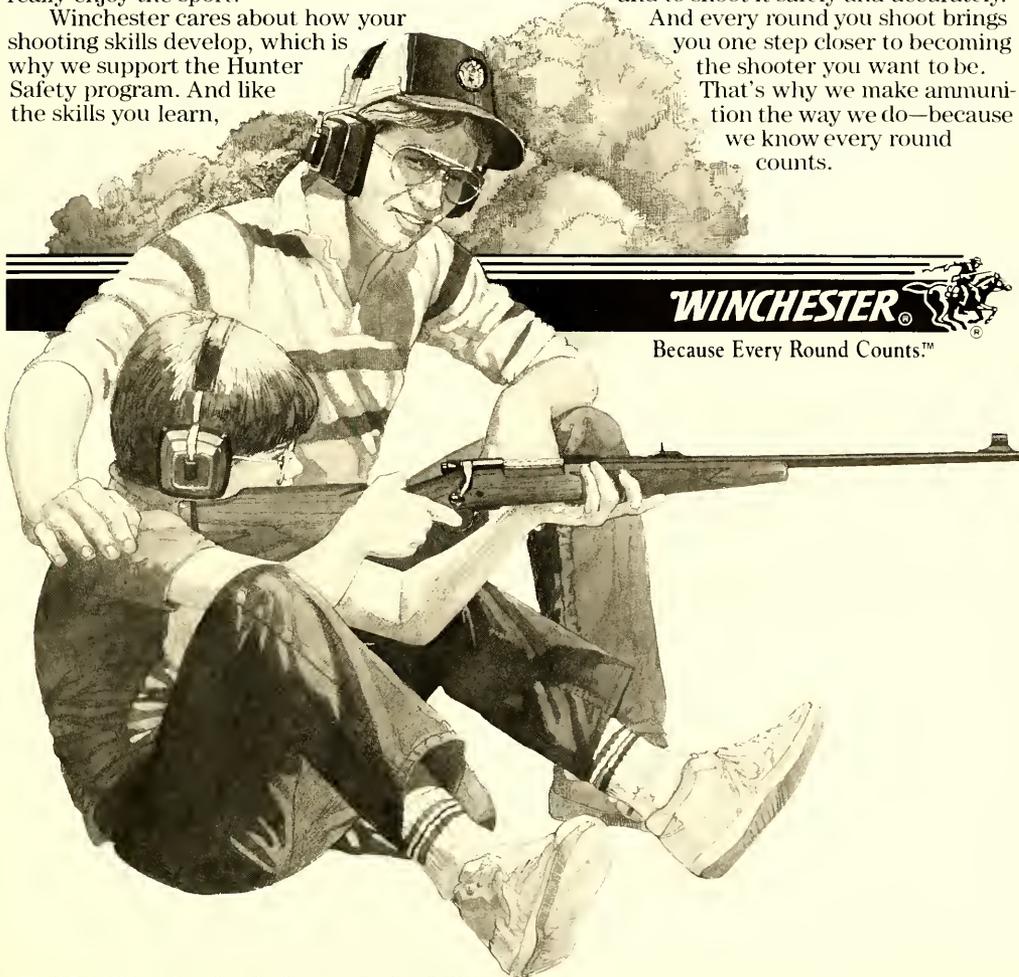
Winchester cares about how your shooting skills develop, which is why we support the Hunter Safety program. And like the skills you learn,

the ammunition you shoot with is just as important. That's why Winchester makes ammunition with you in mind. Because you have to depend on your ammunition as much as you depend on yourself, every round is designed for a specific job—that's our responsibility.

Your responsibility is to choose the ammunition we've developed for that job, and to shoot it safely and accurately.

And every round you shoot brings you one step closer to becoming the shooter you want to be.

That's why we make ammunition the way we do—because we know every round counts.



WINCHESTER®



Because Every Round Counts.™

Dan Bradshaw climbs out of his pickup under a hot Texas sun, pulls on his rubber boots and wades into the first of half-a-dozen rice fields he'll check this July afternoon. His practiced eye searches everywhere for clues—about insects, disease, irrigation problems and how close the crop is to harvest. He observes carefully because the advice he'll give the field's owner could make the difference between success and failure.

But move the clock back to early spring. Instead of wading into muddy fields, Bradshaw cruises around under glorious blue skies on his ATV, stopping to take soil samples or advise farmers about planting dates.

His activities vary with the growing cycle, but one thing's for sure: Bradshaw spends most of his time in the field, from early spring land preparation through late fall's second harvest. When not in the field, he's on the road or on the phone with farmers—a mobile phone lets him do both at once.

As an independent crop consultant to rice growers, Bradshaw makes his living giving advice. Farmers pay him on a per-acre or per-hour basis to answer questions about every phase of production.

To make a good living as a crop consultant, though, he must give the "right" answers. "Right" means results in dollars and cents.

"It's getting so technical that it's hard for the farmer to keep up," Bradshaw explains. So he and other members of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants, specializing in everything from row crops to urban lawns, make it their business to learn all they can, then "sell" their knowledge and experience to farmers.

Some 30 producers in the Texas Rice Belt—ranging from young and inexperienced to old timers who've been at it for years—think his advice worth paying for.

