

FUTURE FARMERS of AMERICA

...in Action



**The Successful Farmer of Tomorrow
Is the Future Farmer of Today**



The national emblem of the Future Farmers of America. The owl is symbolic of wisdom and knowledge; the plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil; the rising sun is emblematic of progress, and the day that will dawn when all farmers are trained and have learned to cooperate; the cross-section of an ear of corn represents common agricultural interests since corn is native to America and grown in every State; and the eagle is indicative of the national scope of the organization.

Learning to Do

Doing to Learn

Earning to Live

Living to Serve

Cover picture—A former student of vocational agriculture and F.F.A. member with part of his herd of purebred dairy cattle which he has developed.

Prepared by the Future Farmers of America in cooperation with the U. S. Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, Washington, D. C.

FOREWORD

The Future Farmers of America is the National Organization of, by and for farm boys studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools which operate under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. High school departments of vocational agriculture provide four-year courses of systematic instruction in agriculture and farm mechanics, taught by teachers who are agricultural college graduates employed on a twelve-months' basis. They follow up their instruction throughout the year by supervising the farming operations of their students on their home farms. The average age of F.F.A. members is approximately 17 years.

The major purposes of the Future Farmers of America are to develop agricultural leadership, cooperation, citizenship, improved agriculture, and patriotism. The national organization includes chartered State associations composed of local chapters situated only in public high schools having departments of vocational agriculture. There are four degrees of active membership—"Green Hand," "Chapter Farmer," "State Farmer," and "American Farmer." Advancement through these grades of membership is based on achievement in vocational agriculture and progressive establishment in farming.

Throughout the United States, the Territory of Hawaii, and the Island of Puerto Rico, the organization has grown rapidly in numbers of chapters and membership, and is now recognized as the largest farm boy organization in the world. National headquarters are maintained in the Agricultural Education Service of the U. S. Office of Education. A National Convention is held annually in the Municipal Auditorium at Kansas City, Missouri, at the time of the American Royal Livestock Show.

The Future Farmers of America Foundation Incorporated, has been established to provide business, industry, organizations and individuals with an opportunity to cooperate in promoting the program of the F.F.A. and to assist students and former students of vocational agriculture to become established in a farming occupation.

This bulletin, which presents in pictorial form typical activities of the F.F.A., was prepared by A. W. Tenney, National Executive Secretary, Future Farmers of America, in cooperation with other members of the Agricultural Education Service of the U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C. We wish to thank all those who furnished pictures and otherwise assisted in the preparation of this publication.



