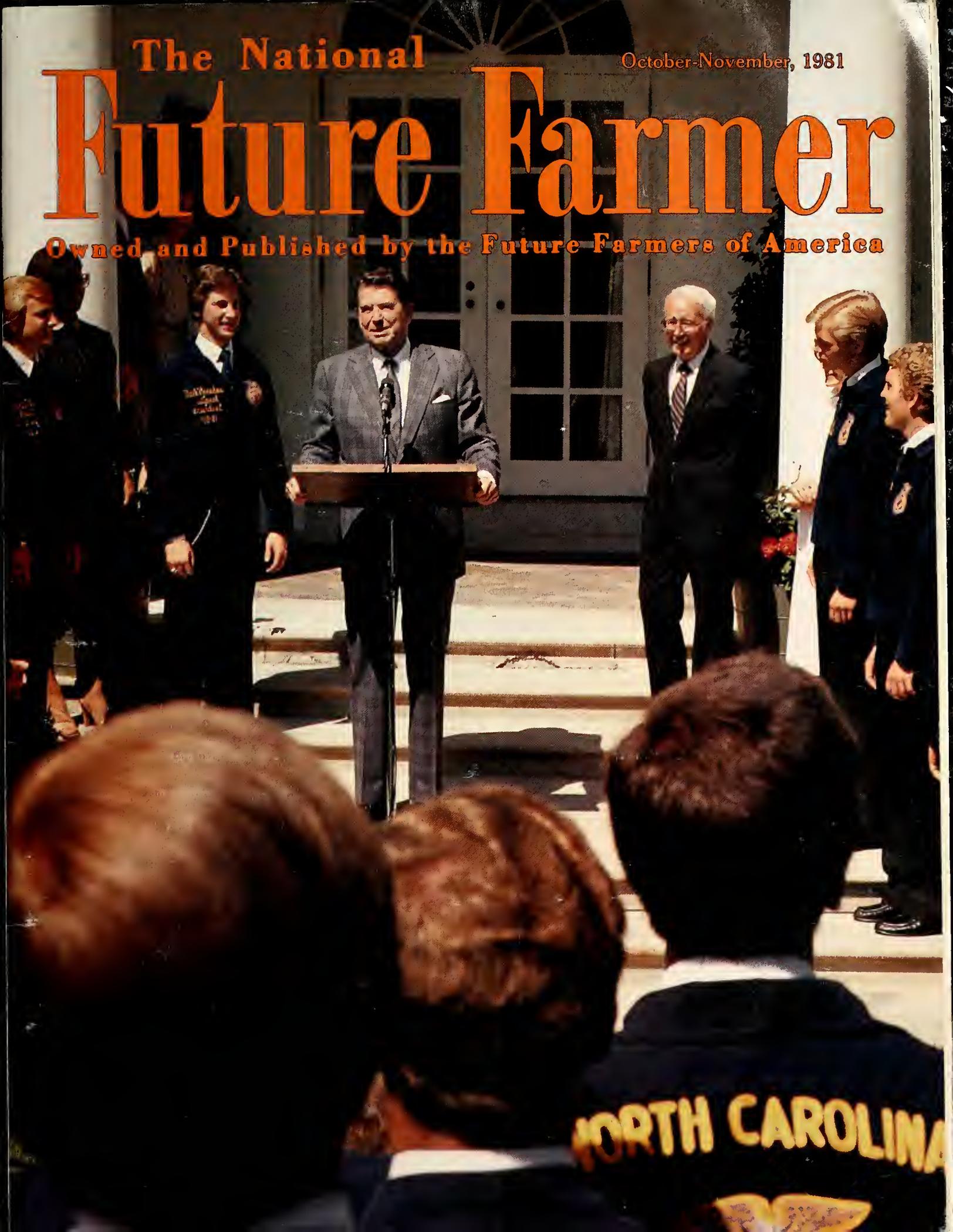


The National

October-November, 1981

Future Farmer

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A Word With The Editor

The countdown has started for the National FFA Convention, held this year November 12-14, in Kansas City, Missouri.

We are all looking forward to a great convention—some will be there in person, others will hear about it from someone who is lucky enough to attend. Proper conduct at the convention is necessary to insure a successful meeting. Especially is this important in the auditorium when the convention is in session.

To give you some pointers, here is what the delegates at the 1952 National FFA Convention adopted as "The FFA Code of Ethics." It may be old but it is not old-fashioned.

We will conduct ourselves at all times in order to be a credit to our organization, chapter, school and community by:

1. Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
2. Showing respect for rights of others and being courteous at all times.
3. Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others.
4. Respecting property of others.
5. Refraining from loud, boisterous talk, swearing and other unbecoming conduct.
6. Demonstrating sportsmanship in the show ring, judging contests, and meetings. Modest in winning and generous in defeat.
7. Attending meetings promptly and respecting the opinion of others in discussion.
8. Taking pride in our organization; in our activities; in our supervised experience programs; in our exhibits, and in the occupation of agriculture.
9. Sharing with others experiences and knowledge gained by attending national and state meetings.

Then in 1976, delegates to the National FFA Convention adopted the following as official dress.

"The official dress for female members is to be black skirt, white blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black shoes and official jacket zipped to the top. Black slacks may be worn for outdoor activities, such as judging, excessive traveling and camping.

"The official dress for male members is to be black slacks, white shirt, blue FFA tie, black shoes and socks and the official jacket zipped to the top."

Wilson Carnes

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Our Cover

Participants in this year's State Presidents' Conference were delighted when President Ronald Reagan stepped out from his adjacent Oval Office to greet them at the White House Rose Garden. For more on the State Presidents' Conference and the President's visit, see page 20.

Cover photo by Bill Stagg

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The FFA

**NEWS IN
BRIEF**

SOME TOUGH AND FAR-REACHING DECISIONS were made at the FFA Board of Directors and Board of Trustees' meeting held in July in Alexandria, Virginia. Among decisions which may affect FFA members more directly:

****Approval of a National FFA Convention newspaper** to be made available for sponsorship as a special project of the FFA Foundation. If sponsored soon enough, the paper will be made available for the 1981 convention;

****Approval of the concept of splitting the crop Production Proficiency award** into different areas—which will be determined by a special proficiency award study committee;

****Approval of raising the convention registration fee from \$8 to \$10** for the 1982 convention, so that the convention can pay for itself out of registration income and other income associated with the convention.

THE AMERICAN FARMER SELECTION PROCESS drew intense debate during the July Board meeting, and the lively discussion resulted in approval of a task force to review the entire American Farmer application form and selection process and report to the January Board meeting with recommendations. Also, the Board recommended a constitutional change in the minimum requirements needed for the degree: they favor a minimum of \$5,000 productively invested for a member to receive the American Farmer degree, as opposed to the current figure of \$1,000. This legislation will be brought before the FFA members at the national convention in November.

REAPPORTIONMENT OF VOTING CONVENTION DELEGATES will once again be brought before FFA members at this year's national convention. The Board is recommending a constitutional change from "one additional delegate for each 10,000 active members or major fraction thereof above the first 10,000" to "one additional delegate for each 5,000 active members or major fraction thereof above the first 5,000. . . ."

NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION Executive Director Bernie Staller reports the Foundation has received new and changed sponsorship since the beginning of the year. New General Fund Sponsors

include: the Armco Foundation (increased from Gold to One Star); the Chemlawn Corporation (Silver); the W.D. Hoard & Sons Company (increased from Bronze to Silver); the Pennwalt Corporation, AgChem Division (Silver); United Central Bancshares, Inc. (Silver); American Hoechst Corporation (Silver); and United Foods, Inc. (Silver). New Special Project Sponsors include: American Grain & Related Industries; Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.; and Central Division Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

OVER 1,500 FFA MEMBERS GOT A CHANCE to participate in the 1981 Washington Conference leadership program, according to Teresa Tesnohlidek, director of one of two conferences which ran simultaneously for eight weeks this summer. The conferences allowed FFA members to get chapter officer training and personal motivation through workshops emphasizing personal communications, social and human relations and group leadership skills. Teresa says materials for next year's sessions will be available in November and can be obtained at the national convention or through the National FFA Center.

SABURO MATSUMOTO, PROVINCIAL ADVISOR of the Future Farmers of Japan organization has been visiting here in the United States on a three-month professional exchange, part of the FFA's International Program. Mr. Matsumoto, who arrived July 6, is here to study our organization and possibly take back ideas for implementation in the FFJ. In Japan, Mr. Matsumoto's duties beyond provincial (regional) advisor include serving as a secondary agriculture teacher and a member of the FFJ national board.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL about it—in the new national FFA Convention newspaper, *The FFA Times*. The *Times* is funded by Jacques Seed Company as a special project of the FFA Foundation, Inc. and will be published by the FFA Information Department during the convention. Four separate issues with four pages in each issue will be available during the convention and will be mailed to every chapter following the convention. Becky Vining, former intern with the National FFA Information Department will serve as editor of the *Times*.

THE 1981-82 OFFICIAL FFA CATALOG is now in print and has been mailed to local FFA chapters, reports Director of National FFA Supply Service Harry Andrews. And the catalog includes some surprises this year as well: new promotional items, such as FFA stickers and FFA magnets to give to friends of the FFA have been included. Additional new items include a Tony Lama belt and FFA buckle, and a 1893 edition of Roberts Rules of Order.



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Agriculture

LOOKING AHEAD

WHY DO YOU FARM? According to a Clemson University study of South Carolina farmers, profit is not the bottom line. Family tradition, enjoyment and making a living, as opposed to making a profit, were the answers most farmers gave when asked the question. Surprisingly, independence and investment did not rank high as reasons for farming. Following are the most-often cited reasons for farming, including percentages: Family tradition—16 percent; enjoyment—15 percent; income—13 percent; good lifestyle—5 percent; hobby—3 percent; profit—2 percent; investment—2 percent; love of land—1 percent; and independence—1 percent.

WANT TO GET THE LATEST INFORMATION on U.S. and world crop, livestock, export and economic news from the U.S. Department of Agriculture? You can by calling the FARMERS'-900-NEWSLINE. A 60-second summary is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, for 50 cents per call. The news items and special features are updated daily at 4 p.m., Washington, D.C. time. The number is: 900-976-0404.

NEWS FROM THE ANIMAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: Representative Ronald M. Mott (D., Ohio) has introduced a bill to establish a "Farm Animal Husbandry Committee" to carry out an investigation of intensive farm animal husbandry practices. The proposed committee would be comprised of 16 members, including two consumer group representatives and two "animal welfare" advocates. A final report would be completed not later than two years after the first meeting of the committee.

THE MED FLY RAGE CONTINUES but the debate over malathion, the insecticide used to control mediterranean fruit flies seems to have subsided. Despite the public uproar earlier, Texas A&M researchers say the material has a proven track record of being safe and free of health hazards. Malathion has been used widely since the early 1950's by farmers, homeowners and gardeners and is now used in many areas of Texas in mosquito control programs. Tests sponsored by the National Cancer Institute have shown malathion to be non-carcinogenic and non-mutagenic (not causing genetic changes).

HARVESTTIME IS APPROACHING and Doane's Agricultural Report has released a summary of a survey of common hourly custom rates for this year's work. If you plan to hire or perhaps do custom work yourself, you might want to see how your rates compare to these hourly rates: Corn picking—\$16.50/hour; corn combining—\$32.00/hour; combining soybeans—\$36.00/hour; combining wheat—\$33.00/hour; combining rice—\$45.00/hour; combining other small grains—\$32.50/hour; mowing hay—\$9.30/hour; raking hay—\$7.60/hour; mow and condition hay—\$12.75.

NOW THAT'S PRODUCTIVITY: Farm workers are five times as productive as those who work in nonfarm industries, says a recent government report. The study states one farm worker supplies enough food and fiber for 68 people; 20 years ago, the same worker was producing enough for only 28 people. In addition, U.S. farmers produce 54 percent more in crop output than their fathers—and on 3 percent fewer acres no less.

USING HORNETS: Biological pest control scientists around the world are increasingly interested in hornets, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Observations at a Chinese agricultural station showed that a hornet eats six or seven large bollworms or 20 to 30 small ones per day. They also destroy corn and millet borers, pod borers, bean hawk moths, army worms and other pests. The U.S., the U.S.S.R. and China are expanding research in biological pest control with hornets.

ARE TAX SHELTERED PENSION FUNDS being used to buy up American farmland, thus running up its price and forcing bona-fide farmers off the land? No, says a government study. True, pension funds have grown up to approximately \$625 billion, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) concludes. But the GAO says only a small amount—0.2 percent—is invested in farmland. Still, legislation has been introduced on Capitol Hill to require such funds to pay income tax on earnings from agricultural land investments, thus removing any unfair advantage.

PLANTED ACREAGE FOR principal crops is now seen at 365.5 million acres this year, up from 356.9 million acres last year and the highest since 1944, according to a USDA acreage report. Prospective harvested acreage is the largest in nearly 50 years, at 355.5 million acres. Incidentally, a total of nine states (with Iowa first at 26.12 million acres) account for 54 percent of the nation's planted acreage in major crops.

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ommendations. This 288-page hardcover book contains over 100 photographs, tables and charts. Some of its 14 chapters cover the use of haylage and high moisture grain for feeding beef and dairy cattle, sheep and hogs, while others detail livestock management, facility planning, nutrition and ration formulation, manure management, and other topics of interest for progressive livestock farmers.

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National Convention, FFA Style

THEY will come sweeping in from all corners of the nation—assembling together to celebrate achievements, recognize winners and make decisions which will affect a fellow membership of slightly less than a half-million young adults.