Bradshaw compares the profession to veterinary medicine—except that he specializes in plants.

Pesticide salesmen often provide what looks like a similar service—and without directly charging for it. But Bradshaw points out a big difference: the independent works directly for the farmer.

"There's some good people in industry researching and selling products, but still, their number one allegiance is not to that farmer," Bradshaw points out. "I'm looking out for my farmer. He's got to be a success so I can work for him next year."

Consultants also differ from the agricultural specialists in universities and government agencies. Though an adviser like Bradshaw might specialize in a par-



Photo by Author

Crop producers pay Dan Bradshaw for his expert advice.

The New Ag Professionals: Independent Crop Consultant

By Michelle Domangue

ticular crop, he needs to have a broad understanding of everything related to production and protection, not just one narrow aspect like entomology.

County agents, too, play a different role. Spread much more thinly, they can't afford the time to specialize. They serve all the area's growers and livestock producers, with their different interests and needs.

Bradshaw, himself a former FFA officer, offers some advice to students who think they might like to strike out on their own as consultants: "Get as much education and as wide a background as possible," he says. "From everything you do, you will learn something."

Specifically, take college courses in plant pathology, plant physiology, agronomy, soil fertility, mechanics, business and communications. "Some psychology wouldn't hurt," he adds.

The national consultants organization is working with several universities to design a degree program, with internships, to train future generations of consultants. Until such a program is offered,

Bradshaw advises, design your own. After taking agriculture courses, go to work for an established crop consultant for a few years to get the experience needed to go out on your own.

After earning an agronomy degree at Texas Tech University, Bradshaw worked for a seed producer, then for the Texas Department of Agriculture. He began advising on soybeans in 1977 in partnership with two other consultants. His interests turned increasingly to rice, and by 1981, he ventured out on his own.

Though he clearly loves agriculture, Bradshaw finds consulting suits him better than actual farming would. He doesn't particularly enjoy working with equipment, preferring to focus instead on plants.

A consultant, in contrast to the farmers he advises, is free from the financial stress of acquiring land and heavy equipment. Yet like the farmer, he's his own boss, spends his days outdoors and plays a key role in the production of food or fiber. And by giving sound advice that results in cost savings to farmers, the consultant can build his reputation and, thus, his income.

Country/USA Photo Contest for FFA & 4-H Members Sponsored by The New Northrup King

Grab your camera on October 1 and capture the essence of rural America on film. Don't miss this chance to win great prizes and maybe have your photograph selected for publication in *One Day in the Country/USA*.

- Winner & Finalist photographs will be featured in *One Day in the Country/USA*, a unique photo-essay about the U.S. countryside — it's rural areas, small communities and people — as revealed through the eye of the camera **on a single day, October 1, 1988**. *One Day in the Country/USA* will be published independently by Silver Image Productions, Inc. for fall 1989 release.
- 2 Grand Prize Winners (one FFA & one 4-H) will be awarded their choice of a \$1,000 scholarship or a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a copy of *One Day in the Country/USA*.
- 22 Finalists will each receive a \$100 award and a copy of *One Day in the Country/USA*.
- 50 Honorable Mentions will each receive a \$50 award.



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National FFA Alumni President Rick Metzger has traveled across the United States speaking at FFA events.

By Lynn Hamilton

Rick Metzger is a believer—in the FFA, in young people and himself. From professional sports to the business world, this 28-year-old has proven that helping people and having a positive mental attitude are some of the most powerful tools a young person can use.

Rick is currently president of the 29,000-member National FFA Alumni Association. He travels the country giving leadership workshops, speaking at state alumni conventions and FFA banquets and raising funds for the FFA Foundation. In addition to his leadership position with the Alumni, he also serves on the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, the Ohio FFA Alumni Council and is chairman of the Ohio FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee.

Woody Cox, executive director of the National FFA Alumni Association, says even though Rick is one of the youngest presidents the organization has had, he is one of the best. "To be a leader, you have to be self-motivated and very organized, a good manager. Rick has both traits. He

The Believer

Rick Metzger challenges himself and others to be the best

is very enthusiastic and is a great speaker," Cox remarks.

Rick supports his leadership activities with a full-time job as director of sales and marketing for Seedex Distributors, Inc., a lawn and garden wholesale company. He also serves as strength coach for the Anthony Wayne High School varsity football team and is assistant manager of a skating rink during the winter.

"People ask, 'What do you do for fun?' Well, this is my idea of fun - going to speaking engagements or an FFA banquet, going out and raising money for young people and the FFA - that's my idea of enjoyment.

Dr. Earl Kantner, executive secretary of the Ohio FFA Foundation, has worked with Rick since his state officer days in Ohio in 1978-79.

"He's certainly one of the young people I've worked with who is still so dedicated to the FFA program and vocational agriculture, and is willing to do everything he can to help that," Dr. Kantner says.

Of all of Rick's accomplishments, he is proudest of his success in the context of something he didn't do - go to college. "I had teachers and employers who told me I wouldn't succeed in business and in life. I have set out to prove them wrong and in

my eyes I have done it."

However, Rick is not against students attending college. He says many young people need those years to explore their options and find out what they want to do. He chose to jump into his future head-first, though.

