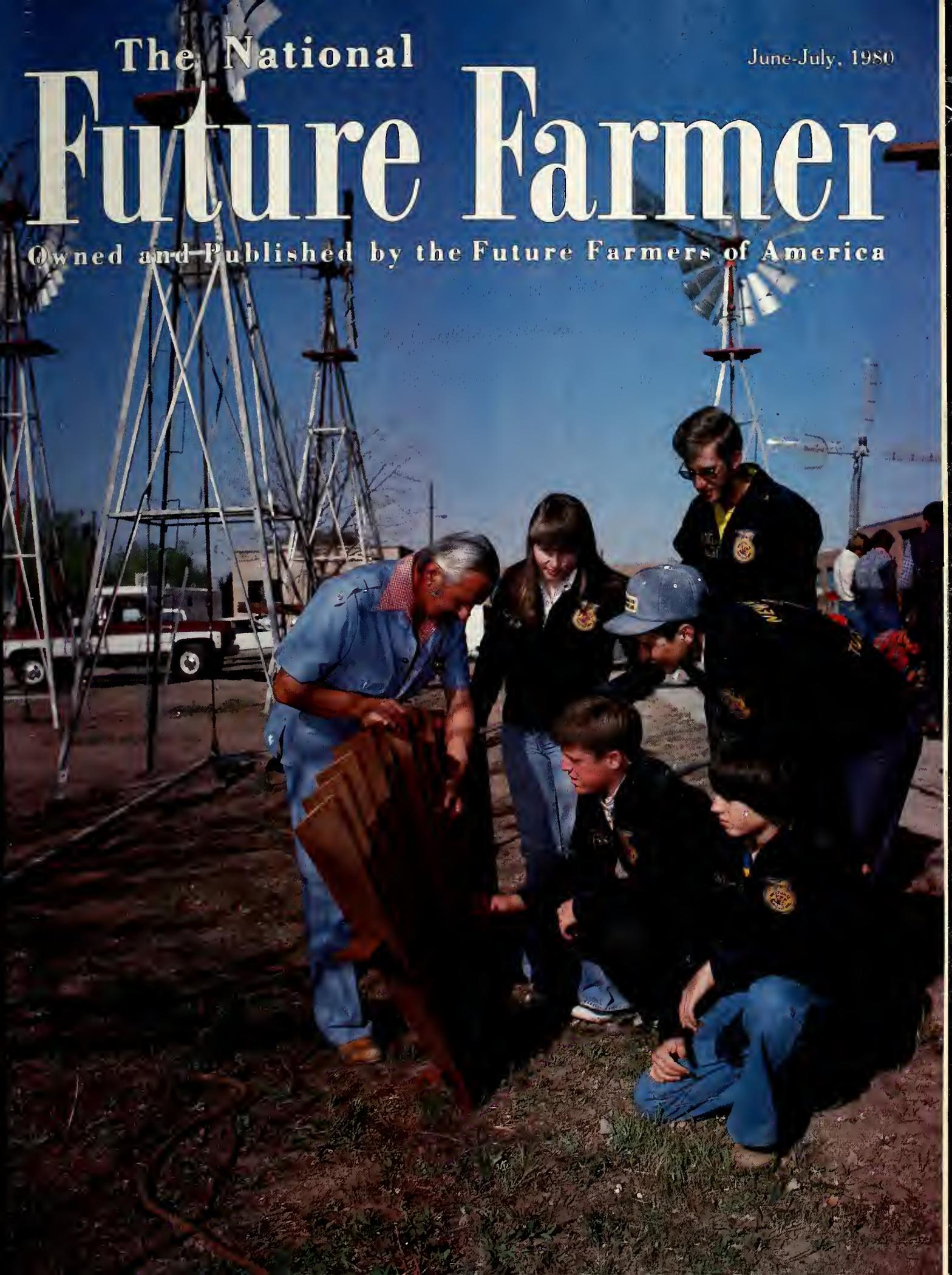


The National

June-July, 1980

# Future Farmer

Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America



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**A Word With The Editor**

Who would do the China story? That question has been pondered in the magazine office ever since the relationship between the United States and China began to thaw. Because of that country's size and large population, it is inevitable that China will have a role in the course of world events during the lifetime of today's FFA members. There is also the possibility of future trade, especially for agricultural products to feed China's large population, if a satisfactory trade balance can be developed. But to write this article for you would require someone with a special insight to FFA. Someone who could give you just the right story. The opportunity to name that person came along when Gary Bye, a former FFA member, ag teacher, associate editor and now field editor for *The National FUTURE FARMER*, went to China with a special leadership group. His article appears in this issue. And because the subject is as big as the country itself, we can present only an overview here but we hope this first person report is enough to help you begin to understand China in today's complicated world.

FFA membership is something subscribers to this magazine probably take for granted. That is why most of you get the magazine—you are a member of FFA. But that is not always true for some vocational agriculture students in some schools. They do not formally unite with FFA and participate fully in FFA activities. Thus they miss a very important part of the vocational agriculture/FFA program. This situation caused the national organization of FFA to adopt a goal of extending the benefits of FFA membership to as many students as possible during the coming year. To achieve this goal, a membership promotional plan has been developed called the 10-PLUS Club. Your chapter can participate—and be a winner. You will find more about this program on page 10. This is the first plan of its kind the FFA has ever developed and you can play an important role in making it a success. You can also help extend the benefits of FFA membership to other students in your school who can benefit greatly from FFA experience.

*Wilson Carnes*

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**The Cover**

The wind is not only a valuable energy source, as when harnessed with windmills, but it exemplifies this issue's emphasis topic — natural resources. On the cover, New Mexico State University instructor M. I. Rasmussen talks of "wind power" to interested New Mexico FFA members. (left to right, standing) Linda Bassett, Hagerman; Rex Wilson, Carrizozo; Chester Bradford, Tucumcari. Kneeling are Ernest Wagley, left, and Arlen McKinney of Tucumcari.

*Cover photo by Don R. Martin*

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**Agriculture**

**LOOKING  
AHEAD**

**SUNFLOWERS**, shown below at harvest, run about 48 percent oil and could be an economical source of energy. Dee Harris, a University of Missouri-Columbia agricultural engineer, says sunflower growers can produce at least 1,500 pounds of seeds per acre or about 750 pounds of oil. That oil produces nearly as much units per pound of energy as does diesel fuel. It's not economically feasible now to sell sunflowers for fuel instead of seeds, but as diesel fuel prices rise, the situation may change. USDA figures show U.S. sunflower acreage has increased fourfold in four years, production fivefold.



**AMERICA: RICH IN OIL?** A report by the Pitts Energy Group of Dallas, Texas, states that as much as 98 percent of prospective petroleum sediments in the U.S. are still untouched by drilling. The report reads, "Geologists have known for years that only a third of our discovered oil is recoverable without expensive special techniques. . . ." Oil and natural gas is trapped thousands of miles beneath the surface but can be tapped if extreme costs of drilling are met. Experts say two-thirds of all oil ever discovered in America is still in the ground, and that only half of the remaining oil is an amount equivalent to all the oil our nation has used in its entire history.

**CONSERVATION** of a valuable natural resource, farmland, must be stepped up in the future, and become the concern of all Americans. Such a plea is often voiced by U.S. agricultural leaders. Bob Gray, director of the National Agricultural Lands Study (NALS), says the problem of agricultural land loss is

reaching crisis proportions throughout the Northeast, the Southeast and key areas of the West and Southwest. Ten states stand to lose as much as 90 percent of remaining prime farmland if current annual losses go unchecked over the next 20 years. For individual state data on projected land loss, write NALS, 722 Jackson Place NW, Washington, DC 20006.

**SHRIMPS AND CRABS** are helping farmers grow grass and clover on the West Coast, according to a report in *Oregon's Agricultural Progress*. By diverting the natural resource of crab and shrimp processing by-products from dumpings in bays, the federal government and a team of Oregon State University researchers provided the seafood wastes to farmers for fertilizer. Farmers are now paying \$6 a ton for the wastes, which is estimated to have the same nutrient value as \$12 to \$15 worth of commercial fertilizer. The seafood shells are also a source of lime.

**WASTE HEAT** from water in power company cooling lakes can be used to warm greenhouses. Tested and proven by University of Illinois agricultural engineer, Paul Walker, the system works by circulating warm water over a building's top to provide a thermal barrier to heat which flows out of the greenhouse. Even in winter, says Walker, the water won't freeze when the pump is on. Walker says areas near power companies and industries that produce waste heated water are good locations for greenhouses because the water has no other economic value. Heating costs are normally the number one expense of commercial greenhouses.



**STRAW-FUELED BOILERS**, such as the one above, could easily heat a large confinement hog or poultry operation, according to spokesmen for Sperry New Holland. The boilers, which feature a remote-control garage door opener for easy load insertion, burn either round or square bales. The boiler shown above is designed to provide hot water for large dairies.

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You see, the good ol' boys are pretty darn fussy about Mini Mags. They won't let a round out of their factory until it's ready to go into your gun and live up to the CCI name.

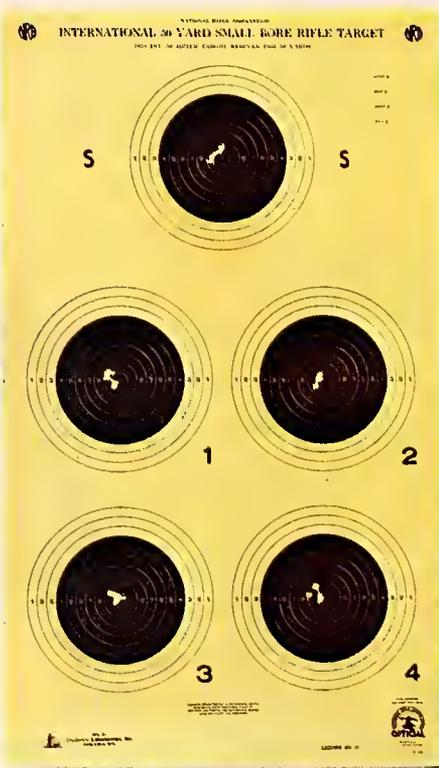
That's why they've got some very hard-nosed inspectors doing their inspecting. To make sure Mini Mags will deliver just the right combination of velocity, accuracy and functional reliability. Shot after shot after shot.

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And by offering Mini Mags with both solid and hollow point bullets, they know you really don't have any excuse to be buying the good boys' 22 ammo instead of the

good ol' boys'.

So next time you're out seeing what you can do with your 22, take along a handy plastic 100 pak of Mini Mags. Or better yet, a carton of 500. They'll show you what your 22 can do.



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## Readers Report

# MAILBAG

### Moravia, New York

Thank you for allowing us to reprint the article "16 Steps to Successful Learning and Better Grades."

*Mrs. Linda K. Carr  
Research Associate*

*Chronicle Guidance Publications, Inc.*

### Girard, Illinois

I read the *Future Farmer* all the time. I really liked the article entitled "Farming the Universe" but you did make one mistake.

You said that the food and animals would be raised in zero-gravity. They will not be raised in zero-g, they will be raised in an earth-like gravity.

This will be achieved by spinning the station to create artificial gravity. This same thing was used to train astronauts for the high gravity encountered during lift-off. It is called centrifugal force. It's the same thing as when you tie a rope to a bucket of water and spin it around.

One more thing: if you write another or reprint this article please don't call the space-grown food astrofood or astrofeed, just call it food or feed.

*Larry Hesterberg*

**We wrote the author for whatever comments the author may wish to make regarding the question Larry raised. Here is her reply.—Ed.**

### Galveston, Texas

Regarding Larry's letter about "Farming the Universe." I consulted with Dr. Malcolm C. Smith, D.V.M., Life Sciences Directorate, NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas. His reply is as follows: Partial gravity is a possibility and may well be used in large advanced space stations. However, plans for life support in null gravity are still being studied.

*Claire Crouch,  
Author*

### Decatur, Michigan

I belong to Van Buren Skills Center FFA Chapter II. We work hard to accomplish a lot. I just wanted to say that I really enjoy the magazine, and in the April-May issue the story "Walking Tall."

My new address is enclosed.

*Diana Schoff*

### Michigantown, Indiana

Here are some pictures to update my story and tell about my new cage nursery decks mentioned in "Managing To Succeed" in the December-January issue.

Three week old pigs are being put up there

without any problems at 1.6 sq. ft. per pig. All pens in the building are 4-feet x 10-feet. By the time these pigs reach 40 pounds or 8 weeks, I divide each group on top in half and put them below. There are 32 pens all together with total capacity of 600 head. I have designed an all pit ventilation which makes the deck work out even better.

I really started using them hard in January. Since filling of the decks the furnace in the building hasn't run that first time which makes the fuel bill reasonable.

I would like to thank you again for putting together the article in the December-January issue. I have had quite a few calls and many letters from FFA members all over the U.S.