They are FFA members, and they will gather this year to celebrate the event long considered the highlight of the FFA organization; the National FFA Convention.

Held each year in the nation's agri-business capital of Kansas City, Missouri, this year's celebration promises to be as action-packed as any of those previous. The 54th National Convention—the largest ag youth gathering in the world—will be off and running this year on November 12-14 which, if you check your calendar, constitutes a slight change from previous years. This year those blue and gold jackets should be ready for the first convention session to take place on Thursday, not Wednesday as in previous years.

Most of you planning an early arrival won't want to miss the American Royal Parade, led by the National FFA Officers, on Saturday, November 7. Then, on Wednesday, you'll get a chance to see the Grand Opening of the National Agricultural Career Show—complete with 250 booths representing literally every facet of today's agriculture. A Vespers program is planned for that evening.

But that's just the beginning: Thursday morning's opening convention sessions ushers in a full and feverish three days of National Officer presentations, FFA Alumni Leadership Workshops, fiery debate among state delegates during convention business sessions and motivational speeches from some of the biggest and brightest leaders in our nation. One such notable is Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, scheduled to speak on Friday.

National FFA President Mark Herndon will preside over business sessions.



1981 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Saturday, November 7**
 8:30 am American Royal Parade - Led by National FFA Officers
- Sunday, November 8**
 1 p.m. First Practice - National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent
- Tuesday, November 10**
 9-10 a.m. Delegate Registration - Radisson Muehlebach
 1-8 p.m. Early Registration - H. Roe Bartle
- Wednesday, November 11**
 8 a.m. Registration*
 1 p.m. Leadership Workshop conducted by FFA Alumni
 1:30 p.m. National Agricultural Career Show Grand Opening - H. Roe Bartle Exhibition Hall
 Business Session
 2 p.m. Leadership Workshop
 3 p.m. Leadership Workshop
 7:30 p.m. Vespers Program
- Thursday, November 12**
 7 a.m. Livestock Contest
 8 a.m. Registration*
 Farm Business Management and Meats Contests
 Floriculture and Milk Quality and Dairy Foods Contests
 8:30 a.m. Convention Opening Session
 9 a.m. FFA Alumni Association Opening Session
 Noon Dairy Cattle Contest
 12:30 p.m. Agricultural Mechanics Contest
 1 p.m. Leadership Workshop
 2 p.m. Business Session
 American Farmer Degrees
 3 p.m. Leadership Workshop
 6:30 p.m. National FFA Talent Show
 8 p.m. Sponsor Recognition
 Stars Over America Pageant
- Friday, November 13**
 8:30 a.m. Poultry and Nursery Landscape Contests
 9 a.m. Agricultural Proficiency Awards
 BOAC Awards
 National Chapter Awards
 Address by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale
 1 p.m. Leadership Workshop
 2 p.m. Honorary American Farmer Degrees
 Distinguished Service Citations
 Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest
 3 p.m. Leadership Workshop
 6:30 p.m. National FFA Band and Chorus Concert
 8 p.m. 0900Prepared Public Speaking Contest
 VIP Citations
- Saturday, November 14**
 9 a.m. International Activities Report
 Election of 1981-82 National Officers
 1 p.m. FFA Day at the American Royal
 8 p.m. Installation of New National Officers

*Sponsor Registration will be in the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel.

Friday night you'll get a chance to see some of the best public speakers the FFA has to offer during the National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Contest. Saturday, the convention swings into high gear with the election and installation of the new 1981-82 National Officers, and FFA-Day-At-The-Rodeo, in conjunction with the American Royal, is scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

To top off a full week of activities, the Kansas City Chiefs are proud to announce November 15 as FFA Day at Arrowhead Stadium. The FFA Chorus and National FFA Officers will give presentations at the game between the Chiefs and the Houston Oilers.

Something else you won't want to miss is Thursday's premiere showing of the national convention multi-image theme presentation. It will be available for purchase by individual chapters in single-screen version after the convention. For you music lovers, the National FFA Band and Chorus will be on hand throughout the convention, as well as the National FFA Supply Service brimming with FFA items and accessories to sell.

In addition to these highlights, a new feature inside the auditorium this year will be the use of closed circuit TV on the screen above stage. This will enable members to have a "front row seat" no matter where they are in the convention hall. Also, overflow coverage of all major convention sessions will be provided, and you'll witness the premiere edition of the convention newspaper *The FFA Times*.

One final note of interest: those attending the convention this year may notice some folks displaying badges with the words "Alumni—10th Anniversary." That's because this year's gathering marks the 10th anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association's existence.

Delegates will have opportunities to voice opinions during the convention.



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Introducing Four of the Nation's Best Farmers

The 1981 Regional Star Farmers are living examples of what progressive agricultural production is all about.

FROM a vast field of 778 American Farmer degree candidates, four finalists have been chosen to represent the cream of the crop as this year's Regional Star Farmers of America. The four were chosen by National FFA Officers and Board of Directors based on their achievements in agriculture, FFA and leadership. And come November at the National FFA Convention, these four will stand nervously on stage as *the* 1981 Star Farmer of America is introduced.

As Regional Star Farmers, each individual receives \$500 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc. at the 54th national convention, November 12-14. The Star Farmer then receives an additional \$500 plus recognition as the top individual in the field of agriculture production. But before that happens, we'd like to have you meet these four finalists:

Central Region

A diversified crop and livestock operation has helped earn Doug Schwartz of Washington, Kansas, the Star Farmer award from the Central Region. The 21-year-old Schwartz started his FFA occupational experience program in 1975 with 3 beef cattle, 54 hogs and 5 acres of milo. Since then he has added soybeans, wheat and corn and expanded the other enterprises. He rents cropland and has interest in the family operation while also having entered farming and ranching full time when he purchased a farm in 1978.

His 367-acre farm includes a house, machine shed, cattle and hog facilities and a grain complex. All buildings and equipment required repairs so Doug insulated, made farrowing telescoping gates, laid sewage pipes, resealed Harvestores and installed motors and electrical panels.

Currently Doug has 32 Chesterwhite sows, 18 Spotted Poland China sows, 5 purebred boars, 310 purebred pigs and 400 commercial hogs. He also owns 191 beef heifers.

Doug feeds his hogs and cattle home-grown grain. He drilled a well and purchased a nine-tower pivot system to irrigate 130 acres of crops. He uses flood and siphon tube irrigation on part of the 854 acres he rents. With irrigation, he has achieved yields of 195 bushels on corn and 145.5 bushels on milo.

Advisor Phil Kingston says Doug was

very active in the Washington FFA Chapter, serving as chapter president and district vice president.

Eastern Region

Tony Mitchell, 21-year-old dairy farmer from Elkin, North Carolina, is this year's Star Farmer from the Eastern Region.

Tony started helping his father and older brothers with the milking chores when he was seven years old. He enrolled in vocational agriculture in 1975 and decided to make dairying his future. That year Tony raised two heifers, two brood sows and four acres of corn. During high school, he added sheep and oats and became more involved in the family dairy. They enlarged the herd, installed a 1,300 gallon milk tank and constructed a free-stall barn and upright silo.

When Tony graduated from high school in 1978, he formed a partnership with his brother and rented the family dairy from parents Jacob and Alice.

Their herd now consists of 110 Hostein cows, 34 bred heifers, 36 calves and 5 bulls. The cows are fed a 20 percent protein pellet as they're milked in a double-five parlor. A beer mash is mixed with corn silage and hay and then fed from a bunk. The corn silage and hay are homegrown and Tony plans to raise and grind his own parlor feed soon.

"DHIA records tell us which cows need to be culled, when to breed and when to turn each cow dry," Tony says. "We started out with a herd average under 11,000 pounds and have increased it to more than 13,000 pounds."

Southern Region

George McDonald, this year's Star Farmer from the Southern Region is currently involved in a 50/50 partnership with his father on the family's beef, dairy and crop operation.

When McDonald joined FFA in 1975 he raised 59 beef cattle, 2½ acres of burley tobacco and a few truck crops. He expanded his own enterprises as he advanced through high school vocational agriculture. The McDonalds farm 937 acres, including 50 acres George owns himself. The 200 acres of corn keep livestock feed costs down, while 200 acres of soybeans are stored and marketed through a local

(Continued on Page 18)



Above, Doug Schwartz of Washington, Kansas.



Tony Mitchell of Elkin, North Carolina.



George McDonald of Carthage, Tennessee; and below, Chuck Berry of Elma, Washington.



Meet Four of the Nation's Outstanding Agribusinessmen

Diversified opportunities in agriculture have led these Regional Star Agribusinessmen to the top.



Above, Terry Daniel of Mesa, Arizona.

RISING to the top of a field of 778 American Farmer degree candidates, four regional Star Agribusinessmen have been selected this year to represent their peers as the very best the FFA has to offer in the field of agribusiness.

The regional Star Agribusinessmen each receive \$500 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc. at the 54th National FFA Convention, November 12-14. During the convention, one regional Star Farmer will be named Star Agribusinessman of America and will receive an additional \$500 plus recognition as the most outstanding FFA member in the field. But before this happens, we'd like to have you meet these four finalists:

Western Region

Terry Daniel, 21-year-old owner of Daniel's Landscaping and Grading, is this year's Star Farmer from the Western Region.

Terry from the Westwood FFA Chapter, Arizona, began his vocational agriculture career in 1974 with citrus trees. He developed a laboratory experience program in landscape maintenance around his home and also started a small lawn service in his neighborhood during his second year in vocational agriculture.

As a junior, he worked for a landscape installer on a turf farm for additional experience and expanded his landscape maintenance business. During his senior year, Terry worked for another landscape installer and became so involved in the business that he had to turn his own landscape maintenance business over to fellow FFA members.

In 1978 Terry bought out his employer with the help of a bank loan and opened his own business in January of 1979. He started in the area of construction cleanup, grading and package landscaping.

During his second year of business, Terry became more involved in the landscape part of his profession. He began designing landscapes, sprinkler systems and installing them himself. Later in the year, he started bidding on commercial landscape construction jobs and realized that this was where he wanted to concentrate his efforts.

Central Region

Twenty-one-year-old Dale Wolf, Jr., owner and manager of a floral shop and

greenhouse, has been named Central Region Star Agribusinessman.

Dale, from Baldwin, Wisconsin, began work with the Baldwin Greenhouse in 1975, transplanting flats of plants to different houses, shredding soil, weeding plants, and transplanting seedlings. He also worked with chemicals learning how to apply them properly.

After working at the greenhouse for six years Dale was offered the opportunity to take over the business in 1979 when the owner retired. After the final purchase in March of 1981, Dale expanded his wholesale marketing areas and increased retail business with more advertising, competitive prices and a larger selection of flowers.

"I know that by hard work and a steady mind, a lot can be accomplished if you let yourself expand and try new ideas," Dale says. "I've stressed quality in everything that I produce in my greenhouse."

Dale purchased the greenhouse and flower shop in New Richmond, Wisconsin, in June of 1981. Long range plans for the New Richmond operation include constructing a completely new facility on a land site. These plans have been enhanced by the acquisition of ten acres and completion of architectural sketches for the complex. This proposal includes a complete floral and gift shop, garden and landscape center, pet shop, conservatory for display of plants and birds and 11,400 square feet of growing area.

Eastern Region

David Wenger of Myerstown, Pennsylvania, has been selected Eastern Region Star Agribusinessman. David started out with the family machinery company in his pre-teen years by attending farm sales every weekend with his father and older brother. As he grew older, he gained experience in the appraisal and purchase of farm equipment by closely observing his father and brother. Approximately 85 percent of the company's business includes selling used tractors and farm machinery.

In 1979 his father, due to health reasons, decided to train someone in the company as his replacement—and David was chosen for the position. He was designated as the number one buyer for Wenger's in 1980.

About 80 percent of David's time requires him to be in a certain area of the southern or midwestern part of the United

(Continued on Page 18)

The National FUTURE FARMER



Michael Welch of Speedwell, Tennessee.

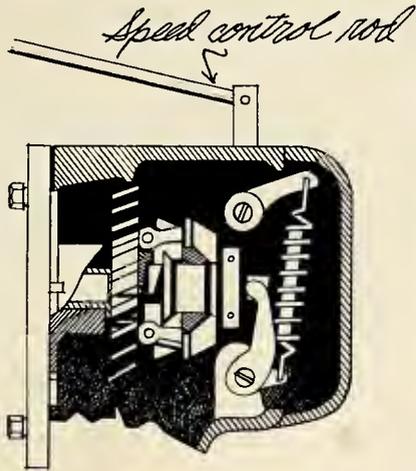


David Wenger of Myerstown, Pennsylvania; and below, Dale Wolf, Jr. of Baldwin, Wisconsin.



Ag Tips

from your Exxon Farm Distributor

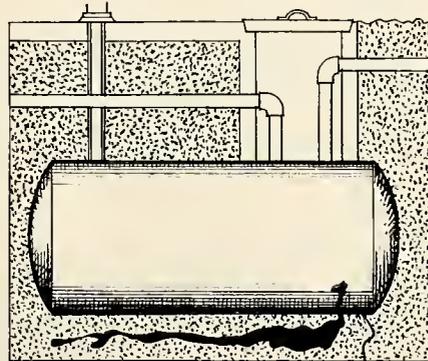


Simple governor adjustment can save gas, boost tractor power.