"The only person who really believed that I could make it on my own without a college degree was my vo-ag teacher, Bernard Scott," Rick says. "He gave me the optimistic outlook on life. No matter how bad things get, there's always something good about it. I learned to live by that and I still do."

The optimistic attitude has also been applied to Rick's love of sports. He has been involved with professional softball, track and football, the latter with the USFL Michigan Panthers. "It was a dream come true to be involved with professional athletics," he says. "But I realized I could not make a full-time career out of it and make a living."

However, his football playing put a short-term hold on his present career and activities last year. Two vertebrae in Rick's neck were cracked, a result from the years of pounding taken in football. He suffered a mild stroke and was hospitalized for almost a month. Doctors said he should have been hospitalized for two to three months. Rick attributes his quick recovery to his strong mental attitude.

Competition still draws him to sports as a hobby, though. "My idea of having a good time is giving 110 percent and giving the best performance possible," he says. "If I go out and only give 80 percent I feel miserable because I wasn't the competitive person that I should have been."

Rick's strategy is to mentally see himself accomplishing his goals before he sets out to reach them.

"I'm capable of hitting a softball over a 325-foot fence. Every time before I go to the plate, I picture every move I'm going to make—how my feet are going to

(Continued on page 50)

Metzger bench-pressed 400 lbs at the 1987 FFA State Presidents' Conference.



Up With Agriculture Contest Winners

Doug Drudik, of Grand Island, Nebraska, was chosen as the overall winner of the fourth annual *Up with Agriculture* Writing Contest, an event sponsored by the Garst Seed Company.

An estimated 8,000 FFA members from 20 states received cash and prizes totaling nearly \$20,000. Drudik, 18, received \$1,000 for his winning entry, "The Sun Still Smiles." Each state winner received \$250 and all winners received an *Up with Agriculture* wallet for describing in 100 words or less, their feelings about the future of American agriculture.

According to David Garst, president of Garst Seed, Doug's mother found that she had cancer two days before Christmas last year, about the same time that Doug was writing his essay. "Doug said his mother is determined to overcome cancer, and added that if agriculturalists would have her attitude, their futures would be bright," explained Garst. "The positive attitude expressed in Doug's poem and by his family's actions should be an inspiration to us all."

The following are Drudik's winning entry and other selected state-winning essays.

The Sun Still Smiles

The sun always smiled on the farm. I'd wake up to the smiling sun, work under it all day, and say good-bye to it in the evening.

I knew the smiling sun very well before I learned a "crisis" was at hand.

Some people talked of it as such, others just didn't talk about it.

Today, the crisis is either over, or still among us in our attitudes.

Of either I'm not sure.

What I'm sure of, though, is: the sun I saw this morning is the same one I saw as a child, and it is definitely still smiling.

Indiana State Winner

Matthew Campbell, 15

Jay County FFA Chapter

I am the world's largest industry.

I am the foundation of civilization.

I am the parent of genius and the child of hard work.

I am a builder of character in youth.

I make life purposeful and fruitful.

I am represented in the humblest of savings and in the largest investments.

I can turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones.

My greatest achievements are represented by innovation.

I am the frontier for the adventure of the human mind.

It isn't so much where I stand but where I am going that assures my future.

"I AM AMERICAN AGRICULTURE."

Pennsylvania State Winner

Irene Benner, 18

Greenwood FFA Chapter

The most priceless commodities of our American farms are the self-reliant young citizens that grow up learning the importance of dedication and motivation. Whether on the land, in the lab or in agribusiness, there is a bright future for today's young "aggies."

Although agriculture is influenced by nature, land, climate, and economics, the most crucial variable in the agriculture and food equation of the future is human capital, young people qualified to step out and accept the many career opportunities that agriculture has to offer. Today's farm youth have the education and motivation to keep agriculture, America's Heartbeat, ticking.

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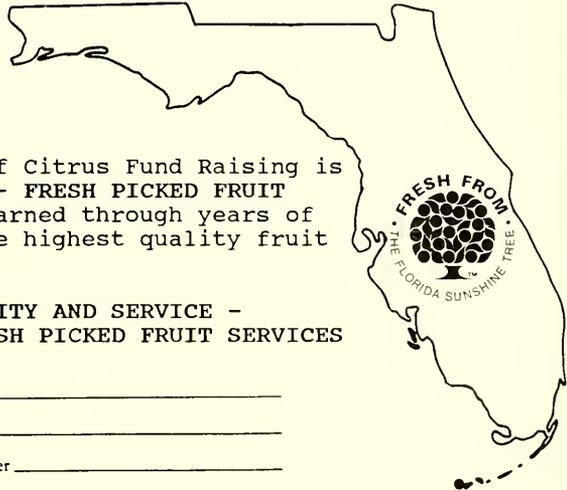
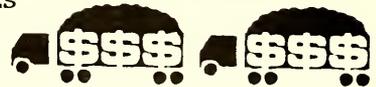
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Terri Hames, western region vice president, met backstage with the Oak Ridge Boys at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas to talk about their role in the "Take Pride in America" campaign. Left to right are Richard Sterban, Joe Bonsall, Hames, Duane Allen and Steve Sanders. *Photo by Andrew Markwart*

FFA Takes Pride In America

FFA joins the Oak Ridge Boys in a nationwide campaign to preserve America's resources

When was the last time you had a chance to help this land/ To make a difference, to face the task and make a stand?" This is the question the Oak Ridge Boys are asking the American public in "Take Pride In America," the new theme song for the nationwide campaign of the same name.