*Ned Smith*



**Ned is satisfied with the way his new stacked nursery cages are working in his hog operation.**

## The Ultimate Beauty with the Heart of a Beast.



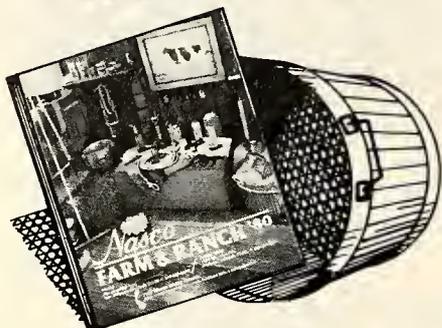
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The FFA

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**THE BOAC PROGRAM** is now under sponsorship of the R. J. Reynolds Company, a corporation based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In signing the agreement to fund the program, representatives of the sponsor and FFA both agreed on the objective of BOAC: to make rural communities a better place to live and work. R. J. Reynolds Company will support the 1980-81 awards program including application forms, certificates and plaques. They will also fund a community development film and assist in production of promotional materials.



**ALEX MERCURE**, USDA assistant secretary for rural development, is shown above addressing the USDA/FFA task force committees of ag-educators and extension specialists responsible for planning upcoming programs on community development education. The committees' purpose, as coordinated by the National FFA Organization includes developing a national program to provide in-service community development training to high school vo-ag teachers.

**WEA IN EUROPE** this summer avails participants for the first time with the Introduction to European Agriculture Tour, an intense travel seminar that replaces the Holiday Tour. Rick Kimble, who will join Gary Johnson as a 1980 WEA summer counselor, says the optional tour will include farm visits and be "educationally oriented to agriculture." Some 50 FFA members in the WEA program will leave June 11 for overseas placements in 15 countries.

Seventy-six agriculturists from 13 countries are now working in American agriculture through the WEA Inbound program.

**SPECIAL PROJECT** sponsors, working through the National FFA Foundation, have committed support to the American Farmer recognition program and the National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Association (NPASO). The Production Credit Association (PCA) will sponsor the American Farmer recognition program; John Deere and White Farm Equipment Company will lend support to NPASO. NPASO's Board of Directors is chaired by National FFA Advisor Byron Rawls.

**NATURAL RESOURCES** studies are available to FFA members from the National Audubon Society in full year, semester or summer degree programs. Students currently enrolled range from 15 to 27, and are engaged in "hands on" learning, ecology, and career development in conservation and outdoor recreation. The course is relatively expensive since students learn in a large variety of environments from Alaska to Florida. However, financial aid is possible. For details, write Expedition Institute, National Audubon Society, 950 3rd Ave., New York, NY 10022.

**REP. THOMAS FOLEY**, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, U.S. House of Representatives, addressed the 22 FFA national proficiency award winners on their return from a travel seminar in Europe. The Washington representative told the group, "FFA has spread a level of confidence and self achievement throughout the country. I speak on behalf of Congress to congratulate you. If your spirit and values typify the American spirit, our nation will succeed in the 80's and 90's." The 22 national winners are available for slide show presentations of the overseas seminar. For details, write Bob Seefeldt, National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.

**WILLIAM PAUL GRAY**, retired national FFA executive secretary, has been named to the American Polled Hereford Association's (APHA) Hall of Merit for outstanding contributions in the field of youth work. Gray, one of four individuals honored by APHA, served FFA as a vocational agriculture teacher, college-level agricultural educator and state FFA advisor in Colorado. Gray retired as national executive secretary in 1976 after 19 years in the leadership post.

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National President Doug Rinker urges chapters to "join" the 10-PLUS Club.

## FFA Announces The 10-PLUS Club

**T**HE FFA "10-PLUS Club," a project designed to encourage more students to participate in vocational agriculture and FFA, will soon be launched on a national scale. The motivational program will be ready for chapter participation by this fall.

The 10-PLUS program will provide chapters with guidelines and incentive to encourage more vocational agriculture students to take advantage of FFA opportunities. Improving an individual's ability to step directly into an agricultural career upon graduation is one objective of FFA in relation to vo-ag training.

"This is the first time we have undertaken a national effort to increase FFA membership," says National President Doug Rinker. "Agriculture needs young people who are well trained in their field but who also have communications and leadership abilities. Participation in FFA can help develop those abilities."

Doug says that increasing membership can be easy when you involve first-year students in FFA from the very start. Another way to increase or sustain membership is to encourage graduates to maintain their membership even though they're no longer in high school. "That way," adds Doug, "the graduates still get *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine and remain eligible for FFA awards and advanced degrees."

Under the 10-PLUS program, chapters that increase membership by ten or more will be recognized for their accomplishment. One form of recognition is the spe-

cial 10-PLUS Club banner for chapter room display. As an aid to achieve such recognition, every chapter will be provided with a progress chart to record progress in membership drives. The chart will help keep track of chapter efforts in signing up additional members.

Recognition will also be given chapters that achieve 100 percent membership. One hundred percent membership means the number of FFA members is equal to the number of students taking vocational agriculture. Some chapters attain more than 100 percent membership due to retaining active FFA members who have graduated. Each chapter that achieves or maintains 100 percent membership will receive a special cap for its membership drive chairman. Additional caps can be sold to members of "100 percent plus chapters" from the National FFA Supply Service.

"The 10-PLUS Club is the first such project of its kind," says Coleman Harris, national FFA executive secretary. "It stresses involvement at the chapter level, where FFA activities all begin. It is a challenge to chapter officers to begin their program of activities early in the year and get every vo-ag student involved as soon as possible."

Materials for the 10-PLUS Club will arrive at your chapter with the membership roster later this summer. Program information will also be available at the Washington Conference program, regional state officer conferences and other workshops.

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Private First Class Brian Patterson,  
98th Regiment, 4th Brigade, 98th Division (Training).

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All income above the cost of operation is used by the organization for the benefit of FFA members—not as profit to any individual.

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National President Doug Rinker urges chapters to "join" the 10-PLUS Club.

## FFA Announces The 10-PLUS Club

**T**HE FFA "10-PLUS Club," a project designed to encourage more students to participate in vocational agriculture and FFA, will soon be launched on a national scale. The motivational program will be ready for chapter participation by this fall.

The 10-PLUS program will provide chapters with guidelines and incentive to encourage more vocational agriculture students to take advantage of FFA opportunities. Improving an individual's ability to step directly into an agricultural career upon graduation is one objective of FFA in relation to vo-ag training.

"This is the first time we have undertaken a national effort to increase FFA membership," says National President Doug Rinker. "Agriculture needs young people who are well trained in their field but who also have communications and leadership abilities. Participation in FFA can help develop those abilities."

Doug says that increasing membership can be easy when you involve first-year students in FFA from the very start. Another way to increase or sustain membership is to encourage graduates to maintain their membership even though they're no longer in high school. "That way," adds Doug, "the graduates still get *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine and remain eligible for FFA awards and advanced degrees."

Under the 10-PLUS program, chapters that increase membership by ten or more will be recognized for their accomplishment. One form of recognition is the spe-

cial 10-PLUS Club banner for chapter room display. As an aid to achieve such recognition, every chapter will be provided with a progress chart to record progress in membership drives. The chart will help keep track of chapter efforts in signing up additional members.

Recognition will also be given chapters that achieve 100 percent membership. One hundred percent membership means the number of FFA members is equal to the number of students taking vocational agriculture. Some chapters attain more than 100 percent membership due to retaining active FFA members who have graduated. Each chapter that achieves or maintains 100 percent membership will receive a special cap for its membership drive chairman. Additional caps can be sold to members of "100 percent plus chapters" from the National FFA Supply Service.

"The 10-PLUS Club is the first such project of its kind," says Coleman Harris, national FFA executive secretary. "It stresses involvement at the chapter level, where FFA activities all begin. It is a challenge to chapter officers to begin their program of activities early in the year and get every vo-ag student involved as soon as possible."

Materials for the 10-PLUS Club will arrive at your chapter with the membership roster later this summer. Program information will also be available at the Washington Conference program, regional state officer conferences and other workshops.

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Private First Class Brian Patterson,  
98th Regiment, 4th Brigade, 98th Division (Training).

# MEET TODAY'S ARMY RESERVE.



Members prepared pots so they could grow strawberry or geranium cuttings.



The chapter's horticulture program evolves around the greenhouse, above. Above center, Liz Martinez, chapter president, selects materials for her colonial flower arrangement.

# SOLAR GREENHOUSE:

## Hot Bed of a Diverse Horticulture Program

A thousand tulips and daffodils burst through the soil and bloomed for Valentine's Day in the new solar greenhouse at the Sante Fe, New Mexico, Vocational-Technical School.

"The crop was followed by 1,000 geraniums, 1,000 begonias and 20,000 bedding plants, including petunias and marigolds," said Advisor Fabian Chavez.

The building, financed by a bond issue last year, is used as a teaching classroom for eleventh and twelfth-grade horticulture students at the vocational technical school. There are 60 students in this year's program.

"The greenhouse cost over \$40,000 because three walls and the ceiling are made of fire-resistant fiberglass which filters out harmful ultraviolet rays. The rays tarnish and break down ordinary fiberglass in two or three years, with our sun," Advisor Chavez said.

Also costly was the building's north solar wall, a 16-foot aluminum structure with 12-inch insulation. "There is no sunlight on the north wall, so this (insulation) prevents heat loss from the inside of the building and stores heat." The building, which will have 1,600 square feet of growing space, has an automatic cooling system that opens doors and turns on fans to ventilate the greenhouse when triggered by a thermostat. In summer months when outdoor air is too warm to act as a coolant, the system will cool incoming air by filtering it through cold water.

An internal circulation system also will channel warmer air near the ceiling into the growing area to keep temperatures constant.

Last year's twelfth grade horticulture students helped their advisor when the building was in the planning stages. They visited other greenhouses and studied catalogs to choose fans, fiberglass and cooling system designs.



Tim Gonzales is one of the Santa Fe students in the floral design class.

Then the architects took over. The final building design is "one-half of a traditional pitched-roof Ikes-Braun greenhouse, plus one solar wall where the two halves would have met," according to Mr. Chavez.

At the open house for the new greenhouse, the chapter gave away poinsettias they had propagated.

Originally they had planned to start 1,000 poinsettia cuttings in the solar house, but it was not finished when the cuttings arrived. So they used their old greenhouse.

Another aspect of the horticulture program is floral arranging. Floral design is taught only to the second year horticulture students. They first study the basic principles of form, style, rhythm, texture and harmony in designing. Then they are required to make corsages using carnations, orchids, fern, floral ribbon, wire and tape.

The next project is a flower arrangement. Using the knowledge gained from the first three weeks, the students are to make a colonial-style arrangement with carnations, daisies, fern, baby's breath and an oasis block in a container.

Several FFA members have shown talent in floral designing and continued with it by attending floral design school

in Colorado or working for local florists.

The chapter has worked on numerous educational projects to benefit and beautify the community as part of this broad based horticulture program.

Several FFA members installed a drip irrigation system for about 200 russian olive trees they had planted as a screen on the west side of a condominium housing development in Sante Fe. The students had been studying drip irrigation in their classroom work at the vocational-technical school.

Also the horticulture class landscaped Mr. Morano's house, the building trades teacher at Santa Fe. Each student drew up a landscape plan and then the class used the best one. Materials for the landscape were purchased from local nurseries, gravel companies and lumber companies. The members installed the landscape as part of their class grade and completed the project in three days.

The class also landscaped the new horticulture classroom-greenhouse complex. The members and advisor drew up a basic plan for the area and planted accordingly. Members also constructed a sidewalk to direct the traffic flow.

Trees for this project were dug on a camping trip. About 50 members went on the trip to learn how to dig and transplant wilding trees for use in landscaping.

First the chapter had to obtain a permit to dig the trees from the Pecos Ranger Station. The area they were allowed to dig in was north of Rowe Mesa. The chapter was allowed 36 trees, all ponderosa pines, and was asked to cover the holes after the trees were dug.

Members set up camp and then staked out an area in which to dig. Advisor Chavez demonstrated to the members the proper and effective way of digging the ball and burlapping the tree to prevent any break in the ball or any damage to the root system.

# Ag Tips

from your Exxon Farm Distributor

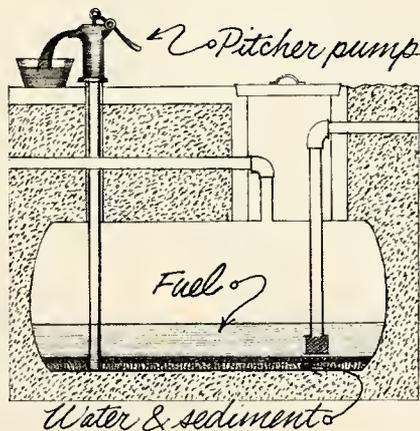


## Get an automatic and cut down on fuel losses.

If you use a service station-type fuel pump on the farm, consider installing a nozzle with automatic shutoff. It's called a safety nozzle, because it can prevent spills that are a dangerous fire hazard. But it also could save you all the fuel that's wasted if someone overfills your farm machines.

## How to flush out mysterious diesel tractor troubles.

Clogged filters, dirty injectors and fuel-wasting operation can have a very simple cause: foreign matter that collects in the bottom of your fuel storage tanks. It's a good idea to clean water and sediment out of the tanks at least once a year—twice a year, if tanks are above ground. After a tank is drained and flushed with clean fuel, let the drained fuel stand until dirt and water settle out. Then you can pour the clean portion back into the tank.