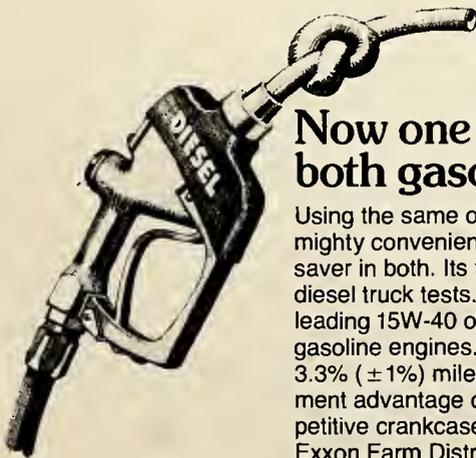
When ag engineers at a state university checked gasoline tractors at random, they found 4 out of 5 needed governor adjustment. In 32%, no-load speed was too high; in 62%, full-load speed was too low. Many needed new parts before they could be adjusted. But where adjustment was possible, it resulted in a 9.1% increase in horsepower with a 4.8% fuel saving. Not bad for a few minutes' work with a tach.

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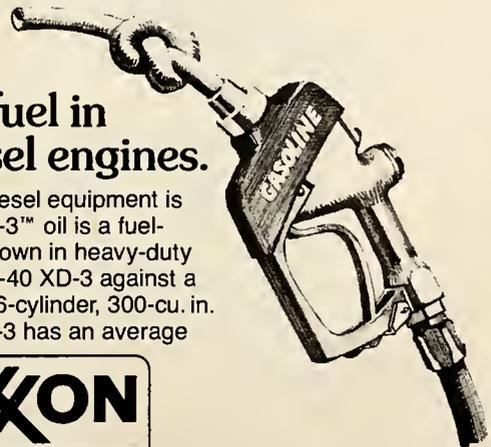


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Star Farmers

(Continued from Page 15)

elevator. Their 1980 crop of burley tobacco yielded 2,350 pounds per acre.

George stresses soil and water management on the farm. This year he no-till planted 145 acres of corn into fescue and raised an additional 55 acres with minimum tillage in a rotation of corn, wheat and soybeans. Holstein and Angus cattle make up the livestock enterprise.

In addition to farming, McDonald has a Northrup King seed dealership. "Through this dealership, I am able to supply the farm's seeds wholesale while also making a profit by selling to local farmers."

As an active FFA member, George served as Tennessee FFA Association president, won the state public speaking contest and was named State Star Farmer.

Western Region

Chuck Berry of Elma, Washington, was introduced to dairy farming at age seven. Now, the 21-year-old owns a 95-cow herd and 144 acres of land and, for his achievements, has been named Western Region Star Farmer.

Chuck's drive for a dairy farm started in 1970 when his father established a trust that would grant him one-quarter interest in the family farm when he turned 18 if he was truly interested in the dairy industry.

As a freshman in 1975, Chuck started his

own dairy project with two Holstein heifers. By 1977, he had decided to make dairying his future—so he took full advantage of his father's offer in the partnership. By 1979, Chuck had half interest in the operation, and upon his father's death in 1980, took complete responsibility of the dairy.

Chuck's herd consists of 95 Holstein cows, 30 springer heifers and 37 calves and open heifers. Since 1975 he has increased average milk production per cow more than 1,500 pounds to nearly 17,500.

"Manpower efficiency is one of my major goals," Chuck says. "Efficient use of labor can only be made if you have the job defined and good equipment available. In a modern farm operation, there's no time for major delays."

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Agribusinessmen

(Continued from Page 16)

States at a moment's notice for an important equipment auction.

Gerald Strickler, David's vocational agriculture instructor at Elco High School, feels that David is very conscientious in his position of responsibility.

"He is rapidly acquiring the ability of being able to spot a piece of quality equipment at the various sales in his travels," Mr. Strickler says. "He needs this skill if he is to bring in a return for the parent firm, while at the same time being able to satisfy his customers."

Southern Region

Michael Welch of Speedwell, Tennessee, has successfully combined work experience at a farmers cooperative with college instruction to become the Southern Region Star Agribusinessman.

By attending night school, Michael has completed three years of college while working at the Claiborne Farmers Cooperative as a salesman and mechanic. He also operates his own welding repair shop using the shop skills learned in vocational agriculture. He does custom welding to supplement his income.

Michael works with people every day, selling products and updating prices weekly. "My knowledge of feeds and seed varieties allows me to assist our customers in purchasing the right product which they need and want," Michael says.

When business is slack, he works on product displays, stocking shelves, pricing and arranging products. He is also responsible for changing and repairing truck and tractor tires in the cooperative shop, as well as lubricating automobiles and minor tune-ups.

Michael says he hopes to farm and manage a cooperative some day and knows he needs a college education to do this. He will graduate with a business degree and a minor in agriculture in December from Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee.

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From left to right: Mr. Robert Lund, vice president of General Motors; National Officers Glenn Caves, Susie Barrett, Bob Quick and Mark Herndon; The President;

Secretary of Education Bell; Officers Dave Alders and Dave Pearce; FFA Advisor Byron Rawls; and Assistant Secretary of Vocational and Adult Education Robert Worthington.

The President Drops By

The President's surprise visit climaxed a week-long seminar in leadership during this year's State Presidents' Conference.

By Michael Wilson

IT was a moment very few would forget. FFA state officers gathered in the Rose Garden of the White House, had just finished listening to Vice President George Bush speak. Most turned to leave for the buses which would take them to the next function of the annual State Presidents' Conference, held in Washington, D.C., in July. But at that moment, the President of the United States sauntered casually from his adjacent Oval Office and was promptly greeted by thunderous applause and waves of excited cheers from FFA members—suddenly, the visit had just begun.

"Just looking at you makes the job a little easier," Mr. Reagan said with a smile. The President said he had been trying to get caught up answering mail when he was "spotted" by FFA members through a

Vice President George Bush's words radiated with optimism for the future.



"Just looking at you makes the job a little easier," Mr. Reagan said with a smile.

window, so he decided to come out and say "hello." Now, as he spoke, both members and guests hung on his every word; the climate resembled an election-time victory party.

"There's some people . . . who think that the world is going downhill," the President continued. "But don't you believe it. You're going to have greater opportunities; you're going to see more, you're going to know more, you're going to be able to live longer and be healthier. And the only credit we can take is that maybe we had a little something to do with bringing you along to this point.

"There's a great big world out there and this nation is *not* going to go downhill," he declared in his extemporaneous speech. "If we continue on the present path there isn't anything that we can't do if we set our minds to it . . ." the President said. His words were drowned by a jubilant ovation from appreciative FFA members.

The President's spontaneous speech seemed to capsize the spirit of the week for state presidents and other state FFA officers in attendance. The idea of working toward goals and not allowing problems to come in the way of success was also stressed by Vice President George Bush, who spoke prior to the President's surprise visit. "The Future Farmers of America is one of the best things you can say about this country," Mr. Bush cited.

"I think your spirit, your dedication to free enterprise, your values, your belief in God, in country and the importance of all these institutions is the best antidote that we have to the excessive cynicism that this country has endured over the past few years."

The Vice President said he felt the country was coming out of that period of cynicism now, partly because of the new

"The Future Farmers of America is one of the best things you can say about this country," Mr. Bush cited.

administration. He assured the group of the administration's commitment to agriculture, saying "we are going to do absolutely everything to make sure that American farmers have what's needed to get the job done."

Earlier, FFA leaders were welcomed to the White House Rose Garden by U.S. Secretary of Education Terrel Bell. Mr. Bell stressed that the FFA helps to solve one of the biggest problems in education today: motivation.

"FFA builds the full person and strengthens the individual in many, many ways," Mr. Bell said. "I certainly want to express my commendation to you for that because you're learning more than farming, important and foremost as that is in your careers."

The Rose Garden visit was just one of several highlights of a week-long seminar in leadership development for FFA state officers. The State Presidents' Conference, now in its 14th year of existence, is designed to inspire and motivate state leaders, inform them of national FFA programs and services, and provide a vehicle for an exchange of views between states in order to develop a spirit of national unity and cooperation. The state officers are also updated on current agriculture issues affecting young people, as well as given opportunities to inform national leaders about the program of vocational agriculture.

Tuesday, state leaders got a chance to meet with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block. Block is a former FFA member, state officer and recipient of the State Farmer degree from Illinois. He related his own FFA experiences to the group.

"It's a tremendous training ground," he said. "It's an opportunity to develop whatever leadership each of us might have, and give us some direction to steer the right and proper course."

"Even after you've been in FFA, farm organizational work, state boards, national boards and end up serving . . . in the

role of Secretary of Agriculture, you can look back and think about the great experiences," the Secretary pointed out. "And one of them had to be serving and being part of the FFA."

A question and answer period with Secretary Block gave members a first-hand chance to find out where the Department of Agriculture stands on several agricultural issues, such as the future of the family farm, the farm bill, farm credit and changes and trends in ag policy.

"If we continue on the present path there isn't anything that we can't do if we set our minds to it" the President said.

A special recognition dinner on Wednesday provided the atmosphere for the "President's Challenge" Energy Awards presentation. This year's award goes to the Woodlan, Indiana, FFA Chapter for their efforts to conserve energy in home and community. The award, sponsored by Estech, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc., was initiated in 1979 by then President Jimmy Carter, who challenged FFA members all across the nation to "take the lead among all other groups in the United States in the war for energy security."

On Thursday morning, the FFA officers hosted a congressional breakfast to thank

(Continued on next page)

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block fielded questions from FFA members.



President's Visit

(Continued from Page 21)

Senators and Representatives for their continued support of FFA, vocational agriculture and education. Guest speaker Rep. Paul Findley, R-Ill., said the fundamental reason for growth in agricultural efficiency is a commitment to education. "FFA," Mr. Findley contended, "is a product of this commitment to bring education to the masses of the people of our country." Robert D. Lund, vice president of General Motors, spoke on behalf of General Motors, sponsors of the State Presidents' Conference.

Something new this year was the holding of the UPDATE meeting in conjunction with the State Presidents' Conference. State advisors and executive secretaries from 41 states gathered together with national FFA staff to discuss several important key aspects of the FFA organization. This was the first time since 1972 that a national meeting of state supervisors was held in Washington, D.C. The meeting, held every three years, usually takes place at numerous regional destinations.

Both officers and UPDATE meeting people were on hand for the dedication of the new lobby at the National FFA Center. The theme display inside the lobby, sponsored by Seald-Sweet Growers, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foun-

dation, Inc., is a section of the FFA National Hall of Achievement, to be dedicated at next year's State Presidents' conference. National FFA President Mark Herndon, National Advisor Byron Rawls, and Seald-Sweet Marketing Representative Dave Schuh gave remarks at the ceremony.

Throughout the week the FFA delegation was given opportunities to see several national monuments and landmarks, including a tour of the Capitol and George Washington's estate at Mount Vernon. The group also traveled to Arlington National Cemetery where they placed a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and visited the Kennedy Memorial and Iwo Jima Memorial.

A National Conference to UPDATE State FFA and Vo-Ag Leaders

Positive input and effective presentations by teachers, teacher-educators and state supervisors were just a few of the highlights of the recent UPDATE meeting held in conjunction with this year's State Presidents' Conference.

State advisors and state executive secretaries representing 41 states met with national FFA staff and others in Washington, D.C. to discuss several different aspects and programs of the Future Farmers of America organization and vocational education.

Although responses to the meeting were varied most participants strongly agreed that the conference was very productive and informative. Also, many felt having the meeting at the National FFA Center was a key positive aspect. UPDATE folks were able to attend the dedication ceremony for the new National FFA Center lobby, as well as witness the premiere of the new 1982 theme show presentation "VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE Growing for America."





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Above from left, National FFA President Mark Herndon; Woodlan, Indiana, FFA Chapter Advisor Richard Grubaugh; Wanda Hadley; Kyle Farmer and Ed Vrablik, president of Estech, Inc.

Woodlan Wins Challenge

A FULL year of hard work and diversified community energy-saving projects resulted in victory for the Woodlan, Indiana, FFA Chapter in the FFA's second annual President's Challenge energy award.

The FFA energy program is the result of the 1979 challenge issued from President Carter for the FFA "to take the lead among all youth groups in our war for energy security." During the past two years, thousands of FFA chapters across the nation have conducted energy projects to make their homes and communities more energy efficient. The Alamosa, Colorado, FFA Chapter won the award in 1980.

The President's Challenge program is sponsored by Estech, Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Ed Vrablik, president of Estech, Inc., presented the awards to the national and regional winners at a banquet in conjunction with this year's FFA State Presidents' Conference, held in Washington, D.C.

"Your involvement in the energy challenge program represents not only your commitment but America's as well to increase energy efficiency and conservation," Mr. Vrablik said. "There is no industry more appropriate than agriculture in which to launch our country's energy conservation programs. And there is no group more appropriate than the Future Farmers of America, tomorrow's agricultural leaders, to take the lead in carrying out these programs," Mr. Vrablik added.

The Woodlan FFA Chapter earned their award through several unique projects designed to preserve energy. Among other things, the chapter distributed 479 home insulation surveys in the community and returned computer analyses suggesting changes to cut energy expenses; studied solar energy and woodburning stoves as energy alternatives (including construction of three solar panels); sold and planted 2,000 trees for windbreaks; and sponsored a meeting for area farmers on how to convert machinery to fit minimum tillage systems. The chapter also constructed a portable energy fair, "Woodlan's Quest," to take to schools and community gatherings so that members could explain solar and wind energy, insulation and other energy conservation techniques.



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University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Texas A&M University, College Station
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wyoming, Laramie

DAIRYING IS IN HER FUTURE



Above, Sherry evaluates a cow at a neighboring farm in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin FFA member Sherry Siemers knows what tremendous effort it takes to become a success in the dairy industry.