Take Pride in America (TPIA) is a national public awareness campaign to encourage all Americans to care for public and private natural and cultural resources. Along with other performers like Clint Eastwood, Louis Gossett Jr. and Charles Bronson, the Oak Ridge Boys—Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall, Steve Sanders and Richard Sterban, have donated their talent to bring attention to the preservation of America's vital resources.

"The concept is simple," said Joe Bonsall. "The idea is to take care of the land. We're here on this planet for only a short time and we need to think about those who will be here after we're gone."

"Some of us have roots that run deep in this type of effort," said Duane Allen, a former member of the Paris, Texas, FFA Chapter. Allen was raised on a ranch near Paris and owns a number of cattle and horses at his home in Hendersonville, Tennessee. "Those of us who were born on the farm and appreciate it, appreciate the attention (FFA) is giving to this project."

Allen and the rest of the "Oaks" met with Terri Hames, western region FFA vice president, during a recent engagement at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. By coincidence, Hames had just spoken at the Paris FFA chapter banquet the evening before.

The Oak Ridge Boys song and a follow-up video were

produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one of the nine federal government departments that are partners in the campaign.

The mix of USDA officials and country music performers working on a common project brought a chuckle to Steve Sanders, the most recent addition to the Oak Ridge Boys. "It was a funny sight for me to see a bunch of government guys sitting around the studio in suits wearing headphones and nodding their heads," said Sanders.

FFA's six national officers were filmed by the USDA in March for a short video introducing TPIA to FFA members. The officers' video was then coupled with the Oak Ridge Boys' video and a ten-minute show explaining TPIA in a package to promote the campaign. The USDA has provided FFA with 150 copies of the video for distribution to state officers during National Leadership Conferences for State Officers. State officers will be sharing the videos and other promotional materials with FFA members throughout the year.

In cooperation with FFA, the USDA has created a special TPIA awards program for FFA chapters. USDA officials will judge state-winning Building Our American Communities (BOAC) applications this fall using TPIA guidelines. Four national winners will be selected out of the BOAC applications.

At press time, the Oak Ridge Boys were attempting to schedule an appearance at National FFA Convention this November to present the awards.

A number of FFA members are already being recognized for their involvement in TPIA. The Fayette County FFA Chapter from Oak Hill, West Virginia was named as one of the 1988 National Take Pride In America award winners. Only 94 groups in the country received the honor. Two other FFA representatives—the Vermont State Association and the Prairie Heights chapter from LaGrange, Indiana—were among 209 national finalists. Each FFA group was nominated for the award by their governor.

National FFA President Kelli Evans served on the national panel that selected the winners. ♦♦♦

How Does Our Chapter Get Involved?

FFA chapters who want to participate in the Take Pride in America effort may already be on the right path if they have a BOAC project or other community-oriented activities.

"The goal of Take Pride in America is to motivate a local individual to identify a local problem and use local resources to solve that problem," says Ronn Hunt, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Deputy Director of Information. Hunt says FFA members can get started by calling a toll-free number, 1-800-THE SOIL. Callers will receive information about other groups and individuals in their area who are working on TPIA projects.

He added that all government agencies, such as the Cooperative Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service have been alerted to help interested groups initiate and manage TPIA projects.

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FFA In Action



The hay stacking contest was a new activity at the harvest cookout. FFA members were divided into teams according to vocational agriculture classes. The contest was judged on the class who could stack the most bales in a straight line without the bales falling over. (From National Chapter application)

How Do Classes Stack Up?

The recreation committee of Scott County, Kentucky, conducts the annual harvest cookout every October at the local park. This is a favorite activity for the chapter as it helps the old and new members to get acquainted as well as have lots of fun. This activity is the only one of its kind in the school where a club cooks the food and the members play volleyball, softball, horseshoes and football.

The committee contacted each class and arranged for the county park to be used for the cookout. They were also responsible for the purchasing of hot dogs,

buns, beans, chips and drinks. With the assistance of the advisors, the committee cooked and served the food.

This activity has been the most popular by chapter members and has always had good attendance. It is also a favorite event for the freshmen members as many do not know each other since they are transferred from two junior high schools. Alumni members also enjoy the cookout as they are always eager to come back to the chapter to renew old acquaintances and catch up on all the news and events from summer.

Congressional Honor for Chapter Farm

The Konawaena, Hawaii, FFA Chapter dedicated their high school agricultural farm and renamed it "Sergeant Rodney Yano Agricultural Learning Complex."

Mayor Dante Carpenter declared May 21 as Sergeant Rodney Yano Day. The FFA members are honored to dedicate their farm to Sergeant Yano who was a graduate of Konawaena, a past FFA president and a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War. The farm dedication has been the Building Our American Communities project of the local FFA chapter.

The learning complex main agricultural classroom building houses an FFA Hall of Fame room where members' awards are displayed, memorabilia is kept, pictures of past and present state and chapter officers are featured and agricultural models are exhibited. Hall of Fame honorees include Colonel Elison Onizuka and Sergeant Rodney Yano.