## Exxon introduces new fuel-saving engine oils: XD-3<sup>®</sup> and XD-3 EXTRA<sup>®</sup>.



Exxon has now put the fuel-saving technology of UNIFLO<sup>®</sup> motor oil into tough new engine oils for trucks, tractors and other diesel and gasoline powered equipment. Road-tested in trucks with matched Cummins diesel engines by an independent research organization, our new XD-3 and XD-3 EXTRA oils showed fuel savings in both single- and multi-grades. The new oils, with Exxon's special friction-reducing formulas, were tested against two leading competitive SAE 30 oils and a leading 15W-40 multi-grade. All five are petroleum-based oils. Our new oils showed 3% better fuel economy than even the best of the competitive oils. That could add up to considerable cash savings on a year's fuel bill. Get started with new XD-3 or extended drain XD-3 EXTRA — at your Exxon Farm Distributor's now.



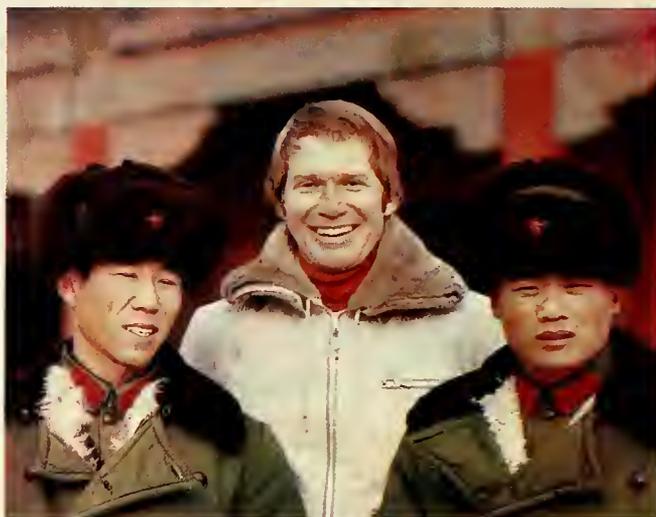
EXXON COMPANY, U.S.A.

# CHINA:

## Its people and its agriculture

This ancient, communistic nation has recently opened its doors to the West, introducing a massive country determined to progress with its people and resources.

By Gary Bye



Field Editor Gary Bye, shown above with two Chinese Army soldiers at the Forbidden City, is a former FFA member and vo-ag teacher from Washington state. Gary's exclusive story on China is a result of experiences gained while touring the Far East with a select leadership group. At left, Gary's camera captures part of the winding 1,684 miles of The Great Wall of China. The wall ranges in height from 15 to 39 feet and is 32 feet thick. In places it rises at 45 degree angles. Built in 240 B.C., the wall included sentry posts every 30 yards. Most of the structure has deteriorated with age.



**A**S OUR Japan Air Lines flight glided over the endless canals, rice fields and squatty brown communes toward Peking, China, I couldn't help but feel some apprehension. Although there is strength in numbers, and I was among 30 good friends, the uncertainty of the situation affected us all.

This was a communist country. China had practically been shut off from the world for thirty years. Her population was nearly one billion persons—or nearly one-fifth of the world's population. How would we be treated? Where would we stay? How much freedom would we be allowed? And what were we going to eat?

Nearing the Peking airport, the feeling grew stronger. From the air the landscape seemed colorless, nearly void of activity. The January weather had formed ice on the canals and smoke from burning coal added a yellowish brown tint to the winter air.

On the ground the airport seemed deserted. This was one of the world's largest cities and yet it seemed no one was entering or leaving. Inside we waited for our luggage. The two hour wait was

an appropriate period to adjust to our new surroundings.

I was traveling with a group called the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation. We represented young farmers, foresters and agribusiness people selected as a class for training as leaders in our communities and professions. We had come to China as part of a travel seminar lasting three weeks and taking in five Pacific Rim countries. We were here to learn about other cultures and explore trade relations.

Once through Chinese customs, we quickly began to receive answers to the many questions we had posed. Our translators and guides (we were usually accompanied by at least six Chinese officials) were warm, friendly and willing to answer nearly any question. Some had even been to the United States since the thawing of diplomatic relations.

We were taken to Peking's Friendship Hotel where we would stay during this portion of our visit. My massive room, including bedroom, office, sitting room and bathroom, was representative of the

hospitality offered to us. Large but hardly luxurious, the austere facilities were among the best this nation could offer, since tourism in China is still in its infancy.

We ate Chinese food, simply because that is practically all there is in China. At first we struggled but later became quite proficient in the use of chopsticks. Often we weren't sure what it was we were eating, but no one went hungry and the daily guessing game of "what is it" punctuated the day with humor.

Our week in China was a tiny glimpse of a cross section of Chinese life. Communes, factories, hospitals, homes and entertainment were all on the agenda. Our hosts also provided time for visiting tourist sites like the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City.

The formula for our visit usually consisted of first meeting with the respective officials in charge for a "brief overview" of the operation. Time was always allowed for questions and in the case of arts and crafts factories, we were given the opportunity to visit a gift shop where we were encouraged to part with our money. All too often we obliged.

On the first day after our arrival, we visited the Peace Commune, just north of Peking. As we journeyed by bus to the 18,000-acre rural collective, we began to form our first real impressions of China. Bicycles were everywhere. This was understandable, since in a city of eight million there are just half that many bicycles. The common man cannot afford motorized transportation.

Also maneuvering through the traffic flow were donkey powered carts and wagons filled with a variety of goods: firewood, manure for fertilizer, coal, paper, wire and frozen pork carcasses. It was not unusual to see one or two riders,

huddled up in their heavy green or blue overcoats catching a momentary nap as their vehicle inched along.

Off the roadside, people could be seen spreading organic fertilizer on the fields or cutting limbs from nearby trees for firewood. That early morning we also saw workers rolling up straw mats used to cover small greenhouses during the night. The greenhouses produce vegetables for markets in Peking.

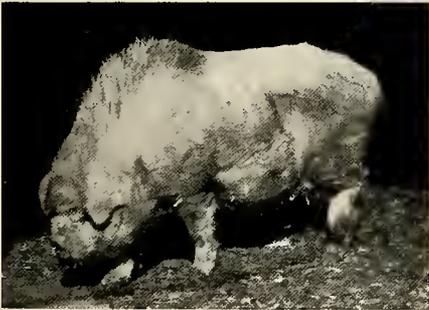
Touring the commune after our briefing, we had our first real encounter with Chinese agriculture. First we visited one of the commune's dairies, where commune members milk hundreds of Holstein cows three times each day by hand. The animals were "nearly as good as our own," according to the dairymen in our group, but they noted a lack of bloom associated with the quality feed that dairy cows receive in the United States.

Also at the Peace Commune we visited a swine farm where fairly modern hogs were being reared and fed to slaughter weight. Our group was impressed by the modern feed facilities. Later in the week we were able to view a more typical communal hog farm, where "old style" sows stood in confined pens with their bellies dragging the ground and looking very much like they would perish momentarily from lack of adequate nutrition.

Throughout our walking tour of the commune, the natives would stare with curiosity at our group then smile broadly when we would nod or gesture in greeting. Workers cut across all lines of the population. Young girls in pigtails and brightly colored clothing (a rarity in times past) maneuvered wooden wheelbarrows to and from small machines

*(Continued on Page 38)*

**This boar takes advantage of fairly modern feed facilities at Peace Commune.**



**These sows were found in farrowing pens at the Peace Commune near Peking. China is a large producer of swine.**



**Here's a vital, and plentiful, natural resource in China — human power. This fellow is delivering processed rice.**





**Joe and his family have expanded on a production project started long ago.**

**E**VERY year around Christmas time, Joe Armstrong is a primary cause of joy in some 10,000 households around the state of Indiana. Along with his parents, Virgil and Harriet, and sister, Karen, Joe nurtures over 150,000 scotch and white pines on a 240-acre farm. Most of the trees are still small, as it takes seven years for a tree to reach maturity. But the Armstrongs are already swamped with orders for Christmas trees during the December harvest time.

"We sell most of the trees to retailers," says Joe, a senior FFA member and president of the Eastern Greene, Indiana, chapter. "Once we got started selling, people found out who we were and came to us. Besides the 10,000 we sell to retailers, like grocery stores, we also run a 'choose and cut' operation. We sell about 300 trees a year that way."

In the choose and cut operation, the Armstrongs charge \$1 a foot plus a dollar for a scotch pine, and \$1.25 a foot plus a dollar for a white pine. Wholesale customers, who sometimes buy up to 1,500 trees in one order, usually pay \$4.25 per tree. Joe turns down as many orders as he sells because of heavy demand, but the trees weren't planted with the idea of a profit venture.

"My grandpa," recalls Joe, "started the tree business as a soil conservation project back in the '50s. Erosion was ruining the cropland on this farm, so he

## Farming For Christmas

**Joe Armstrong cultivates a crop that finds its way into thousands of homes during the yuletide season.**

thought trees would help control the loss. We still have problems with erosion, but the land would've been entirely washed away had it not been for the trees. The potential for the trees as a business came as a real surprise."

The Armstrongs plant over 10,000 seedlings each year in April, making sure to plant across the slope of the land for soil conservation purposes. Joe says the only problem with the tree business is "it takes seven years before payday," but thanks to grandfather's early start, the money is already coming in.

"Grandpa didn't know a whole lot about raising trees," offers Joe, "but he learned as the years progressed, and handed his technique down to us. He learned that April is the best time to plant. In May, you mow to keep weeds down. June and July call for shearing the trees to shape, done with a sharp knife. In August and September, we mow and spray the salable trees with a green coloring material called 'Greenzit.' November 15 we start cutting, December 5 we sell wholesale trees and December 1 through 24 are the cut and choose days."

That, in a nutshell, describes Joe's work and FFA project. However, each of

the above stages represents hours of work and careful plant maintenance. From planting to harvest, Joe must attend to several unique chores.

"Planting used to be done by hand," he explains, exhibiting the knowledge that has helped make him a percentage owner in the business. "Now we use a machine that trails a tractor, makes a slit in the ground, plants the tree then packs dirt around it. A thousand trees can be planted in an hour if all goes right. Planting usually takes about two weeks."

Joe buys the hardy pine seedlings from a local nursery. Costs depend on the variety of tree but a usual price is five to ten cents per seedling. The Armstrongs buy the trees in bulk after the seedlings have grown two years under a nursery's care. Joe says the decision to buy only scotch and white pines came after a close comparison to other varieties.

"Scotch and white are best suited for this area," he shares. "They grow fuller than other types, have a nice cone-shape and have full needle-growth. The needles keep a tree from looking 'holey,' and provide a full, lush look. The whites are

*(Continued on Page 20)*

**Acres and acres of pine trees blend in with the wooded Indiana landscape. The field grass is kept short for soil and water conservation reasons.**



# FAR OUT.



Looks good, right?

Churning up dust on a back road hardly anybody knows about. Trekking up a trail under a perfect blue sky. Or maybe singing down the highway on the way to work or school.

Three fantastic kinds of riding. On one fantastic kind of motorcycle.

A Honda XL dual-purpose motorcycle. Made to go both on the road and off.

Honda dual-purpose bikes are completely street legal. With headlight, horn, turn signals—the works. But they're built tough for off-road riding, too. With dual purpose tires and a rugged skid plate to help protect

the engine when the going gets rough.

Smooth, powerful four-stroke engines of 99, 124, 180 cc's give you plenty of punch for either street or dirt. With an even-pulling powerband as broad as Illinois. And Honda's legendary reputation for reliability, which can mean plenty when your riding takes you thirty miles from nowhere.

The Honda XLs are lightweight as a bantam rooster and just about as scrappy. And since there's a whole line of them, one will fit you sure as there's mud in April.

Even more important, it'll fit the kind of riding you want to do. Whether it's just around town. Or very far out.



**HONDA**  
**FOLLOW THE LEADER.**

## Trees

(Continued from page 18)

harder to grow and more susceptible to disease and pests, so we charge a bit more for them at maturity."

Joe's pines don't require much fertilization and chemical treatment once they're healthily rooted in the soil. However, seedlings demand careful handling and often die before reaching the farm.

"We usually lose 30 to 40 percent of the trees at planting," says Joe. "There are many reasons for the losses, some of them unpreventable. If a packer doesn't pack the soil around roots, they're exposed to air and die. The tree's also killed if a fungus gets into the food-producing needles. We lose some seedlings to rabbits, which are hard to control." Joe pauses, thinks about the pesky rabbits, and jokes half-seriously, "I guess we could set a bounty on them—maybe that'd help."

Joe says proper drainage is important to the welfare of the trees, one reason why he's very aware of soil and water management methods. "The trees can't tolerate excess moisture," he says. "They need adequate amounts, though, so we control it by using drainage. Shallow surface drainage allows run-off and



Shearing the pines with a machete-like knife trims the trees to a final shape.

prevents standing water. Low places that can't be controlled are simply left unplanted."

Any seedlings that die after planting are removed and a healthy replanting is placed by hand. Once all the trees are thriving, the Armstrong's work has just begun.