By Patricia L. Willever

THE thermometer clung stubbornly to 10° below and the wind chill factor registered 27° below—weather cold enough to make even hardy Wisconsin dairy farmers hurry through their chores.

Sherry Lynn Siemers, of Cleveland, Wisconsin, had been outside for over an hour, bottle feeding milk replacer or pouring a special mixed ration of ground feed for the 35 calves born recently on Siemers Holstein Farm. Stopping at each calf hutch, she filled the racks with third-crop grassy hay, high in protein and nutrients essential for good growth, she explained, and routinely checked each calf with a sharp eye.

"This weather is good for the calves," she said. "They stay healthier in the clean, cold air, and do best in a constant environment. The cold doesn't bother them, and if it's good for them, I like it too."

The snow squeaked beneath her feet and the January sun rising over nearby Lake Michigan brought little warmth, but Sherry wasn't in a hurry. Her mind wasn't on the weather but on "her" calves.

"I check the calves several times a day . . . every time I walk by," she said. "I've learned that you must constantly be alert to the condition of each one and that you have to take care of any problems right away. Once a calf gets sick it is difficult to

get her or him completely healthy again, so you can't ever let a problem go."

Sherry's primary responsibility on her family's 465-head registered Holstein farm is taking complete care of the calves, as many as 35 at a time, from birth to weaning. She helps with deliveries, mixes calf rations, feeds and helps with calf registrations. She also provides all of the health care and takes pride in the fact that her calf mortality rate is under 3 percent.

Sherry is also in charge of advertising and merchandising any bull calves raised for dairy purposes, gets 2 percent commission on all of these calves sold, and works as a relief milker on the farm.

"This is a special calf," she said, pausing to feed a five-day-old heifer her first taste of ground feed. "Her dam, Siemers' Arlinda Chief Token, is classified 88 points (very good) by the Holstein Friesian Association of America. She was bred to Straight Pine Elevation Pete, and contracted to Select Sires, a breeding cooperative. If this had been a bull calf, he would have been sold to Select Sires for \$3,000. As a heifer she's worth more than that and we're planning to keep her," Sherry added.

Sherry spoke with authority as she described the characteristics of a "special" cow or calf. A member of Wisconsin's state champion FFA dairy judging team, she was

the high point individual at the national FFA Dairy Judging competition in Kansas City in November, 1980. She received a trophy and the \$500 Ferguson Scholarship and her Kiel High School team tied for 10th, receiving a gold rating.

This is Sherry's third year in FFA and in addition to winning numerous dairy judging awards she has also been in the state chorus for the last two years and is in the national chorus this year. Her 17-year-old brother David is also an FFA member and her father, Walter, was a DeKalb award winner in 1956 and a member of the FFA state champion Kiel Barbershop Quartet that year.

An 18-year-old high school senior, Sherry has also been named Wisconsin Distinguished Holstein Girl for 1980. She was Wisconsin's dairy representative to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago last November and won a \$1,000 national scholarship in the dairy awards program.

Sherry describes herself as "very competitive," and believes that "competition is almost vital to our society because it makes people work their best in every situation." She is quick to point out, however, that her own success did not come easily.



Above, Advisor Ralph Kramer, left, stands with Kiel FFA dairy judging team members Mike Kovach, Sherry and Kyle Holtz.

"When I started showing cows nine years ago, I worked so hard and had such high hopes for my dairy projects," she said. "But it took me five years to win my first blue ribbon. My interest in registered Holsteins led me to my involvement in 4-H and later FFA, but it was my ag advisor, Ralph Kramer, who kept me interested, kept me going and helped develop my skills."

"Being a member of FFA has been especially helpful," she remarked, "because it has helped me to meet more kids of my own age and interests, and we're learning together."

"It is very important to me to be a good dairy judge because you learn to look for

traits and physical type that will give a cow better longevity so that she'll produce more milk, be a consistent worker and bring a higher profit. Sound type traits contribute to milking ability as much as good feed and good management do.

"Dairy judging skills also help a person know which cows will make money when you are purchasing to increase your herd," she continued. "I look for a sound mammary system, body capacity, dairy character and sound feet and legs."

The Siemers currently milk 240 cows, with the second-highest herd production average in Manitowoc County (a highly concentrated dairy area within the state). Sherry, her parents and younger brothers David, Danny and Paul, do all of the milking, feeding and taking care of the cows. Field work on the 750-acre farm is done by hired help.

"Our farm is bigger than the average Wisconsin dairy farm," Sherry said, "and we have worked very hard to get our herd production average up. Our current goal is to get even more sound type into the herd through genetic improvement—the utilization of better bulls—to breed stronger family bloodlines."

Sherry herself owns 18 head of registered Holsteins, including eight milking cows. She has selected or had these animals bred herself. She estimates their value at well over \$30,000 and has a production average of 100 percent above the state average.

James Hansen, Manitowoc County dairy agent, stated that "Sherry is one of the most highly motivated people I've ever seen," and pointed out that her involvement with her family's farm operation gives her a real feeling for what's going on in dairying and the dairy industry.

Sherry is proud of her achievements, but feels that she has grown beyond the need to win as a primary personal goal and now derives her greatest satisfaction from working with other youth. She is assistant coach for the Manitowoc County junior and senior 4-H teams, a junior dairy club leader, president of the county-level Junior Holstein Association and has organized fitting and showing workshops at the county level.

"Being involved in these leadership roles has further developed my teaching skills and speaking ability," she said, "and because so many good people have spent hours of their time with me, I feel a real responsibility to go out and help other youth with their dairy projects."

In the fall, Sherry will face new challenges as a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and plans to take a double major in dairy science and agricultural journalism. Her plans for the future are somewhat indefinite at this point, but will surely include work in a dairy-related field.

She feels fortunate because she has been able to set her college and career goals with confidence, with a sound background in her field of interest and with a real sense of direction and purpose.

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Alexandria, Virginia 22309

Pigs Pay His Way

This FFA member's award-winning hog operation is now helping to pay his way through college.

By David Wallace



Photo by Rod Van Schooten
Ross Halbersma with the *Yorkshire Journal*.



Above: One part of a successful hog operation is taking on the challenge of selling a boar to a buyer. Below, Ross' boars and gilts are ready to be moved from the nursery. These pens hold up to 20 40-pound pigs.

Photos by Patrick Misener



THE swine proficiency project that won Ross Halbersma first place in FFA Region II of Minnesota during his senior year has developed into a purebred hog breeding business that is now paying his way through college.

The 19-year-old former president of the Staples, Minnesota, FFA Chapter says, "My farming program has helped me learn the importance of records, public relations and good management." He explains, for example, that the key to the sale of a registered hog is having the facts about its pedigree and performance in black and white for the prospective buyer to see.

The sales record of Halbersma Hogs, which is now a partnership of Ross and his 18-year-old brother, Alan, is impressive. According to Ross, not only do they sell all the hogs they produce, but last year they had orders for more hogs than they could produce.

Ross, who also served as FFA vice president for District IV of Minnesota, is careful to emphasize that for Halbersma Hogs, "Quality is first and quantity is second."

Warren Kahler, Ross' advisor from the Staples FFA Chapter says proudly, "Ross has taken it (his breeding business) from a few grade hogs to the point where he and his brother have some of the most outstanding breeding stock in the state."

Ross first became interested in hogs when he and Alan talked their dad into letting them keep two grade gilts that were to be shipped to market. The brothers began breeding grade sows and decided to invest in breeding stock in 1976.

About a year later Ross was awarded a purebred Hampshire gilt in a program sponsored by the Wadena, Minnesota, Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of establishing some registered breeders in the area. Ross was selected from among the members of seven area FFA chapters to receive one of two gilts awarded.

(Continued on Page 30)

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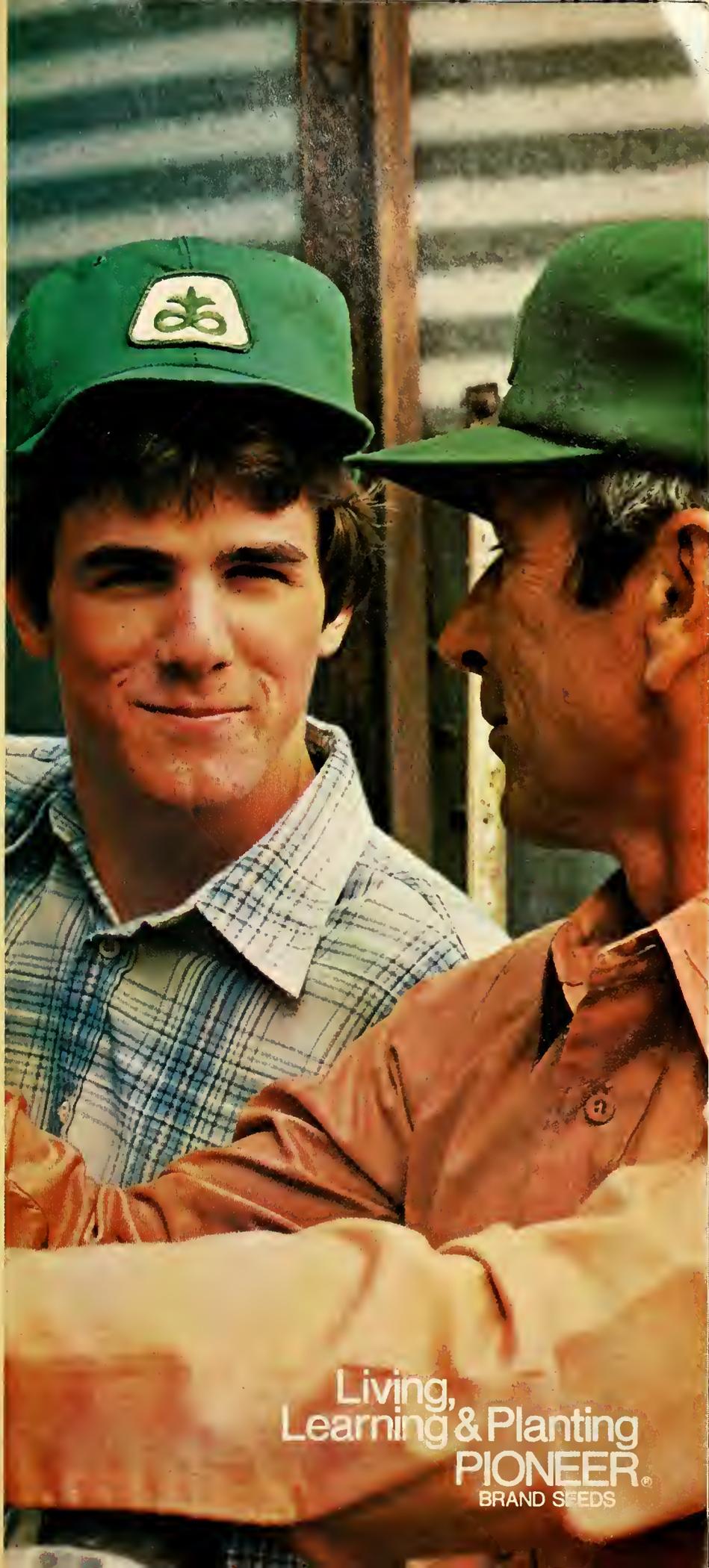
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Pigs Pay His Way

(Continued from Page 28)

After investing in additional Hampshire breeding stock with his brother, Ross decided to invest in registered Yorkshire hogs.

"I learned as I went along, taking advice from my dad and mom, other hogmen, my ag instructors and from extensive reading," Ross explains. "If it was about pigs, I read it."

Taking advice from experienced breeders combined with his own research has paid off for Ross. He estimates the market

value of his breeding stock to be about \$22,000 at present. He very carefully researches the bloodlines of the boars he buys. "When I go to buy a boar, I ask everything," he says.

Ross' father, Raymond Halbersma, encouraged his sons in their business by putting up capital for a 90-foot by 24-foot building on his dairy farm. Ross recalls, "Dad said, 'Go get four stakes, the chalk-line and the 100-foot tape.' I replied, 'What for?' But he said, 'Just do it.'" An hour-and-a-half later they had the building laid out.

Ross says, "I designed the building for minimum labor, yet within our price range. I wanted a gas heating system and auto-



Photo by Patrick Misener

The Halbersma's 24 by 90-foot hog barn is used for gestation, farrowing, nursery, feed storage and office space, with a sow capacity of 36.

matic ventilation so that we could control the total environment." The building has a stacked nursery, eight raised farrowing crates, a gestation room that allows mothering sows to be kept in semi-confinement, and office space.

Currently Halbersma Hogs farrows about every five weeks. Ross explains that after a sow has been bred "It's only a matter of about three months, three weeks and three days and usually three o'clock in the morning 'til we see the results."

Ross' breeding goals include producing a Yorkshire that grows fast and efficiently, has good body capacity and can stand up in confinement. "I like a York that carries good natural width and is not extreme in length or height," he adds.

In addition to improving the bloodlines of Halbersma Hogs, Ross would like to improve the breeding business by intensifying management, doing more testing of their hogs and attending more shows.

Ross strives for consistency in production and performance of his hogs. He says he wants to produce a hog that will be consistent in all areas of production. He explains that his competitors in the registered hog business are a lot older and more experienced than he, but, he adds, "The leadership positions that I held in the FFA gave me the confidence in my abilities that I needed to make it in the purebred hog business."

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THE CHAPTER SCOOP

NEWS, NOTES, AND NONSENSE FROM EVERYWHERE



by Jack Pitzer

Zillah, WA, FFA has a very active FFA recreation program in progress. Each Thursday evening from 7 p.m. 'til dark members, parents and alumni can be seen "swatting the old grapefruit around the pasture." Pick-up softball games are organized each week at the school until the end of August. Then it's Monday night volleyball in the gymnasium.