The farm shop includes woodworking equipment, welding equipment and a farm mechanics section. Also part of the farm shop houses a walk-in refrigerator and meat saw used for meat science labs. Also the farm laboratory includes the Onizuka Memorial Park; a new Rodney Yano picnic area which includes a waterfall, fish pond, taro patches, watercress patch,

garden area, ornamental plants, anthuriums, flowering lei plants, pasture for donkeys, banana patch, smokehouse and a macadamia nut field.

FFA Chapter Meeting Mixer

In May, the Northmor, Ohio, FFA held a combined meeting with Mt. Gilead FFA. Approximately 20 Northmor and 20 Mt. Gilead FFA members were in attendance at Northmor High School. After a business meeting conducted by the Mt. Gilead officers, both chapters listened to Mr. Ed Amick of the Humane Society explain the current programs in Morrow County.

Following the guest speaker, ice cream was served and the two chapters headed for the softball diamond. In the bottom of the last inning, Mt. Gilead edged out Northmor 16-13.

This was the second combined meeting of the two chapters. Organizers were Mt. Gilead FFA member Stacy Beck and Northmor FFA member Sally Ruhl. (Tonya Trouman, Reporter)

Toys for Dollars

The Fremont, Ohio, FFA Alumni held their third annual Toy and Doll Show in March. Exhibitors at the show came from all over Ohio and five other states.

Fremont FFA members also ran the food stand at the show with the help of their mothers who made homemade pies to be sold. The chapter made over \$1,000.

The alumni will use its profits from the toy show to help support the local FFA.



Fremont FFA member Debbie Letzring checks out the quality of a wood exhibit at the FFA Alumni's third annual Toy and Doll Show.

Examples of uses for the money are helping members to participate at the national and state conventions, FFA camp, Wash-

ington Leadership Conference and buy meals for members participating in district and state judging contests.

Chapter members aided the alumni with setup, cleanup and "other duties as needed." (Julie Wagner, Reporter)

Tail Twister

Portobelo, Panama—You might say the U.S. Army Reserve took the boy out the country but couldn't take the civilian out of the boy.

Major Monte Reese, a native of Mooreland, Oklahoma, where he raised livestock and reached the rank of national vice president of the Future Farmers of America, recently passed through this ancient fishing village along the Caribbean Sea during a day off. Seeing two natives having trouble with a contrary bull at the end of a rope, he jumped out of his borrowed vehicle to help.

Reese, 41, approached the horned animal at the safest end and, grabbing the tail, finally encouraged it out of the thick weeds and back into the road—drawing words of appreciation from the local stockmen and cheers and laughter from his fellow soldiers.

Reese, now a resident of Wichita, Kansas, and commander of the 203rd Public Affairs Detachment, 89th Army Reserve Command there, was in Panama for a two-week tour of duty. In civilian life, he works for Mid America Ag Network in Wichita.

"That's the way we always did things back home," Reese said as he walked away from the bull. (Jim Etter)

FFA Chef Service

To start the "Food for America Day," several Fredericktown, Ohio, freshmen FFA members served breakfast to the teaching staff of the primary school. Each staff member chose an FFA member "chef" and then watched as their omelet was prepared to their order—cheese, mushroom, ham, or any combination. The chapter purchased four burners and all of the necessary equipment so that they could serve breakfast to people on special occasions.

Next the FFA held a petting zoo for the primary grades. Pigs, sheep, rabbits, calves, a kid goat, puppies and a pony were among the animals the children could see and touch. As a part of the petting zoo,

(Continued on Page 48)

August-September, 1988

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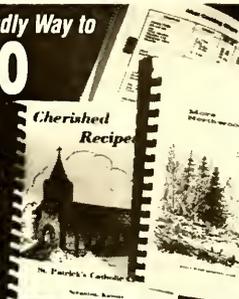
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FFA In Action

(Continued from Page 47)

Mark Purdy, vice president of the chapter, demonstrated how to shear sheep.

To conclude the activities, the FFA members went into the third-grade classrooms and showed the Food for America movie describing the processes and people necessary to produce a cheeseburger. The activity was wrapped up by each student getting a Burger King hamburger and a glass of milk from the chapter.

This is an annual event for the chapter and the children look forward to the animals each year. (Stacey Randall)

Not Quite Vanna White

The Williston, North Dakota, FFA Chapter won the "Triple Crown" of chapter honors as they were named winners of the state BOAC, Safety and Superior Chapter awards. An innovative part of their safety program was a "Wheel of Misfortune" exhibit that addressed electrical safety hazards.

The exhibit consisted of a game-show type wheel that, instead of displaying various amounts of money, showed potential electrical dangers such as frayed cords, downed power lines and electricity near water. The exhibit's hosts were two mannequins, "Pat Killjack" and "Vanna Light." A partially-revealed letter board spelled "Wired for Trouble."

Electrical safety pamphlets were distributed at the exhibit which was premiered at the National Hard Red Spring Wheat Show. The chapter has since displayed their wheel at KUMV-TV's "Farm and Ranch Showcase" and the North Dakota state fair.



Rick Sigvaldsen, left, and Mike Liudahl show off Williston's "Wheel of Misfortune" electrical safety exhibit that helped them win the state safety award.