"Mowing and shearing must be done continually," shares Joe, "starting in and after May. Weeds can deform the bottom 'swirls' or ring of branches around the trunk, if left unmown. Shearing is important for a tree over three years old, because branches have started growing unevenly. Shearing is my favorite chore; it's hard work but once you've sheared a wild tree into a nice shape, you feel a sense of accomplishment."

Shearing must be done before a tree is full-grown and tough, so the cutting process usually starts in a tree's younger years. When a tree's new growth is two-thirds the length of the previous year's growth, the farmer takes to the fields with a very sharp knife, or shearer. The "leader," or main branch growing upward, is kept short to provide swirls of needle-bearing branches that are close together. Such an arrangement gives the tree a full look that is appealing to most buyers. Once a tree is full and determined salable, it receives a special treatment.

"In late summer, we actually spray them green," reveals Joe, referring to trees that will be sold in the coming December. "The trees take on a natural yellow look in the fall. The spray creates their green color, makes them fire retardant and holds the needles longer. Since

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So have fun this summer and keep your lips smooth and safe with Chap Stick Lip Balm.

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WITH SUNSCREEN PROTECTION



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The National FUTURE FARMER

the spray tends to fade away and look natural, most people never know the difference."

Long before the trees are cut for selling, buyers are negotiating price and ironing out marketing problems such as delivery. In June and July the Armstrongs are already preparing for harvest.

"We go through the fields and tag the ones we'll sell," says Joe. "We look for full-grown, six to seven foot trees with good shape. The tagging tells us how many trees are salable, and classifies the trees into two grades, 'better' and 'poorer.' Poorer trees, of course, sell a bit cheaper—\$4.25 for better and \$3.75 for poorer."

Harvest is completed by using a 32-inch circular blade saw. Cut trees are dragged to roadways and stacked in lots, or ricks, according to each customer's order. Some buyers bring their own trucks but the Armstrongs sell a loading and trucking service. After a transaction is completed, the Armstrongs refund to the buyer a 10 percent deposit placed on the order in July. By applying a deposit, the Armstrongs are nearly assured of a sale once the trees are cut from growth. The trees would be impossible to replant if a buyer didn't follow through on a purchase.

Joe says plans are to expand the tree farm. Of the 240 acres, 120 are presently planted, 100 are wooded. The Armstrongs plan to have all their timber in classified forest eventually, but that, like the pines, takes nature's time to provide. Joe says his FFA/vo-ag training, especially horticulture and soils, will help along the way.

"We like to grow the best trees we can," says the proud Future Farmer. "There's a sense of satisfaction knowing something you grew is in somebody's living room." For Joe Armstrong, December brings double meaning—the spirit of Christmas and the sale of a healthy harvest.

**Joe doesn't maintain a rigid schedule of spraying, but constantly checks the trees for threatening pests and disease.**



June-July, 1980

# You could win \$500 for telling 20 million Americans what you think about Agriculture!

## Salute to Agriculture

*"From the timberland in Newfoundland to the cotton fields in California, one word is boldly stamped upon the North American terrain... AGRICULTURE! The checkerboard wheat squares of the Midwest announce it. The apple fields of Washington proclaim it, and the dairy farms of Wisconsin exclaim it, North America is Agriculture! We are the home of food production, the home of men who have used their plowshares to become the greatest agriculturists the world has ever known. North America, be proud of Agriculture, because Agriculture is proud of North America!"*

**This inspirational message won first prize for FFA member, Mike Stewart. It was shown during the 1979 National Finals Rodeo Telecast.**

**A contest exclusively for members of the FFA... sponsored by Hesston Corporation, to be presented on National Finals Rodeo Telecast in December.**

Members of FFA are invited to submit in writing (in approximately 50 words or less) a message on the importance of agriculture to the economy and standard of living in North America (including Canada). The winning entry will be developed into a public service TV message and

shown during the telecast of the final performance of the National Finals Rodeo. This program is seen by an estimated 20 million viewers and is sponsored by Hesston Corporation and participating dealers.



## \$1500 IN PRIZES

**1st Prize, \$500 (One Winner) • 2nd Prize, \$250 (Two Winners) • 3rd Prize, \$100 (Five Winners)**

**Winners to be announced at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City in November!**

### RULES

Complete rules are available from State and National FFA offices or by writing Hesston Corporation. Formal entry is not required.

1. Entrants must be bonafide members of FFA.
2. Message must be approximately 50 words or less on the importance of agriculture to North America (including Canada).
3. Entries will be judged entirely upon content and originality. Quotations of others are acceptable but must be identified.

4. Entries must include the name, date of submission, address, phone number of the entrant and the name of his FFA Chapter, legibly written.
5. In case of similar or duplicate messages, the one with the earlier postmark will be declared the winner. All entries become the property of Hesston Corporation.
6. Entries will be judged by a panel of agri-business executives selected by Hesston Corporation. Decisions of the judges are final and not subject to appeal.

**Entries must be postmarked no later than September 30, 1980, and mailed directly to Hesston Corporation, Hesston, Kansas 67062, Attn: Salute to Agriculture Contest.**



Hesston, Kansas 67062

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# Communities Support A Scholarship Program

**T**HERE is a scholarship program in Oklahoma which will pay the tuition of outstanding FFA members if they are planning to become vocational agriculture teachers.

The criteria for getting into this program are rather simple. First, you must be a proven leader in your high school FFA and vocational agriculture work; secondly, you must have demonstrated your ability to perform academically; thirdly, there must be a need for the scholarship as verified by the local vocational agriculture teacher.

This new scholarship program is the outgrowth of several years of discussion by the teacher education committee of the Oklahoma Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association.

In the spring of 1977, eight leaders interested in vo-ag teachers formed an independent board to solicit money for the purpose of establishing a different and rather unique scholarship program for the rural youth of Oklahoma. The new program is called the OSU-Agricultural Education Scholarship, Inc. The original function of this organization was to collect just enough money from contributions to finance tuition scholarships for outstanding FFA and vocational agriculture students whose goal was to attend Oklahoma State University and major in agricultural education.

It was soon discovered that the program could not exist from semester to semester without a more substantial base of operation. Through the counsel and advice of bankers and other interested business people, it was soon decided to construct a trust base for the program.

**The Kingfisher FFA Chapter got involved in the project and invited potential donors to a calf-fry they hosted. Members got together and did the cooking for the fry.**



**Former National FFA President Kinzie told Kingfisher folks about the fund.**

This is the really unusual feature of the new scholarship program in that it utilizes the local community trust approach.

Since February, 1, 1979, three communities have participated in local trust fund drives. The first community trust drive was conducted in the Cushing Community near the OSU campus. It was decided that a local community coordinator would be identified to keep on top of the drive. The Cushing Community was selected to be the pilot community because of 1) the strong local support of FFA and vo-ag there; 2) the image of FFA and vo-ag was strong; and 3) a former National FFA President (1944), Mr. Oliver Kinzie, was a very successful dairy farmer and businessman in the community and had agreed to serve as the program's first local community coordinator.

A total of \$5,000 was raised in a matter

of a few weeks. The agricultural committee of the local Chamber of Commerce has since included this program in its budget thereby assuring an annual contribution of \$1,000 each year until a \$10,000 trust goal is reached.

Since the beginning of the trust drive in the Cushing Community, the Shawnee Community has established a \$12,000 trust in the program. At the Kingfisher Community the local FFA chapter decided to get involved. On December 19, 1979, the Kingfisher FFA hosted a calf-fry in the Civic Center for supporters of the local FFA chapter and potential donors to the scholarship trust fund. Over 120 interested persons attended the function. A total of \$5,000 in pledges was received prior to the event and during the evening's function. The Kingfisher Community is on its way toward its \$10,000 goal.

The trust account within the OSU-Agricultural Education Scholarship Program has grown to over \$30,000. The trust goal by the end of 1980 is \$50,000. The Board of Directors set a three-year goal of \$100,000. The trust account is deposited with and invested by the Vocational Technical Foundation. Long term high return trust investments will give the program a strong financial base from which to operate.

The awarding of scholarships to outstanding FFA members and vocational agriculture students started rather slowly in the fall of 1978 as there was only \$1,200 available for four \$300 scholarships for that fall semester. Since then, 29 scholarships have been awarded.

The recognition phase is one of the strengths of the scholarship program. Special recognition plaques have been designed for those donating \$300 or more. Donors as well as scholarship winners receive complete news coverage in hometown newspapers.

*(Jack Prichard, Teacher Education Department, Oklahoma State University)*

**Winners in 1980 were Rocky Burchfield, Keith Boevers, Kevin Bryant, Terry Britt, Bruce Farquhar, Lee Coker, Mike Taliaferro, William Wade, Bruch DeMuth, Kent Orrell.**



"Just great—  
for \$300 in entry fees,  
I got my arm cut  
by a brahma,  
sprained an ankle  
in bulldoggin',  
and cracked two ribs  
on a saddle bronc.  
The way it's going,  
the only thing I  
ain't gonna break  
in this rodeo is  
my Levi's® jeans."

**Levi's**

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# Take along plenty of



Member Motorcycle Safety Foundation

# orange punch.



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There's one for everybody in your crew: DS-80, 100, 125, 185 and a brand new 250 (nice size for dad).

All five sport new MX styling (notice the sleek tank and seat). Plus:

Greater suspension travel. Easy-grip power levers. And Suzuki's automatic "CCI" oil injection system.

Also, the DS-185 and 250 come with pointless PEI ignition and box-type swingarm.

Oh yes, all five use Suzuki's gutsy Power Reed™ engine.

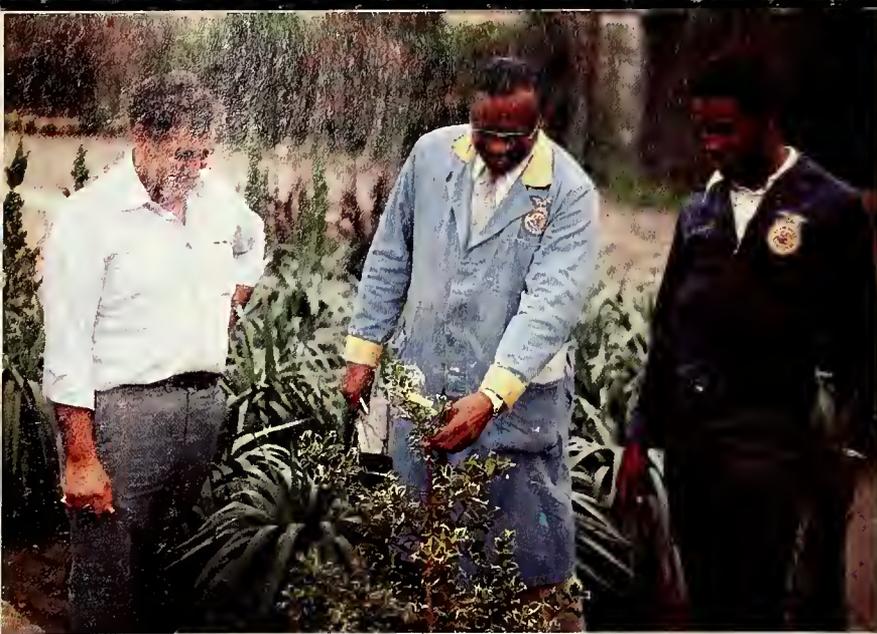
Which, of course, supplies our five oranges with plenty of punch.



SUZUKI  1980

## The Performer.

Ride with care. Always wear a helmet and protective apparel. Ride only where authorized and respect the environment.



**FFA Advisor Jordan conducts an on-site placement consultation with Andre Mills, right, and employer Sam Perino.**

*Photos by Author*

# Blossoming Careers Through FFA

**Whether it's professional nursery work or another promising career, futures bloom for FFA members in New Orleans.**

*By Jeffrey Tennant*

**T**HE roaring sounds of whirling mowers echo off the massive brick walls of Booker T. Washington High School in the heart of New Orleans. Vocational agriculture students scurry about their lab chores, some grooming the grounds behind the agriculture building, some tending to plants in the well-stocked greenhouse. Directing the fervent activity is Sidney Jordan, a patient, inspirational man who has advised the Booker T. Washington (BTW) FFA Chapter since 1947.

Advisor Jordan, with the valuable help of co-teacher Floyd Jenkins, guides the 87-member chapter and the vo-ag program, a course of study that places emphasis on horticulture areas. Over the years, young people have emerged from the ghetto that borders the school to train in discipline and reach for a career. Many of those students signed up for vocational agriculture, where Sidney Jordan could work his magic. Now, Jordan cites "ghetto kids" who are successful horticulturists, businessmen, administrators and college graduates with Ph.D.'s. But Jordan doesn't call it magic—he calls it "direction of skills."

"I teach them, pull ambition out of them and make 'em realize their potential," asserts Jordan, a teacher who's careful to accredit success to the student, not himself. "I tell them, 'You've got something and I'll get it out of you.' I'll reach down for a student and bring him up. Those who can take it will make it, those who can't will drop out. That's

**Seemingly engulfed in a thorny sea of rose bushes, Andre Mills surveys the plants for diseases and pests.**



been my story for 30 some years. I'm firm but friendly."