Mike Deaton and Brian Wright of Paoli, IN, Chapter combined skills to take the state FFA quizbowl competition.

Knappa FFA officers in Astoria, OR, solved a problem. Whenever a large number of members needed to be in official dress, there was a shortage of ties and scarves. So this year, at the parent-member banquet, scarves and ties were used as activity awards.

Western Hills FFA in Frankfort, KY, received their charter at this year's state convention. Great to be just starting out.

Five members of Denham Springs, LA, FFA were awarded State Farmer degrees at their state convention.

Mansfield, TX, publishes a simple three-fold brochure to mail and spread news of FFA. It includes chapter calendar of events, information about their major activities like convention and officers' retreat, plus general info about vo-ag and FFA for non-members such as parents and prospective members.

Oshkosh North, WI, Chapter changed their constitution and eliminated the extra officer positions for parliamentarian and chaplain.

Poor Dad. Bridgewater, SD, Chapter beat their dads at softball 45-43.



The Interstate-35 FFA Chapter of Iruro, IA, built 60 rods of fence around school.

Shelby, MT, repaired a bridge that was out at a nearby lake and nature trail. The bridge was 35 feet long by 4 feet wide. Members enjoyed the outside work situation plus the chance to help.

Oshkosh West, WI, FFA awards Honorary Chapter degrees in three categories—education, farming and agribusiness industry.

Oshkosh West members also dug post holes and put in 36 marked posts for identification markers of wood and grassland species in school nature area.

Nine members from Lebanon, TN, Chapter went to state FFA Camp Clements and won four outstanding leadership awards: best athlete, second place talent winner and two athletic champions.

Wauseon, OH, Alumni organized an "old fashioned barn warmin" complete with polka and square dancing. It was such a success there's talk of another with ideas to use proceeds for an FFA scholarship.

Money that Fairbanks, OH, Chapter got for selling scrap iron they collected around their school paid for a new loading dock at the county fairgrounds.

"Have a Whale of a Time in FFA" complete with a life-size blue whale was theme of Owen-Wither, WI, float for fair. They won \$15, too.

David City, NE, built new gates for children's barnyard and painted them FFA blue and gold.

Chapter Secretary Lynette Johnson reports the Sam Houston FFA in Houston, TX, is proud of a fellow member recently elected to a state officer position. Does your chapter support and encourage members who run for section, area, or state office?

Truman, MN, Advisor Al Brudelic has been offered \$250 from other advisors in the state to shave off his award-winning handlebar mustache. But even with volunteers from his chapter to help give the shave, he hasn't accepted the offer.

Officers of Riner, VA, Chapter took off to Clayton Lake State Park to solidify their officer team plans for the year according to Ronnie Barker, vice president.

Duane Olson, reporter for Wallowa, OR, sends word about how his chapter "cleaned up" on the contests at the county fair including tractor driving.

McCullough FFA from The Woodlands, TX, earned \$3,209 from their share of a barbeque and dance co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Then the Chamber of Commerce used their half to pay for 22 steel panels to use for livestock shows and sales.

When state officers from FL, SC, NC, GA, PR met at Camp Hope for their national Leadership Conference for State Officers, the Florida officers won the volleyball championship.

When Pierson-Taylor, FL, Chapter went tubing, they took six state officers along with them. Good idea to be hospitable.

Local radio station for Martinsville, IN, interviewed FFA leaders on a "magazine" talk show about what the chapter does during the summer while other organizations and school clubs take a break. The FFA'ers had plenty to talk about.

Members of FFA in Sunbury, OH, helped with administration and direction of the community parade.

Noelle Lawson, new reporter for Hebron, KY, sent a note about the chapter's efforts to explain agriculture to local elementary school students.



Attendance at Houston, MO, Chapter meetings improved greatly when Sonic Drive-In gave a \$5 door prize for each meeting.

The champ sent his watermelon seed 30 feet, 2½ inches in fun night contest hosted by Thomas, OK.

Woodsville, NH, Chapter has a new advisor. Does yours? Even if yours has been teaching a while, say thanks once in a while.

Two chapters, Prague and Central, NE, combined to sponsor a free watermelon feed for all fairgoers after the beef show at their county fair.

Verdigre, NE, has the soft drinks concession for a local horse sale each year.

Casey, IL, FFA felt it was beneficial to send their chapter reporter to leadership camp.

Six girls from Lowes, KY, Chapter have organized a talent group called "Country Feelin'" and won at the state. Maybe we'll get to hear them at National Convention.

What did your chapter do 1) to keep everyone involved this summer, 2) to start off the new school year, and 3) to help your advisor?

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Photos by Author

School while Melinda is now in San Luis Obispo, California, at the California Polytechnic State University.

Melinda Sparks gives testimony to the idea that women have been readily accepted in the ag ranks.

"It didn't even enter my mind that there was anything unusual or different about it," Melinda says of her decision to enter vocational agriculture.

Melinda's vo-ag/FFA program was a total one. She has gradually worked her beef operation up to 40 head of Hereford cattle and added a sheep enterprise that now numbers 30 Suffolk ewes. She was also Marana's FFA Chapter president and won the Arizona Diversified Livestock Proficiency award.

"When I entered vo-ag I was rather one-minded in the livestock area, but as we went along I got more into the total picture—linking crops and animals to end-product and talking about economics."

This is where Melinda seems to have drawn a bead on her future plans.

"I think of all the industries that are available to me, agriculture is the one that is the most important."

Melinda's goal at the present time is to "survive" college—and make the livestock judging team at California Polytechnic State University. One of only five out-of-state students who received a scholarship to participate in judging, Melinda is working toward a degree in animal science. She wants to add some skills in communication and become involved in that area of the livestock industry.

"I would like to help explain the many

Left, Melinda with Advisor Tom Jones and her father. Below, Monique Aguirre with Mr. Jones.

A STORY OF TWO WOMEN

By K. Elliott Nowels

MONIQUE Aguirre and Melinda Sparks are two young ladies who characterize the aspirations of women in agriculture. Both from Marana, Arizona, they are at different stages of their preparation for work in agriculture.

Since the FFA's constitutional change allowed women to be members in 1969, they have, as a whole, participated and competed with zeal.

In fact, looking back from 1981, it seems difficult to imagine that there was a time when women were not accepted for membership. Their transition into active membership seems to have been quite logical and accomplished with ease. A few smiles from the guys, at first, but then an involvement that defied anyone to question their serious intentions.

Monique recently started her sophomore year at Marana High



things that are involved in agriculture," she says.

Monique Aguirre has one year of vo-ag under her belt. Somewhat unsure of her interest in vo-ag at first, she now bubbles with enthusiasm at the opportunities it holds.

"I really wanted to do the FFA part, you know, take my steers to the fair and stuff, but I didn't really know what vo-ag was," she says, looking back. "Then I started really getting into it—I got so much more than just what I was after."

"None of the other classes in high school let you actually go out and experience doing things," she says when speaking of the practical aspect of vo-ag.

"Monique uses the phrase "being able to get up and take charge" to describe what she's gained in the leadership development department.

"I'm pretty good at getting up and speaking now and I'm still improving. I'm losing my shyness and I enjoy it."

Monique is the fifth generation of a Spanish family that came to the area north of Tucson, Arizona, now called Red Rock, in about 1892. The land holdings have changed slightly since then, but the Aguirres still raise cattle—just as they have always done.

Monique has begun her ownership pro-

AGUIRRE: "I never once felt out of place in ag."

gram with three bred Brangus cows and three heifers of the same breed. She also has three show steers, one of which she'll take to a national show in Phoenix in January.

Monique doesn't understand why there would be any question about women in agriculture.

"Why would plant science or livestock interest a guy any more than it would a girl?" she asks. "I never once felt out of place in ag."

The attractive sophomore knows that her career goal, veterinary medicine, will be tough to obtain, but she seems to be taking a systematic approach to preparing for it.

"I have a head-start by making the decision this early," she says. She is building her case for vet school already by working at her grades, studying vo-ag and building her program on the ranch. She also has applied for an assistant's slot at an area animal hospital.

Monique says she knows how tough agriculture can be at times. She's watched her uncle work very hard and done some of that work herself. But she doesn't see quitting as an answer.

"If the people that came before us decided to say, 'Well, it's tough, let's quit', where would we be?"

That seems to be the right attitude for anyone involved in agriculture, whether red, brown, black, white, male or female.

The Brahman Cross

Monique Aguirre is not the only one who has found the Brangus breed of cattle to be money-makers in the south-west part of the United States.

Numbers of Brangus and other Brahman-cross cattle such as Santa Gertrudis, Beefmaster and Charbray have grown markedly in the past decade.

Formulation of these breeds began in the 1800's when humped Zebu cattle were imported to the gulf coastal states from India. The Indian cattle were found to be quite tolerant of biting insects, hot weather and sparse rangeland—something that couldn't be said for most British breeds, such as Hereford or Angus. As time went on, three strains of Zebu cattle were used to come up with the American Brahman—a breed that retained the Zebu's hardiness, but was slightly more compact. Now these cattle have been crossed with many of the British breeds as well as Continental European animals such as Charolais and Simmental. The result is an animal that is vigorous, hardy and has adequate mothering ability and good carcass quality.

An interesting phenomenon of nature also benefits the cross between the American Brahman and breeds of European origin.

It seems that producers and researchers alike have found that the offspring of this cross have a noticeable increase of "hybrid vigor"—and added boost in growth caused by the genetics of a cross between unrelated animals. Because Brahman cattle are of the species "Bos indicus" and the British and Continental cattle breeds are of the "Bos taurus" species, hybrid vigor is greater than with a cross between animals of one species.

"More people have recognized the improved shot of hybrid vigor these Brahman-cross calves have," said Dan Schoenfelder, who manages Rainbow's End Ranch (RER) in Douglas, Arizona, with the help of Dr. Ray Rodriguez, RER's livestock superintendent. RER runs about 1,100 head of brood cows over about 34,000 acres of rangeland. Charolais, Brangus, and Simmental cows are used purebred and a commercial herd of crossbred cattle is also kept.

"Ten years ago I never would have had a Brahman on the place," says Schoenfelder, "I wouldn't have wanted one. But we looked into it in 1974 and had our first Brahman-cross calves in 1975. We've had some ever since."

Schoenfelder says that cattle of the cross may have their problems, such as maturing later and having lower fertility rates, but they will increase in use because of their foraging ability and increased rate of gain.

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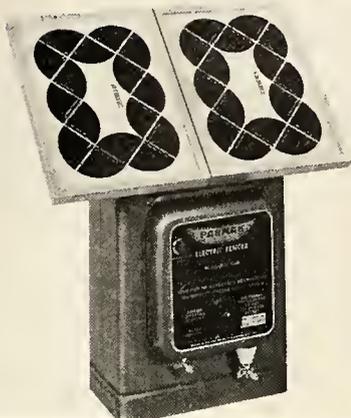
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What's New In

AGRICULTURE



Above, Chevrolet's regular light-duty pickup truck powered by the optional new 6.2-liter diesel engine produced by General Motors. On the inside lane is the new S10 pickup truck—smaller than its big brother, but larger than Chevy's LUV. The base engine with four-speed manual overdrive transmission has an EPA rating of 28 city and 39 highway, while the same engine coupled with the optional three-speed automatic transmission is rated at 25 and 34. The 6.2-liter, 130-horsepower diesel is expected to achieve 22 mpg in city and about 27 highway.



Above, America's first solar-powered electric fence: that's what Parker McCrory Manufacturing Company says about this 12-volt solid state fence with output equal to the best power line operated units. The Magnum 12 is completely weather-proof and portable for installation anywhere on your farm.



Left, Wellington Industries, Inc.'s new calf hutch designed with seamless fiberglass will be a welcome addition to cattlemen's lots. Wellington hutches are fitted with U-bolts for lifting and corner holes for staking down. Because they have no joints they're able to fend off disease easier, hence helping cut calf losses.

Below, new from Allis-Chalmers Corporation, the Model 5045 tractor delivers 44 hp at 2,600 rpm and is powered by a 158.4-cubic inch, 3-cylinder direct injection diesel engine. The 5045 comes standard equipped with quick response power steering, permitting minimum steering wheel rotation lock to lock and quick response for maneuverability in the tightest conditions. Other standard features include an 8 forward speed, 2 reverse speed transmission that is partially synchronized; a fully independent 540 rpm PTO; and a foot operated differential lock.



Above, the MAXA PTO alternator from Ag-Tronic, Inc., features state-of-the-art technology in every component. Available from 25 to 75 KW, it features an exclusive electronic LCD readout system that automatically monitors voltage and frequency, preventing fluctuations that cause motor overheating.

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OUT FRONT WITH SHEEP

By using his flock in an advanced scientific research project, this FFA member has been able to make an impact on the future of the sheep industry.

*By David Godfrey and
Jerry Centers*

MAKING an impact on the future of the sheep industry has been a life-long goal of a Williamston, Michigan, FFA member.

By cooperating with Michigan State University researchers, Gene Graham, 18-year-old state secretary of the Michigan FFA Association, has achieved his goal by participating in the first embryo transplants accomplished within the sheep industry.

Life on Gene's mid-Michigan sheep farm is far from the picturesque lifestyle of sheep farmers in other parts of the United States which feature rolling hills of pasture and flocks of sheep that reach as far as the eye can see.