Ups and Downs of Court



A crowd of 1,200 watched students, faculty and community members in East Clinton, Ohio, try to keep from falling off their donkeys at the school's first annual donkey basketball game. The FFA beat the high school band 10-4. In the second game, the faculty and community squeaked past the Young Farmers 12-11. In the final game the FFA beat the faculty 8-4.

Don't Let It Get Your Goat

The Mississinawa Valley, Ohio, FFA held their annual high school ag olympics during National FFA Week.

As part of the activities, they held a "Kiss the Goat" contest. Glass jars were

put in the cafeteria so the students could put money in them to "vote" on having their favorite teacher kiss the goat. The jar with the most money wins and the teacher whose picture is on the front of the jar must kiss the goat. This year's winner was Mr. Lewis Bricker, the industrial arts teacher.

The money from this contest was used to award two outstanding seniors in the FFA \$150 scholarships. This year's winners are Doug Halley and Ken Meier. (Jodi Woodbury)

Welding Money

The Beach, North Dakota, Chapter has come up with a solution for people whose round bale feeders rot, weather, fall apart and need replacement every few years. They, with help from Advisor Terry Week, have developed a pipe-and-sucker-rod type rack as a welcome alternative.

The feeder-building project came out of a discussion between a local farmer and Mr. Week about problems with feeders. At the time, the FFA needed to find some project to help increase chapter income.

The feeder sales have boosted the chapter's finances "to over \$1,800" to spend on typical expenses such as its annual banquet, livestock judging con-

Seeing is Believing

Biggersville, Mississippi, Chapter officers posed with their display to curb drinking while driving. The crashed car and signs were a constant reminder for students and adults in the community.



tests, the national convention, awards and supplies.

Using a jig built by their advisor, members weld and use a torch, primer and their muscles in the manufacture of cow-calf feeders and ones for bulls. Since September, they've sold 22 cow-calf size and four for bulls.

It takes about two days and all available hands to make one of the octagonal cow-calf feeders. The bale feeder is seven feet in diameter and the upright posts are fitted with metal stock, primed and painted.

The FFA designed feeders are built on rollers for easy moving. (from *The Bismark Tribune*)

Meeting Efficiency



Lyon County, Kentucky, used this idea to improve meetings and keep members better informed. They purchased an activities chart from the National FFA Supply Service and the vice president made a bulletin board using keys and the chart for listing each activity by committee. The activities were posted by the vice president two weeks prior to meetings. This provided time for each committee to act and members to inform themselves. Each committee filed their material according to the new filing system. We have been able to keep all material for next year's officers and committee chairpersons. (From *National Chapter application*)

All in the Family

The 1988 Smithville, Ohio, FFA Chapter banquet took on a special significance because it marked a unique milestone. For the first time since the chapter was chartered on May 21, 1929, the chapter had a family with three generations of State Farmer degree recipients.

At the Ohio FFA Convention in June of 1934, Leonard Miller received his



They've Got Their Hands Full

The Dyersburg, Tennessee, FFA Chapter officers proudly display the awards received at the West Tennessee FFA Awards Banquet which culminated in their chapter being named champion of West Tennessee for 1987-88. The awards banquet was held at the International Agricultural Center in Memphis. Officers, from left, Hunt Shipman, Mary Beth Butler, Kate Bell, Sue Ann Moore, Michelle White, Tom Bell and Advisor Benny Moore.

degree. Leonard had served as chapter treasurer and president. His home projects included a peach orchard and fat hogs. The one FFA activity which stands out in Leonard's mind was when he helped his chapter paint the bottom five feet of all the utility poles green in their home township, Green Township.

Leonard's son Rex received his degree as a junior in 1962. Rex's projects included beef cows and calves, corn, steers, hogs and breeding sheep. He was chapter vice president and president.

In June of 1988, Leonard Miller's grandson Brad received his State Farmer degree. Brad's projects have included hogs, corn, wheat and soybeans. Brad has served his chapter as sentinel and president. He has participated in general livestock judging, soil judging and played in the state FFA band.

The Presses Roll On

The Mansfield, Texas, FFA begins its eighth year of publishing a chapter newsletter called *Mansfield FFA News*. Beginning in June of 1981, the newsletter has been published each June, July and August as well as other special times throughout the year.

In the beginning, the newsletter was mailed only to chapter members and was

typed on a standard typewriter. Now through the use of computer word processing, data base and desktop publishing equipment, it is sent to all chapter members, alumni members, state staff members, school administrators and students who have enrolled for an agriscience course for next fall.

Any member or alumni member may submit information to be published. Help is always needed on summer publication dates to help fold, address and prepare for mailing.



Computers are used by vo-ag students and teachers at Mansfield to do SOE-related activities, keep complete record books for the chapter, connect with the Ag Ed Network on a regular basis and edit the newsletter. (Photo from *National Chapter application*)

OUTDOOR CAREERS

In forestry, surveying, water, wildlife and recreation begin at the RANGER SCHOOL, the oldest forest technology school in North America. Located in the Adirondacks on a 2800 acre forest, the RANGER SCHOOL provides an intensive program stressing a "hands-on," learn-by-doing education, leading to an A.A.S. degree.

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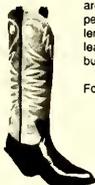
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"I really don't believe there is anything in this world I can't accomplish if I set my mind to it."