FFA member Gregory Finney, 17, graduated last month from BTW and is already a working horticulturist. Gregory, who prefers "Finney" to his first name, exemplifies the BTW vo-ag philosophy. Like many students before him, Finney completed academic requirements along with on-the-job training that prepared him for full-time work upon graduation.

"I started studying horticulture my sophomore year," shares Finney, now a "jack-of-all-trades" at Peter A. Chopin, Florist, in New Orleans. "I soon learned the course wasn't a pushover. The job training came through Mr. Jordan. He's a busy man but he put things aside to get me this job. I do a variety of things here—deliveries, watering, fertilizing, making arrangements for weddings and funerals. The studies under Mr. Jordan taught me to take care of plants, the on-job training shows me how to apply that knowledge."

"Finney was one of the top students in class," says Jordan, watching over Finney's shoulder as a plant is watered. "He's candid and inquisitive." BTW vo-ag students, because of the horticulture curriculum course structure, are given ample opportunity to quiz their instructor and learn by doing.

"In the ninth and tenth grades we cover everything in depth," says Jordan. "Later on, in the eleventh and twelfth grade year, the students get the icing on the cake. It's during these years that the students are gaining lab experience both during and after school hours, plus working in jobs. Right now there are eleven students out in on-the-job training."

The idea for on-site placement came to Jordan in 1968 after he noticed area hotels, florists and other commercial businesses actively seeking qualified personnel for "plant maintenance," landscaping, plant sales and related duties. Jordan saw the need and followed up on it, resulting in two BTW students being placed on jobs at a New Orleans hotel. Now, Jordan's students work in several area hotels and other horticultural businesses. Andre Mills, 17, busies himself in one of the city's largest nurseries, Perino's Nursery.

"I'm in it for a career," says Andre, a student who Jordan says has "a strong back and a strong will." Andre has set a goal to own his own shop, but for now his on-the-job placement demands his skills. "The advice I would offer a younger horticulture student," he shares, "is pay close attention to your schoolwork. You apply so many things when you start working." Andre's duties vary from potting plants to loading cus-



Co-teacher Floyd Jenkins, above, delivers a "hands on" lecture to Booker T. Washington FFA members. A landscaped lot behind the vo-ag building provides a living laboratory for work and experimenting. Below, left, Andre Mills carts transplants while across town, Greg Finney works in his job placement.



tomers' cars, all of which offer applications of classroom and FFA training.

"Our students are in a continual state of evaluation," says Jordan. "Both in class and on the job, the students are evaluated on their methods of application. Their strengths and weaknesses are pointed out. They learn both from us and their employer. We try to give the students solid introductory instruction and a good base to work from—that's their basic need."

By recalling former BTW FFA members who came out of the ghetto to reach positions of social prominence, Jordan feels he's touched the lives of many people. "The satisfaction doesn't come in money," he says, pensively. "The fact

that we can help people find a niche in this world is what's rewarding. Being on the edge of the ghetto, and working in it, I couldn't help but feel I needed to help young people reconstruct their lives. That's the real compensation for what I give."

For many past and present FFA members, Booker T. Washington High School meant a fresh start in career direction. Even to those who left the field of horticulture, that direction became an impetus for success. One can easily assume that high school memories of many former students are captured in the statement of a recent graduate: "Mr. Jordan's been like a daddy," offers Gregory Finney, unabashedly. "I love him."

# THE CHAPTER SCOOP

NEWS, NOTES, AND NONSENSE FROM EVERYWHERE



by Jack Pitzer

Bonnie Gehring sent details about the *Moundridge*, KS, whole hog sausage chapter banquet. Members did slaughtering and stuffing.

They borrowed a raccoon for the two weeks *Olympia*, WA, FFA presented "Farmers, Food and Wildlife" to first and second graders of 13 schools. It's their version of Food For America.

Visitors this spring here at the National FFA Center near Mount Vernon were R. E. Aylor FFA from Stephens City, VA.

A 50th year anniversary picnic was organized by *Frederick*, MD, FFA and they invited all past members to join for socializing.



When *Culbertson*, MT, was hit by an electrical outage on FFA meeting night, the chapter dug out its gas lantern from the Canadian fishing trip supplies and continued the meeting.

Dr. Scott Hendy, D.V.M., talked with *Oakland*, OR, members about sheep herd health. He said he usually visits with a rancher, goes over his operation to see his set-up, then comes up with a specific herd health program.

Alice Hyne, *Mason Valley*, NV, reporter tells us their chapter hosted a tractor rodeo for area chapters.

*Monroeville*, OH, gives VIP awards at their banquet to local media for effective job of keeping people informed about chapter activities. To Audrey Mackiewicz, "The Firelands Farmer," "The Voice" to WLKR Radio, the Norwalk "Reflector," and the *Monroeville* "Spectator."

It's 100% for *Page County*, VA, FFA.

Every time Red Cross bloodmobile comes to town *Marysville*, OH, gets a big crew of volunteers to help including babysitting for donors.

*Muscatine*, IA, Chapter and former members had a big banquet to honor former advisor Lindley "Bud" Hoopes, who started the 50-year-old chapter.

Tammy Smith, reporter for *Oakland*, OR, won \$50 at state convention from the *Capital Press* for the reporter who submitted the most news to that newspaper in Salem. Tammy has also been a regular to send lots of news about her chapter to *The National FUTURE FARMER*.

FFA in *Milford*, OH, painted names of teachers on cars and then let students take out their frustrations with a sledge hammer. (Note didn't say, but it would make sense to charge \$1 per hit. And teacher who earns most money, gets a prize.)

Sacrifice? *Lincoln*, NE, Chapter volunteered to run concession at girls' state basketball tourney.

*Alaska* Association state newsletter is "The Great Land's Future Farmer."

Terrific newsletters printed by various chapters around the nation including an eight-pager from *Menno*, SD.

The sophomores at *Waverly*, NE, took another state championship—this year in ag demonstration.



Three of the four vocational agricultural instructors at *South Iredell*, NC, Chapter have the first name Jim.

Coloring book contest winners get a basket of fruit from *Housatonic Valley*, CT, Food For America teams. *South Fremont*, ID, serves milk and cookies after their presentations.

No more dead trees on campus thanks to *Des Moines*, NM, FFA.

Randy Neal won the *Calloway County*, KY, Chapter tractor driving contest following a tractor safety seminar taught by Advisor Gilbert.

A squad of recruiters went to visit eighth graders to line up new members in *Alexandria*, OH. They'll probably try for the 10 PLUS Club (see page 10).

Terri Bouchard of *Coopersville*, MI, earned \$33.50 selling citrus for the chapter. As top seller with 67 boxes at 50 cents commission per box.

Chris Hill, Brant Kerbs, Darwin Bischoff and Jerry Park of *South Fremont*, ID, earned the State Farmer degree. Advisor Hansen received the Honorary State Farmer degree.



After five attempts by other members, Curtis Smith, *Prague*, OK, member climbed the chapter's 40-foot flag pole to replace the nylon rope used to raise the flag.

"Eat Washington Apples" is on bottom of letterhead of *Eastmont* FFA from East Wenatchee, WA. That's promoting agriculture!

*Glide*, OR, organized their third amateur jackpot rodeo and each first placer won \$25 from the FFA. Contestants came from CA, WA and OR.

There are 11 football team members, 4 cross-country runners, 3 baseball players, 6 track men, 13 basketball players, 5 wrestlers and 3 cheerleaders in *Monroeville*, OH, Chapter.

*Gilroy*, CA, decided to elect a sophomore officer team as well as a Greenhand team and the regular chapter team.

Jan Eberly, member of *Fallbrook*, CA, was picked along with other high schoolers from San Diego County to attend a Freedoms Foundation Youth Leadership Conference in Valley Forge.

*Olmstead*, KY, claims 22 consecutive years of 100% participation in FFA.

Keep those ideas coming in during the summer. Don't spend all your time having fun.



## WOULD THE OWNER OF EARL MARSHALL LEGEND USE ANYTHING BUT ROYAL PURPLE TO GROOM HIS \$150,000 CHAMPION?

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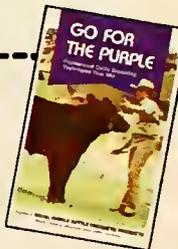


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Offer expires November 1, 1980

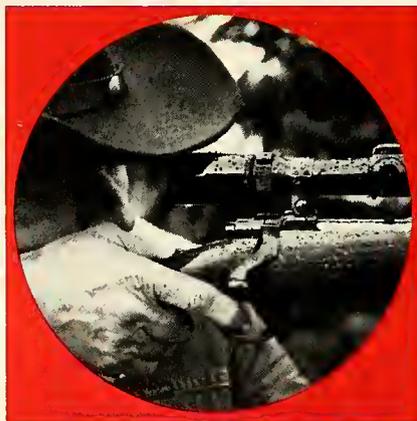


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search have resulted in being able to seal adjustable eyepieces and objectives, windage and elevation knobs, all of which have thread-to-thread contacts that must remain movable for the life of the scope. Sealing compounds must be fluid enough to permit movement, yet be stiff enough to resist internal gas pressure. Leupold even pioneered an anti-backoff device to prevent unscrewing the eyepiece focus adjustment so far that the seal might be broken.

Of course, parts that don't fit together well cannot be sealed, so Leupold starts the whole process by manufacturing every part to close tolerances. By the time a Leupold scope is proof tested, every mechanical and optical function of the scope has been checked both by critically-precise test equipment and even more unforgiving people. It is small wonder that most of them pass; the few that don't, never get out the door.

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# LEUPOLD

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# Help Find a Home for Wildlife

If you have noticed an absence of wild animals on your farm or ranch lately, consider improving nature's wildlife habitat.

by Sam Skeen

RURAL living is valued by many people for many reasons—clean air, quality living, and an abundance of wildlife to name a few. However, in many areas, such conditions are on the decline. The misinformed will accuse the hunter and other predators for the decline of wildlife numbers. Neither accusation is correct. The factor most limiting to wildlife numbers is habitat. A year-round source of desirable food and cover must be present if the land is to attract wildlife.

Many landowners have experienced undesirable outcomes in their efforts to improve their lands for wildlife, the most notable being the seemingly uncontrollable growth of the multiflora rose. Because of such experiences, many rural residents tend to be somewhat contemptuous of any suggestion to improve the countryside for wildlife. However, the proverbial "bad apple" need not spoil the whole bunch. Several alternatives and methods are available to anyone desiring to make their acreage more attractive to wildlife.

Why should the landowner improve wildlife habitat? Reasons range from aesthetic to ecological to economical. A discussion of wildlife is not limited to game birds and mammals. Wildlife includes those creatures everyone enjoys—like songbirds. Aside from their obvious physical beauty and melodious warbles, songbirds benefit the landowner materially. They feed upon a variety of insects and weed seeds that plague the gardener.

The first consideration for songbird habitat improvement should be the immediate homesite and the attraction of songbirds to a premises. Proper landscaping will attract birds like a magnet draws steel. Be it a new scheme or the updating of a present one, consider plantings that are attractive to birds. Besides providing nesting sites, certain shrubs and ornamentals will provide a



FFA members can create a good wildlife habitat, such as this bushy shelter.

year-round source of food. For a list of plant species attractive to birds and adapted to your region, contact the local nursery, library, or county agricultural extension agent.

Somewhere on your grounds, erect boxes for cavity nesters. Bluebirds, in particular, are in dire need of nesting sites. Many natural sites suited to bluebirds have been destroyed or taken over by starlings. So your efforts won't be wasted, build all nesting boxes according to the bird's required specifications. Hastily built boxes attract only "nuisance" species. Sample plans and size requirements for the species you wish to attract can be obtained from reference materials at the library or your county agent.

Aside from the immediate homesite, several distinct areas in the rural landscape can be utilized for wildlife habitat improvement.

Your first impression might be that croplands are exempt from the habitat improvement scheme. Not so. If a cultivated area borders a wooded area, the

yield from the lapped strip (an area used to turn implements) may not justify the yearly expenditure of seed and fertilizer. If this is the case, convert this strip to a wildlife border of lespedeza. The savings in fertilizer and seed costs will pay for the initial seeding. In addition to benefiting wildlife, the border will prevent erosion along the field edge and protect woodlot soil from strong drying winds.

Other cropland management practices beneficial to wildlife include strip cropping, crop rotations that include legume grass mixtures, using cover crops, spring plowing, leaving a few rows of grain standing next to good cover and spreading manure near cover during the winter.

Woodlands offer the landowner a variety of opportunities to promote wildlife habitat improvements. Protecting a woodlot from fire and grazing animals is the first rule to be observed. Domestic stock can destroy the undersurface, damage roots of mature trees and en-

(Continued on Page 45)



# IN ACTION



**Real stars of chapter's safety program show are Mr. Peabody, Wilbur, Percilla and Brutus but they take all their orders from four chapter members.**

## LET THE DUMMIES DO IT

It is not the Muppet Show, but the goals are the same—education and entertainment through the use of puppets. Huron, South Dakota, FFA used four puppets to help explain safety to the fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at the nine elementary schools in Huron during National FFA WEEK. Similar presentations have been made for parents and guests.