The Graham's 160-acre farm, set in the middle of Ingham County, has been cash-rented to a neighbor for as long as Gene can remember. The heart and soul of Gene's FFA project is centered around the large barns near the Graham's home. With only a few acres available for his livestock projects, Gene started with a very limited resource base to devote to his favorite occupation—raising purebred Suffolk sheep.

Coming from a non-farm background and responsible for everything from record keeping to handling manure himself, Gene has had to make the most of his humble beginnings in establishing himself as a respected member of the purebred sheep industry. Gene jumped at the chance to involve his animals in revolutionary research being conducted at Michigan State University (MSU) in an attempt to upgrade his herd.

Gene and former outstanding FFA'er Al Culham of Dansville, are co-owners of the largest Suffolk ram in the United States. The two made the purchase at the 1979 MSU production sale.

The two sheep producers took full advantage of their ram by offering stud services for the fertilization of the embryos in the transfer project. "Quaczar," valued



Gene with prize ram "Quaczar," the animal selected for use in the embryo transfer program based on his impressive size and pedigree.

at \$40,000 by MSU shepherd George Good, was selected for the program because of his impressive size and pedigree.

The transfer of embryos into four commercial surrogate ewes and the six resulting lambs—two sets of twins and two singles—marked the first successful transfer in the sheep industry.

A take-off of the same procedure in cattle, the transfer was conducted by veterinarian Donald McCalla of Williamston, along with the cooperation of the Animal Science Department at Michigan State University.

Embryo transfer is a popular technique for selective breeding in cattle, but a few extra hurdles have to be crossed to do transfer work successfully with sheep, Dr. McCalla says. First, the process is more expensive: because of the small size of a ewe's cervix, the embryos have to be surgically removed. Second, ram semen has not been successfully frozen, so ewes have to be naturally bred. Finally, sheep are seasonal breeders and usually will breed only in the fall, thus limiting the time during which research with embryo transfers can be done.

Dr. McCalla heard about Gene and Al's ram, and contacted the two about his availability for the transplant.

The joint purchase of Quaczar was the culmination of a dream that began in junior high for Gene.

"When I was in junior high, I was looking for something to do here on the family farm. My father runs an excavating business and drives a truck, and my older brothers were all involved in off-farm activities," Gene says. "There was an old dairy facility here on the home farm, and I decided that somehow I could utilize that facility and the adjoining livestock yards around it. So I looked into the sheep business, and it was just the ideal business for me to get into!"

Gene's flock has developed from a commercial flock of about 80 lambs into a registered flock of high quality Suffolk sheep that now stands at 54 animals. Gene has animals in his flock which include bloodlines from Michigan State University, Huffs of Oregon, Warricks and Stanberrys of Iowa.

(Continued on Page 52)

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IN ACTION



SURPRISE SIGNUPS

Photo by Tennessee Farm Bureau

Retiring state officers of the Tennessee Association FFA present Harold D. Lineberry, president-elect of the National FFA Alumni Association, with their checks and applications for lifetime membership in the FFA Alumni. They are pictured as follows: Mark McBride, president, Henry; Tim Shivers, secretary, McEwen; Troy Dugger, vice president, Culleoka; Harold D. Lineberry; Phil Brannon, sentinel, Jamestown; Rhedona Rose, Treasurer, Cookeville; James Brockman, vice president, Scotts Hill; Steven Gass, reporter, Mosheim; and Ed Barnett, vice president, Rogersville.

The 1980-81 retiring state officer team of the Tennessee FFA Association put their words into action by becoming lifetime members of the state and National FFA Alumni Association at their recent annual FFA convention.

The surprise presentation was made to Harold D. Lineberry, president-elect of the National FFA Alumni Association, at the conclusion of his address to their convention audience.

This Tennessee officer team had energetically promoted the FFA Alumni concept throughout the year during chapter visits and the statewide goodwill tour which resulted in organizing new alumni affiliates in the state.

RIDE 'EM FACULTY

The Lamar-Terry FFA Alumni Affiliate in Rosenberg, Texas, sponsored a two-day rodeo for high school students and faculty throughout the county in order to raise money, involve school administrators and community in an FFA activity as well as create friendly competition between chapters.

The Lamar FFA Alumni Affiliate was formed three years ago, before Lamar High School was split into two schools. Instead of breaking and having two separate alumnis, the group decided to remain as one strong association and support both

the Lamar FFA and the Terry FFA.

The rodeo was the first big project of the alumni affiliate. The community showed their support by taking ads in the rodeo program and buying box seat and general admission tickets to see the rodeo. A large crowd came to the county fairgrounds to watch students compete in such events as bareback riding, bullriding and barrel racing.

The faculty was invited to exhibit their cowhand experience by participating in the faculty branding contest, which was the highlight of the rodeo.

The alumni affiliate set up committees including concession, box seat, program, general admission and advanced ticket to handle specific aspects of the rodeo. The program committee sold ads to businesses and individuals in the community.

The money that was made will go to help send the presidents of each FFA chapter to the Washington Leadership Conference.

FISHING FUN

Two years ago the idea of having a fishing tournament arose when the price of fuel climbed too high to afford the chapter's usual FFA trip.

So for the second year, the Sentinel, Oklahoma, FFA members and next year's Greenhands compete against each other

testing their wit as well as their line against three species of fish—the large-mouth bass, crappie and channel cat—in the local FFA Fishing Tournament.

This year the tournament started out on a warm, balmy Friday afternoon. The members began fishing as quickly after school as they arrived and the tournament lasted until final weigh-in at Saturday noon. The fishing began rather rapidly with many crappie being caught.

That evening the parents and school faculty came over to the lake for a goat barbeque. Joe Cabiness, a local Hampshire sheep producer that bred the grand lamb at the Oklahoma Spring State Livestock Show, furnished two goats. The FFA butchered them in class and the advisor's brother did the delicious cooking. A drawing for door prizes for the adults completed the evening cookout.

Taking little time to eat, the competition continued but fishing was very slow because a large cool front was moving through the area. It eventually tore down tents and gave everyone a good soaking.

Throughout the night, the FFA members fished hard but the fish had just completely quit biting. Saturday noon finally arrived and a tired, cold and wet bunch of FFA members had given up and decided the fish won. The prizes were awarded but the catch was slim. The prizes were donated by Don's Wholesale, a local fishing supply dealer. They ranged from a fancy rod and reel to plugs and tackle boxes.

The FFA members, teachers and parents all enjoyed the outing. After a long hard year of speeches, shows and other activities, it is rather fun to slip on your FFA T-shirt and test your skills against "Ole big-mouth." (Clay Meador, Reporter)

LAND FOR LEADERSHIP

The Florida State FFA Foundation has announced the acceptance of 200 acres near Lakeland, from the International Minerals & Chemical Corporation to build a \$4.4 million FFA Leadership Training Center.

Preliminary plans for the leadership training center include a lodge with 16 double rooms, conference rooms, a library, an archives suite and office space. A group of 20 cluster cabins will each house 16 students in 4 rooms, with an additional room for two adult counselors. Thirty campsites with tables and cookout facilities are also in the plans as well as a dining hall for 350 persons where meetings and seminars can also be held in the classroom

(Continued on Page 44)

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NFF

FFA IN ACTION

(Pick up ACTION from Page 42)

section of the building. Foundation board members are also considering a man-made lake, covered amphitheatre seating 400 persons at outdoor events and a picnic pavillion. Other long-term concepts call for a sports complex with facilities for baseball, basketball and tennis.

The center is to be used extensively and primarily by FFA members and teachers of vocational agriculture for a multitude of meetings, seminars, conferences, workshops, contests and leadership schools. However, the FFA leadership training center will also be made available to business and industry groups as well as other youth groups when not used by FFA.

A DAY ON THE RIVER

This summer members of the Archbold FFA along with Advisor Ralph Schroll and parent chaperones traveled to Wally Campsite near Loudonville, Ohio for camping and canoeing.

Navigating the Mohican River proved a little tricky at times when rough water developed or obstacles were encountered.

Everyone was exhausted after canoeing all day, but that was hardly a surprise since 20 miles of the Mohican had been covered on a one-day trip. (Tim Short, Reporter)



WEIGHT RAISERS

Three Cardington, Ohio, members competed in the first school lift-a-thon. Matt Sherman, left, collected the most donations and lifted the third most weight, 235 pounds; Tab Shonk, center, lifted 240 pounds and was second; Mike Graham, right, lifted 260 pounds and was first. Matt and Mike are freshmen and Tab a junior at Cardington-Lincoln High School. (Carol Philbrook, Reporter)

BIG TROPHY FOR BIG JOB



Hanford, California, Chapter members Jeff Tolle, center, and Alfred Rapozo, right accepted the sweepstakes trophy from Cindy Brooks, consumer marketing officer at Security Pacific National Bank for capturing the sweepstakes at the 33rd annual Future Farmers of America Field Day hosted by Security Pacific Bank and California State University, Fresno. To win the sweepstakes, the Hanford team accumulated the most points overall in various agricultural judging contests, including winning first place in the agricultural pest control and the agronomy contests. This is the third consecutive year that a Hanford team has won the sweepstakes.

LIVING LIBRARY

Members of the Skiatook, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter spent one afternoon this summer at a suburban library in Tulsa, Oklahoma, exhibiting and displaying their show animals for the city children.

Members showed how they clip, groom

and show animals at local fairs. On display were a Hereford heifer and a lamb. Officers put on a short program for the audience and explained about FFA and their vocational agriculture classes at Skiatook High School.

There was a question and answer time following the discussion and the children and others in the audience were allowed to pet and touch the animals.

Many took home souvenirs of the wool and hair clipped from the animals.

Not only did the audience gain a lot but so did the officers and members of the chapter. (Jackie Sue Jones, Reporter)



Children are allowed to touch, comb and brush the heifer as part of the learning experience.



Shelly Westendorf let the little girl pet the lamb and North Harvard City-County librarian shows a storybook.



Debbie Henderson, left, is helping Shelly Westendorf, right, as she shows children how to shear a lamb.

MUD SLINGERS

The chapter in Marshall, Michigan, felt like having some good clean fun after a grueling year of school. So they solved the

(Continued on Page 46)

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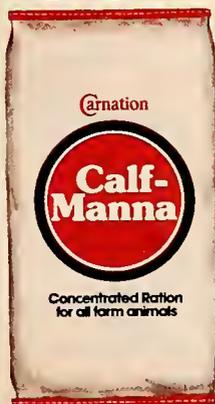
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FFA **IN ACTION**

(Pick up ACTION from Page 44)

problem by having their first annual mud day.

The members went out to past president John Huepenbecker's farm for the muddy activities. The events included a quick game of horseshoes in the mud, a mud-carry relay, a cow-chip throwing contest, tobacco spitting contest, an obstacle course, a walk-on-the-edge-of-a-board over mud and the always grueling tug-of-war. Afterwards, those members that weren't muddy enough got thrown in and refreshments were served. (John Huepenbecker)

John Huepenbecker concentrates on walking over the silage ditch on the edge of a board.



UP IN THE AIR

For the 10th year in a row, Stockton, California, Production Credit Association has hosted an award breakfast and a flight over their territory.

This year 43 students, who have chosen agriculture for their future, met with their parents at the Stockton Inn for breakfast and the potential Future Farmers flight award presentation.

Stockton Production Credit Association has developed this unique method of recognizing some fine young people whose objectives are in agricultural production for the future.

After the awards breakfast, on a chartered flight with Key Airlines the motto for the day was "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever." The students were accompanied

Award winners are taken up in the air to see agriculture and related geography for their area.



FACTS FOR ACTION

The Motorcyclist and Protective Gear

You may be a novice rider or an experienced motorcyclist . . . or just a passenger; you know already that motorcycle riders are not as well protected as automobile drivers who are wrapped in a strong steel compartment.

You probably also know that motorcyclists are exposed to the elements—weather, flying insects and road debris. For this reason wise motorcyclists wear proper protective equipment and clothing for safety and comfort. If properly selected, clothing will reduce the severity of injury should a spill occur.

The helmet is the single most important personal piece of protective gear the motorcyclist can use. Thus, choosing and consistently using a quality helmet are of importance to both motorcycle operators and passengers.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation has available a "cycle safety info" entitled "What You Should Know About Motorcycle Helmets" that outlines helmet standards, construction, care and other important information. Single copies of this "cycle safety info" are available free upon request to 780 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, Maryland 21090.

Face shields provide protection to the face as well as the eyes. They may cover only a portion or all of the face and come in a variety of designs.

Remember: regular eyeglasses were never meant to be eye protection on a motorcycle! Windshields (fairings) do not provide adequate personal eye protection.

Goggle standards have been established by the Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission (VESC), a commission created by congressional charter and funded by the individual states. Before purchasing any goggle or lens, be sure it carries the VESC-8 approval.

Foot and ankle protection is important for motorcycle riding.

Leather boots which go over the ankle are the best footwear for riding. Boots protect your ankles from engine burns and also scuffing when kick starting the motorcycle.

on the flight with Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors Irvin Muller, a flying farmer, giving a running commentary on the soil types, the various crops produced and the reasons for the type of agriculture in particular areas. The flight was at approximately 3,500 feet.

The flight included a tour over Sacramento Valley up and around the world's smallest mountain range, the Sutter Buttes, south and over the delta with an excellent view of the past two years of flooding effects of the island area. Then continuing south along the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley afforded a view of one of the world's complex water transportation systems. The students viewed Harris Feedlot complex and Coalinga.

After landing at Fresno Airport, the group was met by Dr. Smallwood, dean of agriculture at California State University at Fresno, for a tour of the agriculture department where students enjoyed the livestock facility, wine making, agricultural engineering and research.