(Continued from page 42)

move, how my arms are going to move—everything."

His weight-lifting provides another example. Last summer at the state presidents' conference in Washington D.C., Rick bench pressed a personal goal of 400 pounds. "I thought I would stop after 400," he said. But those who know him thought otherwise. Rick didn't stop. This spring he lifted 505 pounds, and now hopes to continue increasing.

His power of concentration and vision of what he is about to do are more important than his 230 pounds of strength, he believes. "All I see when I'm lifting is the bar coming off the rack, coming down and hitting my chest and pushing it back up."

His life is patterned after these principles. "I picture myself doing what I want to accomplish and how I want to do it," he says. Never one to look back, he always has his future in sight. "I look forward to the things I'm going to accomplish tomorrow, next week, next month, next year and 10 years from now.

"Someday I would eventually like to own my own retail outlet in the lawn and garden business. I would also like to get into public relations more so than I am now and work with motivational-type seminars," he says. "I really don't believe there is anything in this world I can't accomplish if I set my mind to it."

Alumni Director Cox says, "Rick, through his athletic leadership in addition to his FFA background and his agricultural leadership has a lot of very positive things to offer young people."

Rick wasn't always so optimistic, though. "There was a time I had it in my mind that there wasn't much in the FFA for me to do because I wasn't good enough at any one thing to win," he says. His discouragement came from trying everything from the FFA Creed contest to proficiency awards and judging contests with little success in the Otsego, Ohio FFA Chapter.

However, that attitude turned around when, as a young FFA member, he heard the state president of Ohio give his retiring address. "That sparked me to set myself on the proper path and for what I wanted." That night, he set goals to be the state public speaking winner, a state officer, a national officer and earn his American Farmer Degree.

He reached every goal except becoming a national FFA officer. Though he fell short, Rick sees it as a positive experience. "People always ask me what it felt like to be beaten for national office. To me I was never beaten - I made six people be better than I was." At that point, he didn't dream that his goal would later be reached as a national officer of the alumni.

Rick sees the Alumni organization as a support group for the FFA and vocational agriculture program, much like a band or athletic boosters club. A large function of the Alumni involves helping agriculture teachers with specialized areas of instruction. "There are people who are experts in their fields who can go back and help the ag teacher," he says. This could provide students with benefits such as computer instruction and better judging team preparation.

Rick will continue to work with the Alumni and FFA members after his president's term, always looking for more opportunities to help. He wants to change the public's attitude toward youth, and tries to project a positive image of agriculture and young people to everyone.

A reporter recently cornered Rick and asked him just what was so good about young people these days. Rick replied with an invitation to the 1988 National FFA Convention. "You have to experience 23,000 young people in an auditorium, screaming with enthusiasm," Rick says. "I got the strangest feeling that the reporter might be in Kansas City this November." ***



My Turn

with

Dunn LeTours



Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler!

Let the Good Times Roll! Down in my home state of Louisiana, that old French saying is used often. The Cajuns are noted for enjoying life and looking on the bright side of things.

Cajun values date back to the time when they emigrated to Louisiana from Nova Scotia, Canada. The new land was rugged and difficult for them. However, they were grateful for the good things they found, such as an abundance of wildlife for food.

It would have been easy for them to complain about the mosquitoes and snakes in the swamps, but with a great attitude and resourcefulness they survived and, through the years, developed a style of preparing food called Cajun cuisine that is now popular around the world.

During my travels this year, I've come to appreciate those people back home more all the time, but I've also discovered Cajuns don't have exclusive rights to a good time or a positive frame of mind. I've met wonderful people with great attitudes from Montana to Florida and Ohio to Texas and many places in between.

One of my duties as a national officer is to help our members "Let the Good Times Roll" by helping them develop a good attitude about themselves. It is exciting for me to make new friends and help them realize how truly blessed they are because of the talents they all possess. But I can only motivate people if I feel motivated too. I really began to think about this when a member in New York asked me, "Dunn, how do you stay motivated? Who keeps you going?"

At times, as a national officer, it can become tiring because of all of the traveling, long schedules and hard work. Let there be no mistake—this experience as a national officer is the most enjoyable thing I've ever done. But I think it's been so enjoyable because I also have someone to

look to for inspiration—my younger brother Eric. He always brightens up my day because he has a wonderful attitude about life.

Despite the fact that he is deaf, Eric embraces life enthusiastically, appreciating what he *has* and not getting depressed or discouraged about what he *doesn't* have. There are many things he can't do—the simple things that we take for granted, like carrying on a conversation with a stranger, hearing the TV or asking a question to a store clerk while shopping. The one thing he can do is to laugh at himself when he fails and pick himself up to start over again.

Eric helps me keep life in perspective because he has taught me to appreciate life. Through him I have realized that every day is a celebration because we have so much for which to be thankful. We live in the greatest country on Earth where we are free to succeed. We can worship as we please and speak about our feelings. We have the opportunity to gather as friends in the FFA to learn about ourselves and others. We can compete, win awards or we can place second in a contest.

Free to place second? Yes. There is nothing wrong with placing second in a contest. Sure, you didn't win (and we all like to win), but when you think about how much you learned, aren't you much better because of the experience? So why should you be happy that you placed second?