The Huron FFA safety program included the use of these puppets in a classroom setting where "Mr. Peabody, the vocational agriculture instructor" and his three students "Wilbur, Percilla and Brutus" gave their safety reports on water safety, winter survival and fire safety.

Entertainment occurs as students see some of their own personalities in the actions of the puppets and entertainment becomes education as the program uses slides and films to explain safety. *(Darold Hehn, Advisor)*

## ALUMNI BUILDERS

The Owasso, Oklahoma, Alumni Affiliate called a special meeting March 17 at the vocational agriculture building. The large affiliate had a big crowd on hand to accept the deed from Mary Glass on a ten-acre tract of land next to Owasso High School campus.

The Alumni also approved the plans for the construction of a livestock show-barn next to the vocational agriculture building. The proposed building will be an 80- by 200-foot clear span metal building.

Alumni member Mr. D. M. Sokolosky has worked with Ms. Glass in the presen-

tation of the land. It is a project they have worked on together for the past seven years. "This is not something that just happened overnight. It is a project that has taken time to work out. The FFA has the prime ten acres and this will give them the opportunity to expand their studies as well as their projects and activities."

Ms. Glass said, "I have always been interested in Owasso and excited about its growth. I find pleasure in helping the FFA."

## SENATOR IS INAUGURATED

Senator Frank Carlson, of Kansas, was honored at a special banquet as he was inaugurated into the Agricultural Hall of Fame. The FFA owes a great deal to Senator Carlson as he was the person who introduced the legislation chartering the national FFA.

Born in Kansas, January 23, 1893, the Honorable Frank Carlson has served as a U.S. Senator, U.S. Congressman, Kansas Governor, United Nations delegate, farmer, stockman, civic and political leader.

His agricultural accomplishments include introducing legislation in the U.S. Senate making possible the National Charter for the FFA.



**Kansas Governor John Carlin is shown officially inaugurating Senator Frank Carlson into the Agricultural Hall of Fame near Kansas City.**

## THEIR FARM IS SCATTERED ALL OVER TOWN

In Champaign, Illinois, FFA raises soybeans (and sometimes corn or wheat) on vacant city or county lots. The idea has turned into a tidy profit maker.

Chapter leaders contact owners and

ask for permission to farm the land. Then a work crew cleans it and plants.

Members furnish all tillage, planting and harvesting equipment and, of course, do all the work. Landowners are paid a percentage of the profit after seed, drying and other costs are deducted.

When the grain is harvested, it is stored at a local elevator for ten days free. In this time, the chapter either votes to sell or keep it and pay storage. *(Tanja Schade, Reporter)*

## IN THE FAMILY

The Greenville, Ohio, FFA celebrates its 50th anniversary this school year. One of its charter members, Paul Zimmers, was a sophomore in 1929 while his grandson, Kent Sipple, is a sophomore this year in the same FFA chapter—50 years later.



*Photo by Greenville Daily Advocate*

**Kent, right, is an avid gardener and orchard enthusiast. Kent and his grandad look over seed catalogs while planning Kent's supervised occupational experience program.**

Other activities of the FFA conducted in celebrating its Golden Anniversary were a harvest day for 400 first graders, an open house, a reception and cake cutting open to the public, radio and TV programs and newspaper articles. The FFA at 50 flag was flown over school during the week and a display of memorabilia was exhibited. *(Tim Reser, Reporter)*

## CHAPTER HOT SHOTS

Seldom would a member of the Future Farmers of America want to be classified as a "hot shot," but recently at Zillah, Washington, over 50 active FFA and Alumni FFA members competed for that title. The event was the second an-

*(Continued on Page 36)*

# THE ARMY'S GIVING GUARANTEES.

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You can choose the skill training or duty station that makes the most of your qualifications and interests. Then you can take up to twelve months to report for duty, knowing all the while that the choice you made is not just promised, but guaranteed in writing, if you qualify.

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If where you go is more important than what you do, you can select your first duty sta-



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## PEACE OF MIND

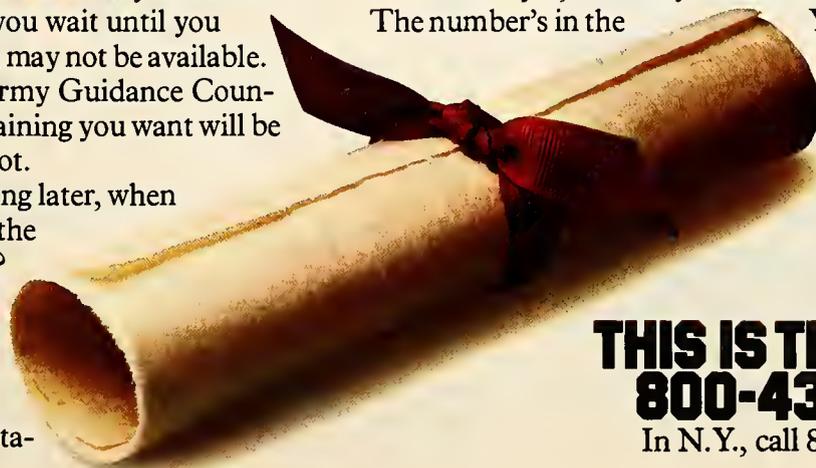
There's something reassuring about knowing what the future holds. With the Delayed Entry Program, you get that peace of mind. You get to finish your senior year in high school secure in the knowledge that after graduation you'll be getting what you want. Guaranteed. Find out more about the Army's Delayed Entry Program now.

Send the postcard, and we'll send you more information on all the opportunities available in today's Army. You can also call the toll-free number below.

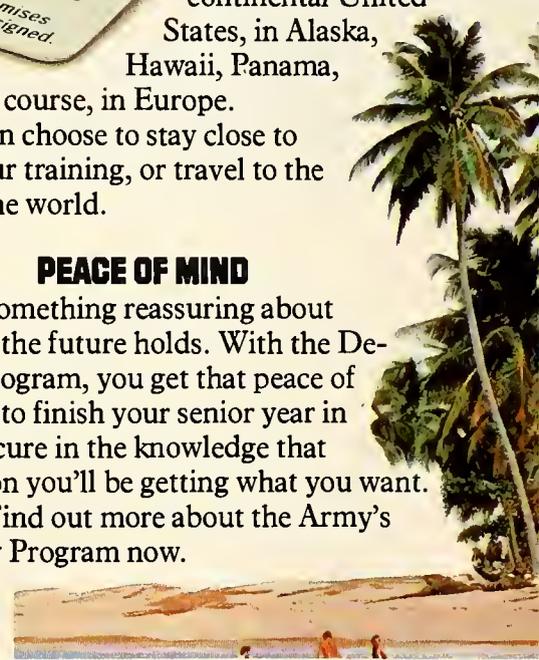
Better yet, contact your local Army Recruiter. The number's in the

Yellow Pages.

There's no obligation. Just information.



**THIS IS THE ARMY**  
**800-431-1234**  
In N.Y., call 800-942-1990



# China

(Continued from Page 17)

churning out bricks of charcoal. Older men and women sat busily trimming the soles of sandals at the small factory we visited.

Communal life is well-structured. Each day, workers are assigned to work details with production quotas set by their superiors. At the top of all communal activity is the ruling committee which sets quotas and directs worker activity. At the next level is the production brigade, usually encompassing a natural village. And finally, there is the production team, typically made up of several members of a family or neighborhood.

Workers are paid by the number of points they accumulate during a week. Points are scored by team members and are based on how hard they feel their peer has worked. Poor workers are often criticized during group sessions. This kind of peer pressure is also used to reduce non-conforming behavior in the community.

Since the death of revolutionary leader Mao Tse Tung and condemnation of the "Gang of Four," directives from Peking have urged modernization of industry and agriculture. Wherever we went in China, talk was always of the efforts to modernize.

To achieve the Peking directives, we were told peasant farmers have been

**Much of the Chinese farmer's transportation is of this type. No private automobiles exist in China, although in Peking there are four million bicycles for eight million people.**



**Acupuncture is used as an anesthetic for this operation on a bull at South China College near Canton. The bull remained conscious throughout the operation and would eat leaves when placed in front of him. Once the operation on the bull's intestines was complete and the needles removed, the animal regained his feet and walked away.**

given a number of incentives to encourage increased productivity. Among the incentives are lower taxes, increased decision making at lower levels of the power structure, higher prices paid for peasants' produce and individual control of small plots of land for growing their own crops and livestock. There is also the opportunity to borrow money at lower interest rates to encourage mechanization of some farm tasks.

Despite government support of mechanization, most farming is still done entirely through human hand labor, occasionally with the aid of a draft animal such as a water buffalo. Often while

traveling along the highways, we noted entire fields filled with people breaking up large clods from freshly plowed ground for the planting of crops.

Chinese officials are quick to point out the country's increase in productivity since the so-called "liberation" by communist forces in 1949. Indeed, in many respects the common Chinese man may be somewhat better off than he was during those days of internal conflict and outside military intervention. From our observations, nearly all Chinese have enough to eat and adequate clothing. There also seems to be adequate housing, though none of it would compare to the average home in the United States.

Most of these improvements have come through massive improvement projects directed by the central government. Through the use of sizable human work forces, the Chinese have actually provided irrigation facilities to almost 45 percent of the total arable land in the country.

Though each of our group was impressed with the warmth of the Chinese people and with the improvements they have made in caring for their people, we were also struck with a sense of relief that we were fortunate enough to live in a nation where individual incentive has sparked a movement into a progressive modern society. In many respects China is still 50 years behind us in terms of social and economic progress.

From the moment we arrived we were struck by the drabness of a communist society. We missed the color in clothing,



homes and automobiles. We missed the variety and glamor of dress and hair style. We missed the abundant choice of food that Americans often take for granted. And most of all we missed the personal freedoms associated with our democratic society.

If a young person in China, the age of an FFA member, wants to leave the home commune, two options are available. First one can join the military; many do. The only other escape from the life on the commune is education. But unlike the United States, where almost any student with desire can become university trained, the Chinese student must pass state exams. To be selected to attend one of the few universities is like being selected as the winner of a sweepstakes in our country.

For example, at one of the communes we visited, we questioned the leader of a production team of 100 families. We asked how many students had gone to college from his team. "None so far," he said, "and only two students have been accepted to vocational school."

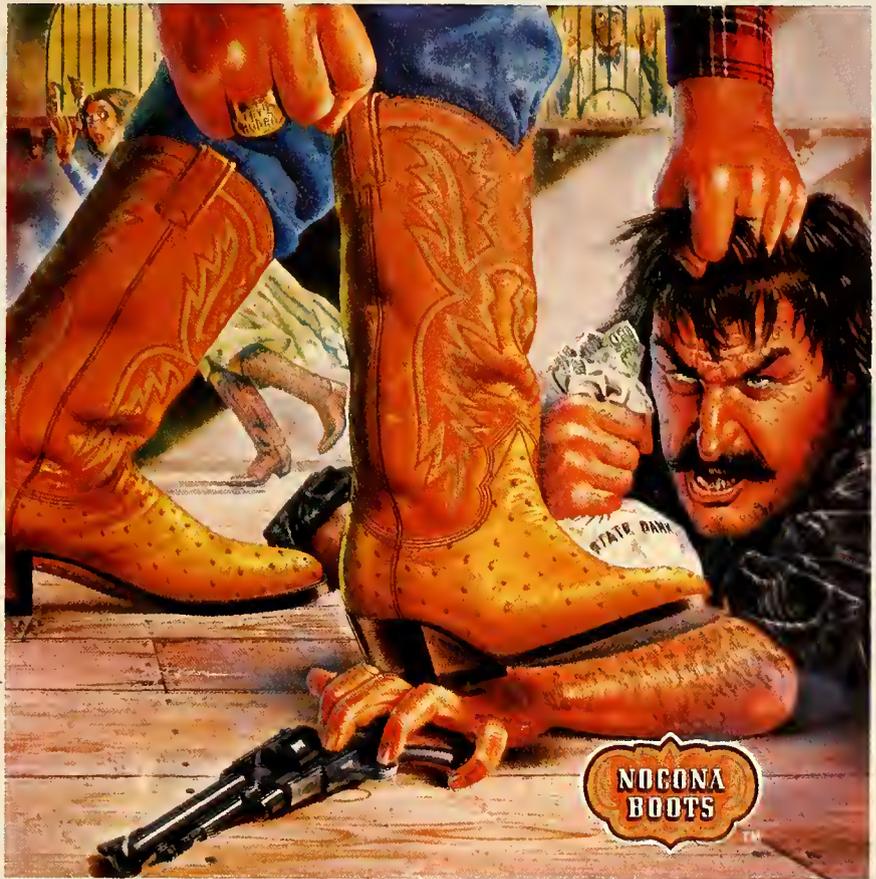
Still, we left with the overall impression that China is making slow but positive steps toward improving its future. At South China College, one of seven major agricultural colleges in China, we were literally surrounded by curious teenagers eager to learn about the outside world. Their professors, many of whom had studied in the United States prior to the severing of relations 30 years ago, were just as eager to listen to our answers. This kind of information exchange has only been possible the last few years.

Whether such freedoms continue depends upon the courage of the Chinese government to move into the 1980's with the rest of the world.