Leather gloves protect your hands from debris kicked up by cars and keep them from getting cold, tired and sore. A glove which fits snugly also improves your grip on the handlebars.

If the gloves are too bulky your ability to operate the controls will be reduced. If they are too tight circulation will be restricted and the hands will become cold.

Proper clothing provides protection for the motorcyclist and prevents discomfort. A long-sleeved jacket and long pants are minimal clothing requirements for good riding protection. If a cyclist is involved in a spill and not wearing correct clothing he is almost certain to suffer skin abrasions during the slide along the ground or pavement.

Many cyclists prefer leather clothing because it offers superior protection. Suitable and less expensive alternatives are denim and corduroy.

As with helmets and gloves, the clothes you wear when riding can serve to make you more visible in traffic. Choose bright colored clothing when possible. If you wear dark clothing, inexpensive reflective vests can be worn over the jacket. Also, it is a good idea to affix reflectorized tape striping to garments you regularly wear when riding. This also applies to bright clothing worn during the day. Unless they are reflectorized, they will not offer the same good visibility at night.

As a matter of comfort, special rain gear is recommended for inclement weather.

For the avid motorcycle rider a rainsuit is a must. A dry cyclist will be much more comfortable and alert than a rider who is wet and cold worrying about getting home to dry out.

By getting into gear—protective gear—before you ride, you are demonstrating a responsible attitude toward safe motorcycling. Good riding gear is essential to safe motorcycle operation.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation is a national, private, nonprofit organization whose goal is the reduction of motorcycle accidents and injuries. MSF is sponsored by the five leading motorcycle manufacturers: Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Harley-Davidson.

ACTION LINES

- Try something solar. ▼
- Put a current FFA bumper sticker on the car. ▼
- Learn how to spell souvenir. ▼
- Say hi and introduce yourself to someone you don't know at the FFA contest. ▼
- Record your thoughts each day into a cassette. ▼
- Offer to write a column for the local newspaper about youth. ▼
- Recommend milk be added to the list of concession stand items. ▼
- Give out FFA wallet calendars. ▼
- Give the advisor an answering service for his phone. ▼
- Put *National FUTURE FARMER* magazines in the senior citizen library. ▼
- Take your buddy along to the FFA meeting. ▼
- Make your own notebook cover. ▼
- Talk your mailman into joining the FFA Alumni. ▼
- Offer a compliment on his good report in class. ▼
- Encourage your chapter officers. ▼
- Go pick an apple. ▼

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Photos by Author

Left to right, Sonny Campbell, dad Floyd Campbell, Sr., and pilot Don Stacy discuss aerial maps used to estimate cropland in the area.

Cropland Estimates— A Snap for Sonny

Arkansas Star Farmer Sonny Campbell keeps busy by managing a 1000-acre farm and taking pictures—"from 10,000 feet up."

By Jeffrey Tennant

EVER wonder how the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates the tons of corn America will produce in a year? Or the number of hogs on midwestern farms? Or even the pounds of oranges forecast for Florida growers?

Your government does it just like you would do in estimating your own crop's yield. If you are a wheat farmer, you certainly wouldn't count every grain to arrive at a yield estimate. You would take a sample, use some good judgment and project your final yield. Your forecast will probably be close to final production, given factors such as a bad hailstorm don't drastically affect your crop.

Sonny Campbell, a Swifton, Arkansas,

FFA member and the state's 1980-81 Star Farmer, can imagine himself with thousands of acres of prime farmland. One of his jobs is to estimate cropland potential on hundreds of farms in northeast Arkansas.

"I'm the third generation of Campbells to work in the Craighead County ASCS office," Sonny says, referring to the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. "My grandpa worked here, my dad works here and now me. I'm only part time now but I'm considering a career in ASCS after college."

Though Sonny took over the reins of a 1,000-acre farm five years ago, Swifton FFA Advisor Junior Barnett says Sonny's

ASCS work was of great interest to judges at the state convention's Star Farmer selection interviews.

"They did ask him about his farm work," shares Junior. "It's kind of unusual for a high school student to have such expertise at running a large farm. But Sonny's got it. His dad, who holds the American Farmer degree, had a back operation in 1976 so Sonny had to take charge. During the summers he farms and works here at ASCS. Sonny works earnestly in both the production and business phases of agriculture."

This Star Farmer's intense work has not been limited to farming and government statistics gathering at ASCS. The FFA leader also earned academic distinction as senior class valedictorian, and athletic distinction as recipient of a college basketball scholarship. His will to work also helps him through his demanding ASCS duties. Sonny has one of the most unique, and grueling, jobs in the ASCS system. He spends many of his working hours on his belly in the rear of a small airplane.

"We use aerial photography of farms to verify the crop production figures farmers have reported," Sonny explains. "I take those photos from small aircraft that criss-cross sections of Craighead County farmland. I tell the pilot where to go and he lines up my 'targets,' or plots. It's tricky to shoot the right land area from 10,000 feet up but you have to be accurate."

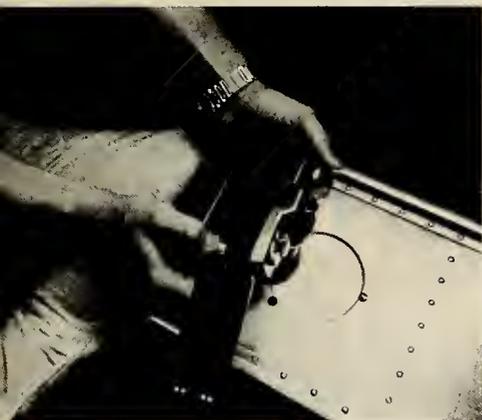
All the photos Sonny snaps are taken from the same height to ensure consistency. Sonny and a pilot spend long days in the air while Sonny shoots his camera through a small, plexiglass-covered hole in the plane's floor. The slides he produces are later fed into the ASCS computer that analyzes each area Sonny has recorded on film. From these scans, ASCS officials are able to monitor the kinds and exact quantities of crops being grown in the county.

Why is such measurement necessary? Sonny's dad, ASCS professional Floyd Campbell, Sr., explains: "In order for farmers to be eligible for government programs like loan payments, disaster payments and price supports, the farm's acreage must be certified.

"The farmer must estimate as accurately as possible. Then we follow up with our studies to produce a bigger picture of the county's crops."

"Every county has an office like this," Sonny adds. "But figures are gathered in different ways. Here, a farmer comes in and tells us how many acres he's planted. Then we take aerial photos in April or May for wheat or mid-July for beans, cotton and rice. By using the slides and computer, we can measure to the tenth of an acre how much of a farmer's crop has emerged. Some offices still plot fields by using 30 or so people with 66-foot-long chains. Many states, though, are moving quickly to the airplane methods."

Sonny's job enables him to deal directly



Above, Sonny's camera work is restricted to a small, plexi-glass-covered hole in the plane's floor.



Above, "leveling" the camera. Sonny says the "work is tricky," but "you have to be accurate."



At left, Sonny with FFA Advisor Junior Barnett of Swifton. Says Mr. Barnett, "Sonny works earnestly in both the production and business phases of agriculture."

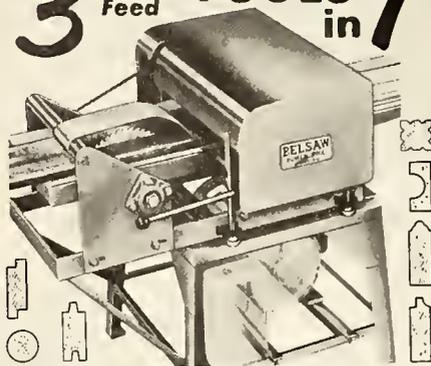
with factors that influence the entire farming economy. After he earns his agricultural degree, he aims to labor full time for the farmer in agricultural banking, conservation or perhaps even ASCS. You can bet he'll farm, too, as time allows. Whatever Sonny's eventual career choice, the industry of agriculture will gain still another bright young "star" from the ranks of FFA.



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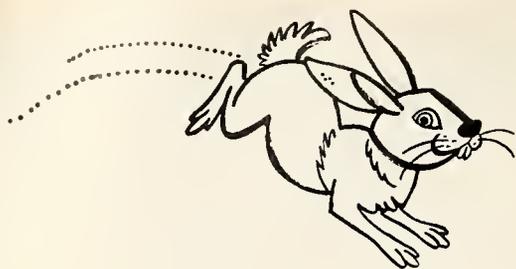
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Hunting the Cottontail Rabbit

By Samuel Skeen

THE cottontail rabbit is the number one game animal in America. This two-pound package of agility is sought by more hunters than any other critter. Each year, the national harvest nears the 50-million mark. If you like to hunt, chances are you have already pursued the cottontail rabbit.

Rabbit hunters know the real definition of hunting. Some days the long-eared mammals seem to be everywhere and the next week it appears they have vanished. This situation is often encountered by some rabbit hunters. If you want to locate the "missing" cottontails, these hints will help you increase your "find" during the hunt:

Rabbits like to set up housekeeping where people once lived. An abandoned farmstead that is being reclaimed by nature will often yield a rabbit bonanza. When hunting these areas, check every patch of cover near old buildings, stacks of lumber and piles of junk. Search the perimeters of these locations as well as fence rows, road embankments, old gardens, brush piles and orchards before heading into the traditional habitat of brushy thickets and briar patches.

When the hot weather of early autumn rolls around, creek banks and stream-bottoms are prime hunting sites. In addition to the lush growth of greenery available for food, nooks and crannies beneath the exposed roots of trees near a water channel offer the rabbit a cool hiding spot.

Winter weather greatly influences rabbit behavior. Since its fur offers it little in the way of protection against the elements, extremely cold temperatures and wet weather will often send the cottontail underground. But since the rabbit cannot build up a store of energy-giving fat, it must come out of hiding to forage as soon as the weather breaks. A warming trend that occurs two or three days after a spell of severe weather is certain to be a good day for hunting.

When the weather is relatively dry and temperatures normal, rabbits spend their time above ground hunched up in their "squats." These cup-shaped "beds," or "forms," are usually well hidden spots beneath a clump of grass or some other cover. Resting in its bed, the rabbit can see and hear predators while remaining unseen. When danger threatens, the rabbit scoots from its resting place onto one of its familiar escape routes. In the winter, the cottontail is likely to make its bed on a hillside that has a southern exposure.

Since the rabbit's hearing is probably its keenest sense, the hunter should take advantage of the wind to conceal the sound of his approach. A cottontail sitting in its form generally faces into the wind. While this positioning prevents its fur from being ruffled and causing the animal to lose valuable body heat, it also serves as a defense mechanism. Sounds made by approaching predators will be carried to the rabbit's sensitive ears. When the pursuer hunts into the wind, the sound of his movements are carried away from the long-eared lagomorph.

Hunting near a vacated bed can be productive because the cottontail may be resting in the vicinity of its former squat. Mark the old bed with your cap or handkerchief and begin hunting around the spot in a pattern that resembles a flower with several large petals. Wander out about 30 yards, go 10 yards to the side and amble back to the bed. Repeat this pattern until you have completely encircled the site or jumped the rabbit.

Cottontails establish trails through weeds, grasses and brush. Besides being travel lanes, these familiar paths are maintained as escape routes. When you find one of these runways, hunt across it in a zigzag fashion. A rabbit may have been traveling the trail at dawn and hopped off it to hide. Hunt slowly and stay alert. If a rabbit is flushed, it will hit the trail to make its escape.

One of the cottontail's preferred winter foods is the bark of the sumac. High in fat content, the bark of this shrub (which holds its bright red seeds in an upright cluster) aids in the production of body heat, which the cottontail sorely needs.

Since it grows in sunlit areas, the observant hunter who finds a sumac thicket may also spot a nearby rabbit warming itself in the sun.

Any trip hunting rabbits will be made even better if you have a good dog to help find and ferret out the sitting cottontails. But just any dog won't do. Among rabbit hunters, there is an old saying that marks an important physical attribute of a good cottontail chaser—"the shorter the legs, the better." Dogs built low to the ground, such as bassets and beagles, do not chase the rabbit so fast that it must "hole-up" to escape. A good rabbit hound moves the cottontail along at a leisurely pace.

Rabbits know their home territory intimately and will seldom leave it even when being chased. Consequently, when the long-eared mammal is being pursued by a dog, it will invariably circle back into the area where it was flushed. This habit gives the hunter time to find a stump, rock pile or some other elevated spot from which to shoot when the returning rabbit comes jogging past.

While hunting with a good dog is unsurpassed, there are two occasions when Spot should be left kenneled. The first instance is when a deep, powdery snow blankets the ground. Rabbits hole-up quickly under these conditions because running is difficult and tiring. The second case for a dogless hunt occurs when a deep snow has partially melted and frozen again. While the light-bodied rabbit can scurry across this surface, the crust will not support the weight of the dog and it will break through. Running a dog under these tiring conditions is no way to treat "man's best friend."

With or without a dog, sunny days following a skiff of snow afford the sportsman excellent rabbit hunting weather. These conditions are ideal for the most challenging hunt of all—seeking the cottontail with a .22 rifle.