My Cajun friends would say, "Because you didn't place third."

Take a tip from the Cajuns and my brother, Eric. There is always something to be happy about. Remember, the simple things in life. Take time to smell the roses, go fishing, take your younger brother or sister to the fair—take time to enjoy life and "Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler!"



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You can spend money plenty of ways. You could buy fast-food, or gas for your car, or albums. But why not invest in your college education and learn more about what you may be doing the rest of your life?

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The newsletter is written by a former FFA member and past national FFA officer candidate—someone who understands agriculture and today's competitive job market for young people.

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Joke Page

Q: What did Paul Revere say after his famous ride?

A: Whoa!

David Foster
Blue Ridge, Virginia

A coach was talking to his team. "You know my motto. Try, try, try again. And if that doesn't work we'll send in the bigger guys."

Linda Calloway
Castleberry, Alabama



In the old days, when the sign advertised "indoor pool" it meant they had a billiard table.

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

Tim: "If April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring?"

Tom: "I don't know, what?"

Tim: "Pilgrims!"

Amy Snyder
Hillsboro, Ohio

One day a man walked into a graveyard and found five dollars lying on the tombstone. He picked it up and heard a voice say "I'm the ghost of Daniel Boone, put the money back on the tomb." The man did exactly what the voice ordered him to do.

The next day the man went back to the cemetery and found a \$100 bill on the same tombstone and picked it up. He then heard a voice say, "I'm the voice of Daniel Boone, put the money back on the tomb." The man quickly replied, "I'm the ghost of Davy Crockett and I'm going to put the money in my pocket."

Mike Grubb
Oakland, Maryland

There was a doctor who lived in an apartment that had thin walls. Every night a man next to him would bang on the wall and say, "Do you have anything for a headache?" Later he would ask, "Do you have anything for a stomach ache?"

Then the man died and soon after that the doctor died and was buried right next to him. The doctor heard a knock on his coffin and the man asked, "Do you have anything for worms?"

Lila Metzker
Heavener, Oklahoma

Customer: "How do you serve shrimp?"

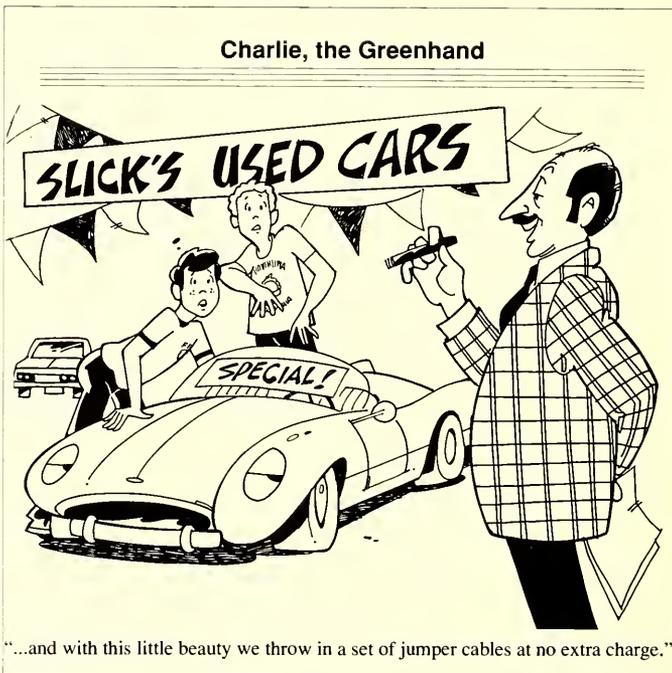
Waiter: "We bend down."

Shawnda Smith
Bartlett, Ohio

Q: What do you call a couple of salesmen who go to jail together?

A: Sellmates.

Dealon Ellison
Jemison, Alabama



"...and with this little beauty we throw in a set of jumper cables at no extra charge."

NOTICE:

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To see how good a rabbit hunter you are, try this small game.

2 True or false—abandoned dirt roads are a bad place to look for rabbits.

You say you've been hunting rabbits for years, right? You say you can find a cottontail faster than a beagle can find a soup bone.

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Starting in the upper right corner, take a shot at the rabbit hunting quizzes we've come up with. The answers may surprise you.

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For one thing, the Model 60's 22-inch Micro-Groove® barrel is incredibly accurate. A feature of no small importance when you're after hard-to-hit cottontails.

How fast is the Model 60? How fast is your trigger finger? It lets you fire up to 18 Long Rifle cartridges in just seconds.

1 Your dogs flush a rabbit. Should you A) wait where you are, B) follow the dogs, C) backtrack.

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See all the Marlin 22's, in over a dozen variations from the Model 15Y youth rifle to the Model 39 lever action, at your gun dealer. Also, ask for a free catalog with more hunting quizzes. Or write Marlin Firearms Co., 100 Kenna Drive, North Haven, CT 06473.

Model 995

Model 60

Answers: 1) A is correct; rabbit normally circle back to the spot where they were flushed. 2) False; the brush that grows parallel to such roads is prime bunny cover. 3) The key is the low water level of the stream. The exposed banks often become overgrown with edible vegetation.

3 This is a good place to look for bunnies. Do you know why?

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