*"Frankly, I don't feel our professors know very much. They've taught us all they know, and we still have to start at the bottom of someone's ladder."*

June-July, 1980



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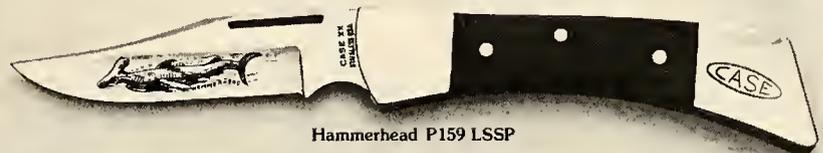
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# A Modern Day Shepherd

**Today's sheep producer has added other duties to the traditional task of tending and watching the flock.**

*By Jeffrey Tennant*

**C**HAMPION, Nebraska, is surrounded by living seas of growing corn, cash crops and feed grains. Rolling hills, some green, others gold, are dominated by water-giving systems of moving pipeline. For FFA member Bart Stromberger, this is home—and ranchland for his sheep.

Bart, an industrious 17-year-old, currently works a flock of registered and commercial Hampshire and Suffolk breeds. In sheep industry jargon, flock size is largely related by the number of ewes on hand. In Bart's case, that's 100. His total flock includes 10 ram lambs, 60 ewe lambs and 6 yearling rams. Having just sold a large bunch of stock, 20 market lambs remain.

"I'll sell to expand," says Bart, explaining his direct procedure for scope growth. "Most of this last sale was wethers, or castrated male lambs. The number of market lambs on hand varies considerably because of their good saleability."

Bart speaks like a true agribusinessman, a necessary tag for a sheep producer these days. As in any agricultural industry, sheepmen must continually labor with records, herd improvement practices and total management.

Bart's family moved from a smaller sheep farm in nearby Greeley, Colorado, in 1973. More growth potential and center pivot irrigation prompted the move, enabling the Strombergers to diversify their sheep operation to include corn and popcorn. One day, much to his surprise, Bart was given the opportunity to take full charge of the family flock.

"My brother and sister started the flock," he says, recalling his pre-teen years. "When they went to college, Dad took over for a while. Then when I was 12 he turned the operation over to me." No small chore with 40 ewes, Bart says he was a "little scared to have a project at that age." Though he admits to nervousness, Bart says he had two comforts in his father's guidance and studies in vocational agriculture.

Partly because of his early start on a project, Bart had a solid operation estab-



Sheep soon catch on to the shepherd's wishes, making round-up easier.

lished when he began his Greenhand year. Levelheaded decision making also accounted for the farm's stability.

"My first year in FFA," he says, checking his carefully documented record books, "I had 10 acres of corn, 40 acres of wheat and 50 ewes. I established the crops with money earned from earlier sales of lambs, trading labor for machinery with Dad. It's important to keep reinvesting and not squandering your net returns.

"At first, I didn't hold any rams back for breeding stock. I put all my profits back into ewes and crops. But by my junior year I was beginning to keep good stock and strive toward herd improvement instead of expansion."

Early in his FFA career, Bart transacted a deal on 35 ewes that proved to be one of his most beneficial buying actions. "I bought them at a good price, first of all," he says. "They also lambed well. We fattened the lambs and sold



Above, Bart poses one of his show ewes for the camera. The sheep producer must be aware of show qualities in animals. At right, Bart dumps yet another basket of new wool during a busy day of shearing.



wool. The fleeces averaged about 12 pounds at 80 cents per pound. Later, the ewes were marketed for about what we paid for them."

The rewarding results of the 35-ewe purchase enabled Bart to concentrate on flock improvement through retention of high quality animals. Though all the sheep were purebred, Bart began leaning more toward a registered flock. Now, 75 percent of the flock is registered with either the American Hampshire Sheep Association or the National Suffolk Sheep Association.

"Registered animals are supposed to be of a certain quality," he stresses. "The buyer and the seller base their decisions on that premise.

"I'm trying to build a good name for my animals here. We were known in Colorado but our market is now concentrated in Nebraska. I've got to prove that my flock is just as good as others—prove I've got something other sheep producers need."

Exposure to buyers and sellers means good business only if the animals measure up. Bart maintains that a quality flock must begin with sound recordkeeping practices.

"Records can help you decide what to keep and what to sell. I've got everything set up in an index number system. The lamb's weight at birth is recorded as well as a seven- to eight-week weight. Whether the lamb is a twin is recorded. Twin lambs are desirable. Age and an adjustment factor are used in a formula to determine, at least statistically, an animal's worth."

Bart cautions, though, that records don't tell the true story. "A lamb may be doing real well on paper but it may have a deformity such as black fiber in the wool. That won't show up in records. I always do a visual appraisal.

"Records are just as accurate and helpful as you want to make them. It does no good to 'fudge' on records, or show something better than it actually is."

Showing sheep is another vehicle for exposure to the marketplace. When asked how many shows he has participated in, a look of apology crossed Bart's face. No way could he remember the total—there have been so many.

"I'll do 15 a year at least," he offers, coming up with a figure. "The shows are important, but preparation is the key.

"To show market lambs, we shear them completely and then wash them. Breeding sheep are washed, then the wool is 'carved.' The carving, or trimming, smooths the wool and adds form to the animal. In shows, the judges' first impressions are crucial."

Carving the wool for shows is quite different from another sheepman's task—shearing. "I started shearing as a have-to case," says Bart. "Good shearers are hard to find. I just watched others to learn."

The Strombergers don't follow a concrete schedule when it comes to shearing. Hampshires and Suffolks are grown primarily for slaughter, not wool production. Developed in Great Britain, Bart's two breeds are a "down" breed, bearing medium wool. Though most sheep breeds are dual-purpose, grown for meat and wool, commercial wool producers often raise fine-wool breeds such as Rambouillet or Merino.

Shearing is not only done for show purposes on the Stromberger farm. In warm summer months, sheep wool is cut and sold. Professional shearers, a dying trade, are employed—men who often travel the country from one job to the next. The extent of a shearer's value is largely determined by the shearer's ability to cut cleanly and with quickness.

Sheep producers must rely on stock sales for the bulk of their income. For this reason, careful breeding, marketing practices and proper management become essential elements of success.

"I buy replacement rams from other growers because of my desire to breed," says Bart. "You don't want to breed a ram to a ewe with the same ancestry. If you breed your own rams to your own ewes, you run a chance of inbreeding. Plus, you want both ewes and rams to have come from a twin pair. Because of their heredity they'll be more likely to produce twins."

Bart also strives for a good rate of gain. He feeds his animals a ration of oats and corn along with beet pulp for protein. Lambs are creep-fed, or given a choice of grains plus a 16 percent protein supplement.

Parasite and fleece management, showing, rationing and breeding are all equally important to Bart. His concern is deservedly reflected in excellent flock quality and expansion.

Bart thanks the FFA for illustrating to him the importance of goal setting. With the recent addition of farm building facilities that will allow for a doubling of production capacity, Bart is already planning for the day when his registered flock begins to multiply. With continuing touches of care and good management applied to each animal, Stromberger sheep will soon be a name on the industry's lips.



# Dance a Jig For Crappies

By Russell Tinsley

**I**F YOUR system is geared to hurry-up fishing, always looking ahead in anticipation of the next cast, this sport isn't for you. It demands patience and self-discipline, a slow retrieve, even more deliberate than when slithering a plastic worm along bottom in search of black bass. But once you make contact with a fish you likely will take several, for crappies run in a crowd, even when they are establishing homesteads and are busy preparing for the stork's arrival.

This sport is fishing for spawning crappies with artificial lures in the spring, and while know-how is needed to entice the fish to hit, the key to success is the word "find." Crappies congregate in specific places and you must hunt for such a spot—in short, trying to catch that elusive first fish, the beginning.

So maybe you've never heard of a crappie. Never mind, the fish probably inhabits waters near your home. It is widespread and abundant. Trouble is, it has more aliases than the FBI's most-wanted criminal, nicknames such as croppie, white perch, sac-a-lait, bachelor, bridgeperch, campbellite, chinquapin perch, lamplighter and papermouth, to mention a few. But whatever the local name, it still is the same delightful fish to catch, especially this time of year and in this way.

While crappies might be fooled by tiny artificials most any season of the year, they are most susceptible when they are gathered in shallow water to spawn. The exact time will vary with the locale. In the deep south they might start around March, while "up north" the spawn can be delayed until late May, until the water temperature is right. But any knowledgeable sporting goods salesman should know about when. Another possibility is

to follow the fishing reports of daily newspapers published nearby. Also each town has a few reputable fishermen, those who consistently catch more than others. Call one of these and he probably can tell you when crappies should be spawning.

Once you have some sort of timetable to go by, then it is a matter of getting on the water and keeping a bait moving around. Crappies can turn on overnight. But if and when you find cooperative fish, make a note of the time and place. Crappies drift into their spawning areas about the same time each year and, unless there is some disrupting factor such as a fluctuating water level, they normally return to the same spots. The fisherman who keeps records can compute the information into a pattern, where and when, and he eliminates much of the guesswork. Paying attention to details is often the thin line which separates the successful from those who bemoan their bad luck.

But someone unaccustomed to this sport is frequently guilty of one of two

errors, if not both. He uses lures too large and he fishes too fast.

The most popular artificial is a tiny jig weighing no more than 1/8 ounce. On occasions one of 1/16 or even 1/32 ounce is more effective. Also productive are very small spinnerbaits like the Mepps, Shyster and Abu.

Color should imitate a minnow, the crappie's favored food. Each area has its local favorite, but you can't go wrong with white, yellow, chartreuse, or a combination of these colors. I have caught a lot of crappies on a black-headed jig with a white or yellow rubber tail, or a jig with a red head and a chartreuse tail. While jigs with feather or marabou tails will do the job, I like rubber or soft plastic with the so-called twister tail that turns in the water even when the bait is being reeled slowly.

Tie the jig directly to your line; don't use any snaps or swivels, which add bulk and interfere with the bait's action. Anyway, if you are reeling fast enough to twist your line, you are retrieving much too rapidly. To get more weight for casting, you can fish two jigs in tandem. Tie one on the end of your line, put another on a dropper line about a foot above. With the system you'll sometimes catch two fish at a time.

Another mistake is to use a too-heavy line. Ideally, the monofilament should test no more than six pounds, with four-pound test being even better. The lighter the line, the easier it is to cast the almost weightless lures, and during the retrieve they will perform in a more natural and lifelike manner.

Finding fish is nothing more than prospecting all likely water. For building nests, crappies prefer a relatively clean bottom, sand or gravel, but near some sort of cover, may it be a weedbed, submerged stump or tree, or jumbles of rocks. The depth will vary, depending on the body of water, but crappies often will be in water two to four feet deep.

Crappies do best in big waters, natural lakes or impoundments, but you can find them in larger private lakes or even old

**Fishing two jigs in tandem, the author got a pair of spawning crappies.**





Some of the miniature jigs and spinnerbaits that will fool crappies.

The emphasis is on *slow*. Barely move the bait along. Also important is to let it sink to near bottom before starting it back. If in doubt, let it go down until your line drops limp; then as you reel it up, a crappie often hits the moment it leaves the bottom. The strike probably won't be strong; normally you won't feel anything but a tap-tap. So concentrate and be alert.

In shallower water, some fishermen use a float on their line, about 18 inches or so above the jig or jigs. This way, as you gradually move the float along the surface, the jig follows underneath. Watch the float and when it bobs, set the hook.

If and when you catch a crappie, stop and work the area thoroughly. It has company. And when you make contact, don't hurry the fish in. A crappie has a paper-thin mouth and the tiny hook easily can tear free. This is another reason for the light line on your tackle, might it be spinning, spin-cast or even casting. It forces you to be patient and play the fish to exhaustion.

But really, the primary reason for light tackle is that it is more fun. The crappie is no great shakes of a fighter, but on an ultralight spinning outfit, even a pound-sized specimen will test your nervous system.

That, my friend, is what fishing is all about.

flooded gravel pits. From either a boat or walking along shore, systematically work the shallows until you hit pay dirt. You can drift fish, if the wind isn't too brisk and moves your boat too fast, or troll with an electric motor (most outboards won't throttle down slow enough). But I personally favor casting.

Even with a jig, merely let it sink and reel it back slowly, without any stops or jerks. For some inexplicable reason, a smooth retrieve produces better than a herky-jerky one.