As you inch along, peer into possible hiding spots and attempt to see the rabbit before it sees you. But don't look for the whole bunny. Look for a patch of brown against the white snow or watch for the movement of the rabbit's ears. Better yet, look for those big, ink-black, liquid-looking eyes that enable this critter to see in all directions. When you spot the rabbit, do not maintain eye contact. Watch cottontail out of the corner of your eye, slowly raise your rifle, shift your gaze back to the



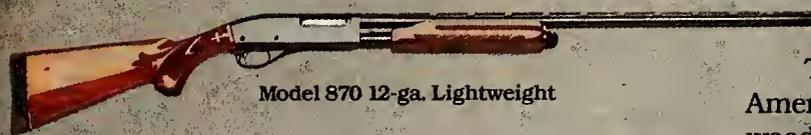
(Continued on Page 52)

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Cottontails

(Continued from Page 50)

animal, take careful aim and squeeze off a well-placed shot.

The rabbit has two weaknesses that can be exploited. Even though its eyesight is excellent and field of vision in each eye is nearly 180 degrees, the cottontail has a blind spot directly in front. A surprised rabbit will often jump out of its form and turn broadside to identify the intruder. When this happens shoot quickly or you may not get another chance.

Most hunters think the cottontail is a speed demon. It isn't. Eighteen mph is

about its top speed and most humans can run that fast. It is the rabbit's initial zigzag run that makes it seem as if it's outrunning a load of shot. After this sudden burst of evasive maneuvering, the cottontail prefers to run along one of its well-worn trails. If you spot a runway ahead of the rabbit, be prepared to shoot when it hits its path.

The rabbit is a popular game animal for several reasons. A large investment is not necessary to hunt this part-time garden pirate. If you own a shotgun of any kind or a .22 rifle, you have yourself a rabbit gun. Secondly, a cottontail on the run is a challenging target. Zigging and zagging through heavy cover, a darting rabbit has accounted for many a spent shell and missed shot.

Sheep

(Continued from Page 40)

The highlight of his sheep career has been the purchase of Quaczar for \$4,100 at the 1979 MSU production sale. Quaczar has since grown into the largest Suffolk ram in the United States and has increased in estimated value by almost tenfold.

In addition to his success in developing a widely recognized and accomplished Suffolk herd, Gene has also tried his hand at raising commercial lambs, purebred Duroc hogs and finishing dairy beef steers.

After inspecting Gene's blue ribbon wall, the quality of his herd speaks for itself. His prize-winning sheep have received blue ribbons at the Wisconsin Ram Test and Sale and Michigan State Fair.

Gene has been very active in many areas outside of his responsibilities on the farm. He holds active membership in the Michigan Sheep Breeders, Michigan Suffolk Breeders Association and the National Suffolk Sheep Association. He has further demonstrated his commitment to leadership through 4-H, school and church activities.

FFA members throughout mid-Michigan can use Gene's involvement as an excellent example to follow: he served as chapter reporter, secretary and president, regional secretary and now state secretary. He was runner-up in the state Public Speaking contest as a junior, state winner

of the Extemporaneous Speaking contest at the 1980 state convention and was runner-up in the Central Region contest to the eventual winner of the national competition.

The many hours of hard work on the farm paid off for Gene when he was named Michigan proficiency award winner in sheep production at the 1980 state convention.

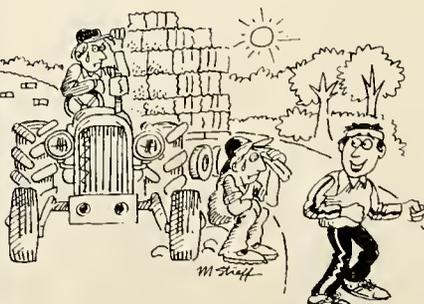
"I think it is important that every member involved in an SOEP (Supervised Occupational Experience Program) get involved in the proficiency award program. It gained recognition for me and my flock of sheep, not only through the FFA and for the FFA, but recognition in all the sheep industry so that my name as a professional proficient sheep producer would be expanded across the state and across the nation," Gene said.

Gene's desire to be the best was one of the things that prompted him to get involved in the premier research effort being conducted in conjunction with Michigan State University's sheep research center.

Harold Henneman, professor of Animal Science at MSU, believes that embryo transfer with sheep will become more common because prices for purebreds are reaching several thousand dollars. As a result, top breeders can afford the approximate \$1,000 per donor ewe that transfers now cost. Henneman points out that the transfers allow breeders to see more progeny from superior breeding stock within a shorter period of time.

"Embryo transplants will speed up the rate of improvement in the sheep industry," Henneman explains. "Transplants are limited to the top purebred breeders because of the cost, but this improvement will filter down to the commercial breeders who buy purebred rams."

Whatever happens for Gene Graham in the years ahead, his drive for excellence is sure to take him far in the sheep industry. The successful transfer of sheep embryos at Michigan State University marks the spirit of cooperation that rural mid-Michigan is based upon and FFA member Gene Graham's true desire to make an impact on the future of agriculture.



"You guys really should think about getting some regular exercise!"

Mailbag

(Continued from Page 6)

100%—\$1 for each member. I challenge all chapters to equal this!"

Danny G. Furr

Fairfax, Virginia

Several weeks ago I spoke to you about finding a camera in Alexandria. Enclosed are three of the pictures which my husband had developed from the film which was in the camera. As you can see, our only clue is the Future Farmers of America emblem on the jacket of the young man in front of the White House.

I have enclosed the negatives of these three films. Hopefully, you'll be able to find the owner for us. My husband found the camera the latter part of March or the first part of April.

Mary Jane Comegys



Here is one of the pictures. Any clue to you that the camera was yours? If you recognize the scene, contact us with identification of the camera. —Ed.

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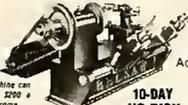
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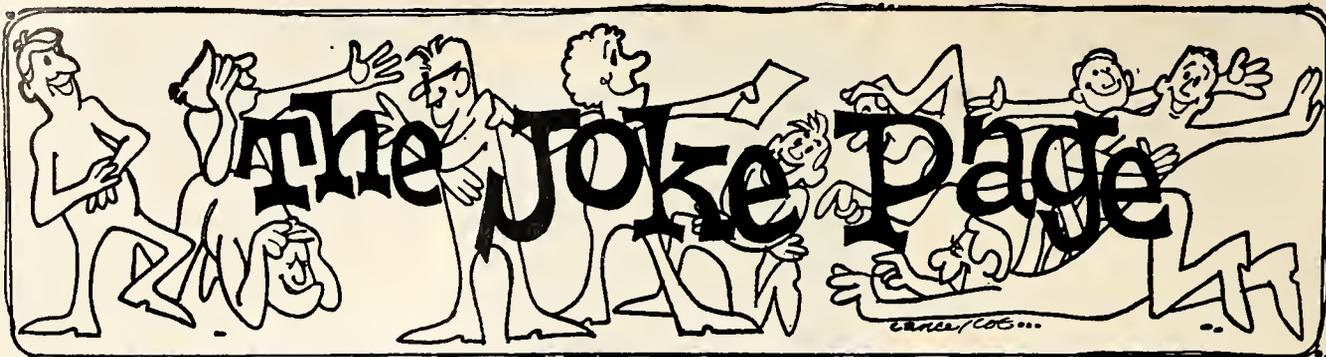
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A football player died and went to heaven. He was just walking around acting real sad. So St. Peter asked him what was wrong and he said, "Well, I'm used to playing football on Sundays and I really miss it." St. Peter said, "Oh, we have a game going on over on cloud nine right now." So St. Peter took him over there and instead of numbers on their jerseys, they had letters like L.E. for left end and R.G. for right guard. The guy said, "Well, I understand all of them except that guy over there with T.L." St. Peter said, "Oh, that's God—he thinks he's Tom Landry."

Carla Hawkins
McKinney, Texas

A man walked into a restaurant bringing along a wrapped up Egyptian mummy.

"What'll it be?" asked the waitress.

"Nothing," the man said. "My buddy just came in here to unwind!"

Dale Seabourn
Atoka, Oklahoma

A second grade teacher asked her pupils, "Do any of you here know what a person who works in a library is called?"

There was a long silence, then a voice in the back of the room hollered, "A bookie?"

Michael Lee
Cotton Center, Texas

A preacher announced from the pulpit "Everyone in this congregation will one day die." Then a fellow laughed loudly, annoying the preacher who called out, "What do you find so amusing?"

the man replied, "I'm just a visitor."

Steven Sodich
College Station, Texas

A football coach after another disastrous season, "Well, that's the way the rookies fumble."

John David Adams
Deatsville, Alabama

A forgetful patient went to the doctor for a checkup. The doctor wrote a prescription for him in his usual illegible writing. The patient put it in his card case and forgot to get it filled.

Every morning for two years he showed it to the conductor as a railroad pass. Twice it got him into a theatre, once into a baseball park and once into a symphony concert. He got a raise from the cashier by showing it as a note from the boss.

One day he mislaid it at home. His daughter picked it up, played it on the piano and won a scholarship to a noted conservatory of music.

Oran Nunemaker
Glasco, Kansas

Nick: "The driver of that car ahead of us must be one of my teachers."

Rick: "Why do you say that?"

Nick: "He's so stubborn about letting us pass."

Dwayne Downing
Kuttawa, Kentucky

Some outlaw! He couldn't even rustle leaves!

Stefan Tabak
Darien, Connecticut



"The biggest fault is, he believes everything I say. I told him not to spend too much money on my birthday present—and he didn't."

"I must confess I don't understand women!" said the husband. "Why do you go to the movies and cry over the misfortunes of people you don't even know?"

"For exactly the same reason," snapped his wife, "that you stand up and cheer yourself hoarse for a man you've never met when he slides into third base!"

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Professor: "What was one of the most outstanding accomplishments of the Romans?"

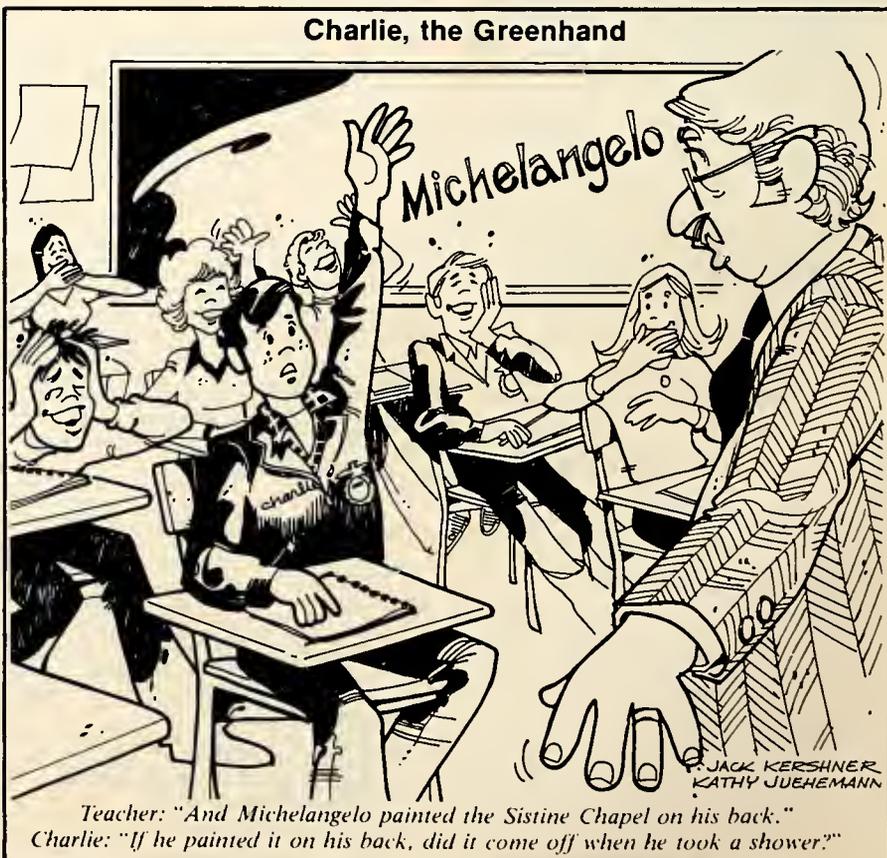
Student: "They understood Latin."

Clay Motley
Chatham, Virginia

Joe: "Do you like raisin bread?"

Farmer: "Can't say, never tried raisin' it."

Donny Brown
Hustonville, Kentucky



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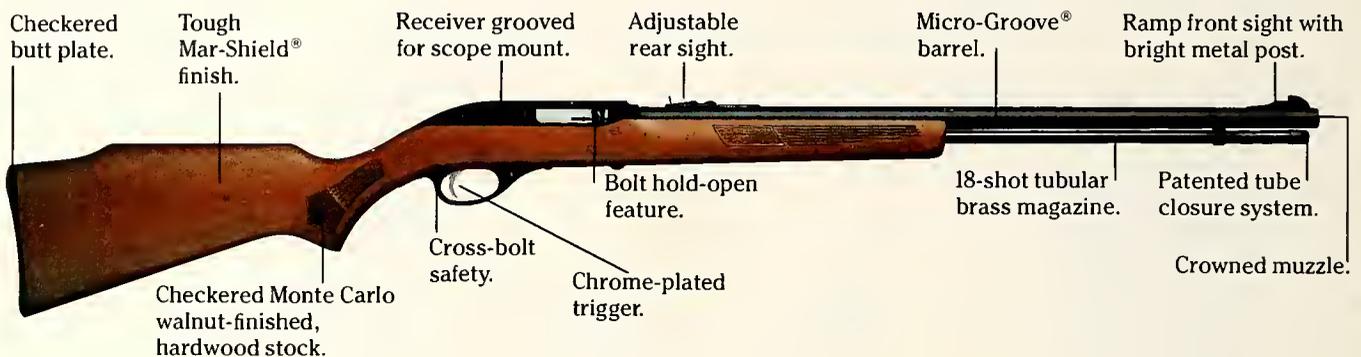
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