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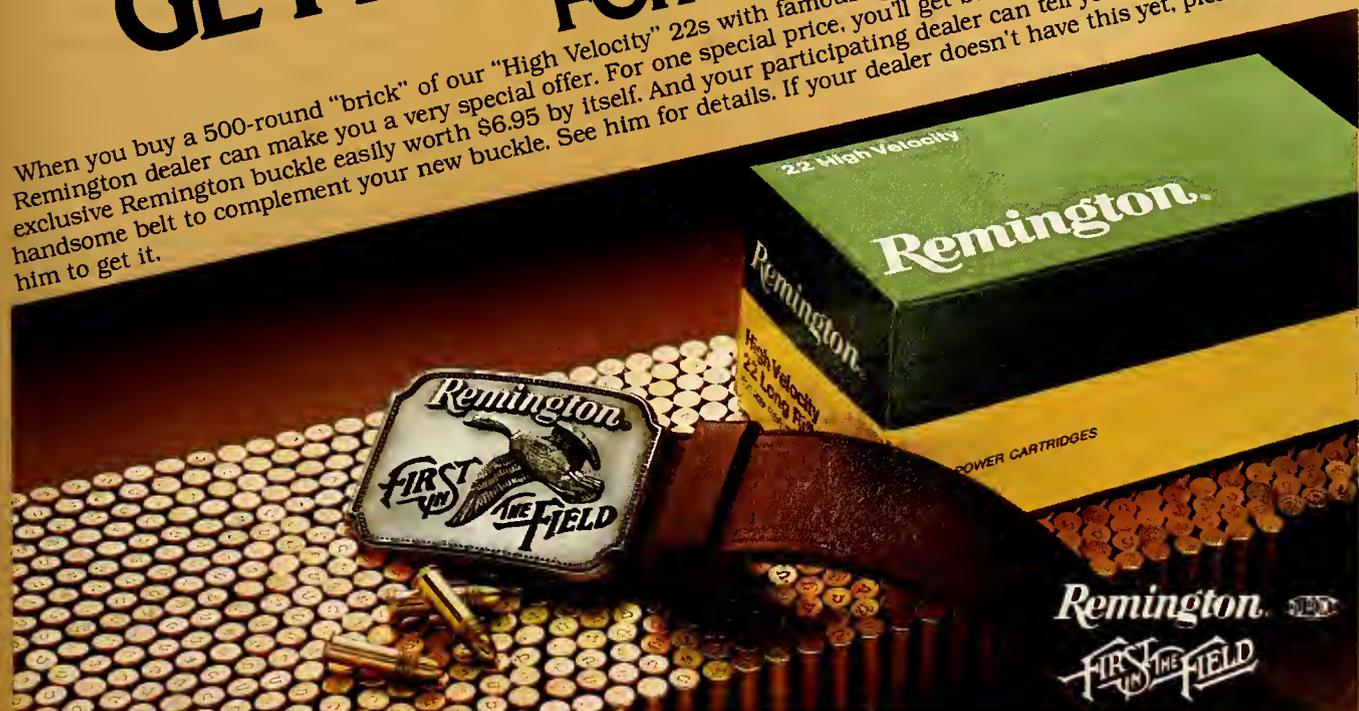
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Linda's at her best when telling others about FFA and vocational agriculture. Here, as state secretary, she tells a high school class about FFA's benefits.

## Laurels for Linda

*This girl with a "never-say-quit" attitude has inspired FFA members throughout her state with her words and actions.*

*By Gary Bye*

"Hi Linda," the greeting rang out again.

It seemed like everyone knew this vivacious young lady guiding me through the Fowler High School campus. Salutation came from all kinds of people: young freshman boys, the girls' basketball coach, senior girls, an office clerk and even the principal.

A 1979 graduate of Fowler, Linda Marquez returned to her school as somebody special—California's state FFA secretary. For the position, one which she relinquished last month, Linda dedicated a full year away from home and school. Like most state FFA officers, the year-long responsibility consumed most of her energy and time.

As a state officer, Linda delivered a special message to the young FFA members she met. "If I can succeed in the FFA, so can you," she told her audiences.

The daughter of a truck driver, Linda is the sixth of eight children. She grew up in a modest home two blocks from the school, without the opportunities many FFA members have who live on a farm

or ranch. However, she believes that FFA is as important for her as anyone.

"I saw what the FFA did for my older brothers so I was eager to join. There are opportunities for all kinds of people in this organization," she says.

Luckily for Linda, Fowler was one of several schools in California that have school farms available to students. Every year she grew out three show steers for showing at the Fresno County Fair and the Junior Grand National at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. The projects made her eligible for chapter and state farmer degree awards.

As chapter FFA president Linda attended the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Seeing how FFA officers could positively influence their peers she set her sites on a state FFA office.

It wasn't a "wish-for" kind of decision. As a true leader, Linda knew she could do the job. She had been elected chapter sweetheart her freshman year, as well as winning status as star greenhand. Her junior year she was chapter secretary and became president her sen-

ior year. That year she also was elected regional secretary by delegates from 53 chapters in her region.

Competition in the San Joaquin Valley Region is extremely tough since it includes the nation's first and second largest agricultural producing counties: Kern and Fresno. It was among this same competition that Linda led her FFA tree pruning team to three state championships. Linda was the state champion tree pruner her senior year.

In May of 1979 at the California FFA Convention, with plenty of leadership activities in her background, Linda was anxious to run for an FFA office. She was disappointed following her interview to learn that she had not been nominated for the slate of officers.

"I came on a little strong in response to one of the questions," she now admits. The committee's question dealt with a hypothetical cutting of funds to a school's vocational education program. Linda answered the question by heartily defending the vocational agriculture program and its benefits. "But," she says, "the reason I was cut by the committee was because I spoke only of vocational agriculture and the question regarded *all* vocational education. The reason I came on so strongly? I become very expressive when something I believe in is at stake."

Her last chance was to be nominated from the floor. She decided to give it a try.

"As things developed, elections came right after the presentation of a \$600 Santa Fe Railroad scholarship," says Linda. "Two are given in the state to outstanding members of the FFA. Their representative read all my qualifications and then announced my name."

With her qualifications fresh in delegates' minds and after a snappy election speech, Linda received enough votes to become state secretary and realize her goal.

She has worked hard to live up to the voter's expectations, visiting many chapters and addressing a multitude of FFA banquets.

"Linda really believes in what she is doing," says her FFA advisor, Jack Chappell. "Her success hasn't come easily, so she speaks to the younger members with complete conviction. She is a real inspiration to everybody who gets to know her."

With her year as an officer now complete, Linda says she's ready to move on to newer and bigger things. Armed with nearly \$3,500 of scholarships and a 3.6 grade point average (of a possible 4.0 gpa) she wants to be the first member of her family to graduate from college.

It is doubtful that anyone will tell her she can't.

# Wildlife

(Continued from Page 31)

hance the chances of erosion by compacting the soil. A grazed woodlot is neither a good woodlot nor a good pasture.

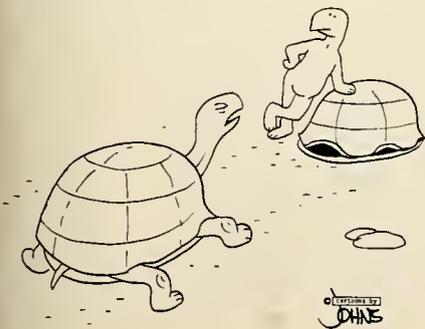
An even-aged timber stand does not have the same value for wildlife as a tract of differing maturity levels. Mature stands should be thinned. Thinning increases the value of the remaining timber and improves the woodlot for wildlife. Opening up the canopy (the uppermost spreading branch layer of a forest) permits sunlight to enter and foster the growth of seedlings. Also, trees that produce the largest seed crops are usually in the open or on woodlot edges where there is abundant sunlight. When thinning, do not remove all the hollow trees; leave three or four per acre.

Openings in the forest have other benefits and uses. Such openings are excellent sites for planting food plots. Volunteer food plots are also beneficial. Sunlight will bring growth of native grasses and weeds providing a larder for a great number of birds.

Do not burn the slashings from thinned timber. Instead, pile them over a log or stump to provide cover. Slow the slashings' rate of decay by piling them in an upright position with large ends at the top. Plant vines, such as Virginia creeper or bittersweet, around the base of the pile. In a few years the tangle will be impregnable.

Hardly a rural estate exists that does not have a portion of acreage considered to be wildlife land. Wildlife land consists of small acres that cannot be used to produce crops. Fence rows are an example.

The demise of the quail in many eastern states coincides with the disappearance of rail fences. The weed and brush growth in the zig-zags of the rail fence provided both food and cover for quail.



"Steve, if this is going to be another one of your lectures on disarmaments. . . ."

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The advent of clean farming and wire fences eliminated this desirable habitat.

A bushy fence row is a boon to the landowner as well as wildlife. Such cover will attract birds and small mammals that prey on crop pests. The cover will also attract predators to feed on meadow mice in hay and grain fields. Bushy fence rows between woodlands provide a safe lane of travel for all wildlife.

As stated earlier, the hard-to-control multiflora rose has brought disrepute to the concept of living fences. However, any of the following can be used to produce a desirable fence row cover: bayberry, chokeberry, highbush cranberry, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and russian olive. Check with the Soil Conservation Service or the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) for recommendations and suggestions.

Other examples of wildlife lands include small pieces of waste land. These eroded areas, rocky outcrops, gullies and sink holes are termed "odd" or "left-over" areas. They, too, can be and should be utilized as a means of wildlife habitat improvement. To get the maximum value from these areas, plant a variety of fruit-producing shrubs. If a natural growth already persists, supplement it with plantings attractive to wildlife.

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The lady shopper had looked at just about everything hauled down from the shelves. "I don't see anything that's right," she said at last. "I want to surprise my husband on his birthday."

"Well," said the tired clerk, "just hide behind the chair and yell 'Boo!'"

Randy Anderson  
Jeffersonville, Kentucky

Farmer: "I want my tractor buried with me when I die."

Wife: "Why?"

Farmer: "Never been in a hole that my tractor couldn't pull me out of."

Jeff Birke  
Union, Missouri



"But, Dad, think of the gas I'm saving running the tractor just every other hour!"

A naval officer was having difficulty making his orders understood as he shouted them over the speaking tube to the engine room of a battleship. "What's the trouble?" he demanded. "Is there an idiot at the end of this tube?"

"Not at this end, sir," was the reply.

Jim Christopherson  
Ridgeland, Wisconsin

Mother: "Why are you so late coming home from school?"

Boy: "The bus driver broke down."

Ruth Moore  
Liberty, Kentucky

Mom's report: "We dined royally last night. First your Dad took me to Burger King, then to Dairy Queen."

Pat Power  
Latour, Missouri

A fellow in Minneapolis was approached by a man asking him to help the Bible Society. "Not me," the man says, "I wouldn't give the Bible Society a dime . . . you talk about St. Paul all through the Bible . . . and not a word about Minneapolis."

Don Lindal  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

"Well, I finally told my girlfriend the truth—that I'm seeing a psychiatrist," Bill told a friend. "Then she decided to tell me the truth. She's seeing a psychiatrist, too, and two plumbers and a truck driver."

Leon Doom  
Cottonwood, Minnesota

A young woman driver pulled up at a service station. "I want a quart of red oil," she said.

"Red oil?" gasped the attendant.

"Yes, the taillight has gone out."

Thomas LaMance  
Modesto, California

Jon: "Did you hear about the new method of improving the flavor of salt?"

Tom: "No, what is it?"

Al: "Sprinkle on a hamburger!"

Audrey Unrein  
Merino, Colorado

Two caterpillars were crawling across the grass when a butterfly flew over them. They looked up and one nudged the other and said, "You couldn't get me up in one of those things for a million dollars!"

Bobbie Mae Cooley  
Bowen, Illinois

Jim: "Why couldn't the bowlegged cowboy round up the herd?"

Tim: "I don't know, why?"

Jim: "He couldn't get his calves together."

Henry Plante  
Lancaster, California

Employment agency official to job-hunting client, "We'll have to highlight your good points."

Client: "I was fired 15 times."

Official: "What's good about that?"

Client: "I'm no quitter."

Harlan Dengel  
Hebron, North Dakota

Kung: "I crossed a skunk with an eagle."

Fu: "What did you get?"

Kung: "I don't know, but it stunk to high heaven!"

Steve Claburn  
Corinth, Mississippi

## Charlie, the Greenhand



"Up half the night writing an energy crisis report—and now a personal energy crisis."

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Shown left to right:  
Grey lizard boot #J-900Z, whiskey  
rustler boot #6440, matching belt  
#47623, burgundy belt #33508  
with 3 pc. buckle set and  
mahogany calf boot #8311

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*Recipe: Soak serving size portions in salt water, 1 to 2 hrs. Dry, rub with salt and pepper, dust with flour. Saute in 3 tbsp. butter, 3 tbsp. olive oil until browned. Remove. Reduce heat, saute 4 med. sliced onions. Add 2 cups beef bouillon, cook 5 min., high heat. Reduce heat, stir in 2 tsp. tomato paste. Place in pan, cover tightly, simmer until tender (about 1 hr.). Mix 1 tbsp. flour, 2 tbsp. water, add to pan liquids. Turn off heat, stir in 1/2 cup sour cream. Spoon sauce over rabbit, and sprinkle 1 tbsp. chopped parsley, 2 tsp. chopped dill.*

## THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE SOUR CREAM RABBIT WITH HERBS.

## THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE A MARLIN.

Good recipes for rabbit seem to come and go as fast as the animal they're named for.

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anti-glare receiver top. Adjustable folding semi-buckhorn rear sight. Ramp front sight. And a 22" barrel with Micro-Groove<sup>®</sup> rifling.

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example. With its big game styling, American black walnut stock with new, classic checkering pattern, and handsome leather carrying strap, the 783 is all Marlin.

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The 783 has a lot of other attractive features, of course. From its gold plated steel trigger to its grooved receiver for tip-off scope mounting.

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