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Washington, D. C.*

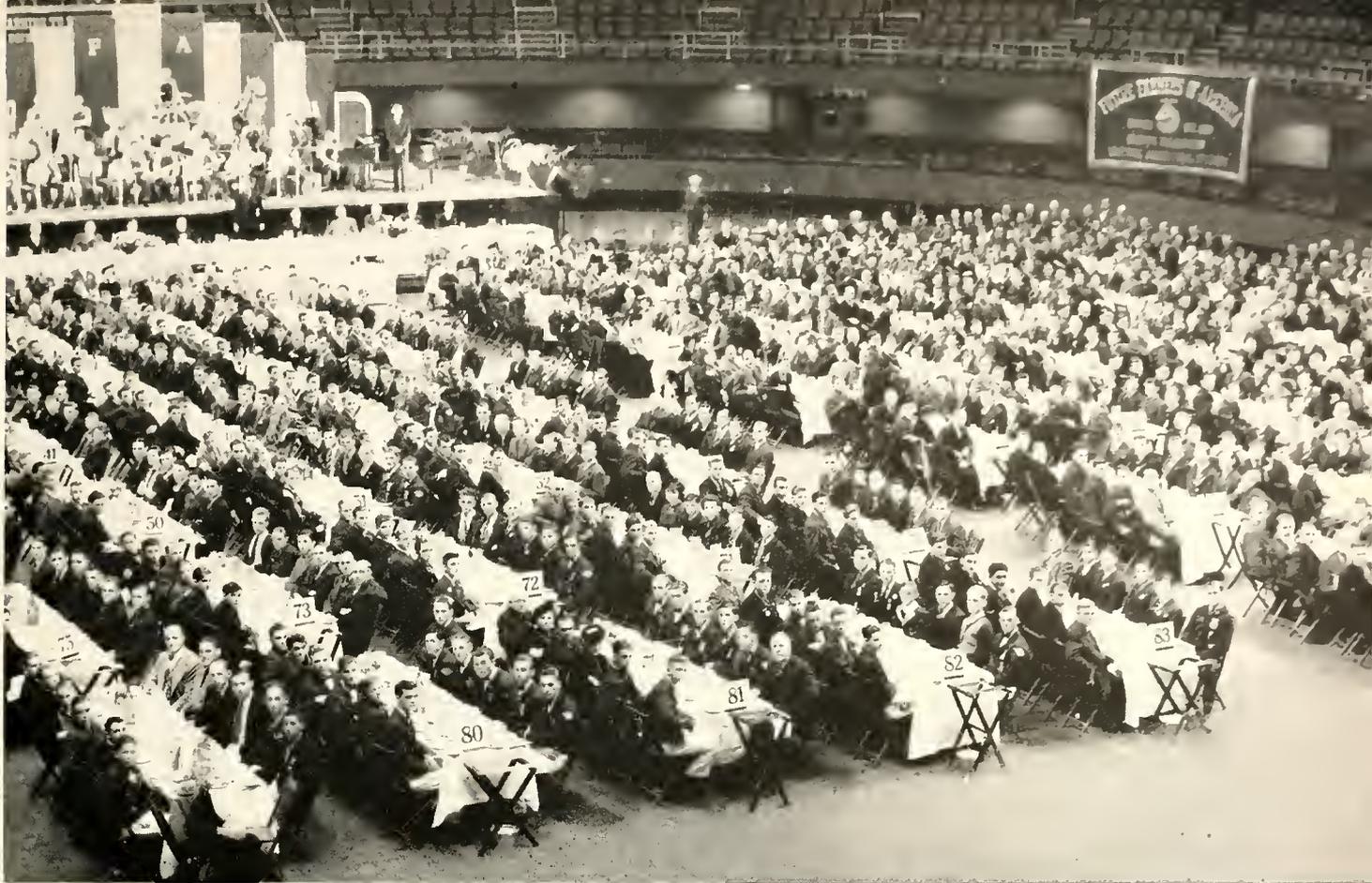
National Activities



National Officers of the Future Farmers of America. Officers are elected each year at the National Convention at Kansas City, Missouri. The boy leaders assume responsibility in managing all of the important affairs of the organization.

Delegates and members at a National Convention of the Future Farmers of America. Conventions are held annually in the Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri. These conventions are conducted in an efficient manner by farm boys.

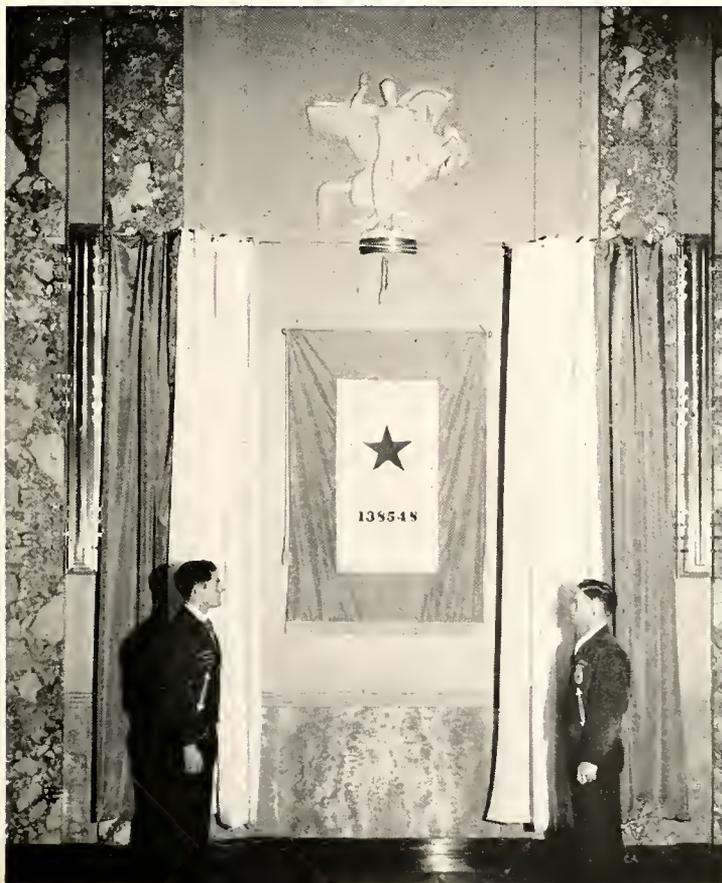


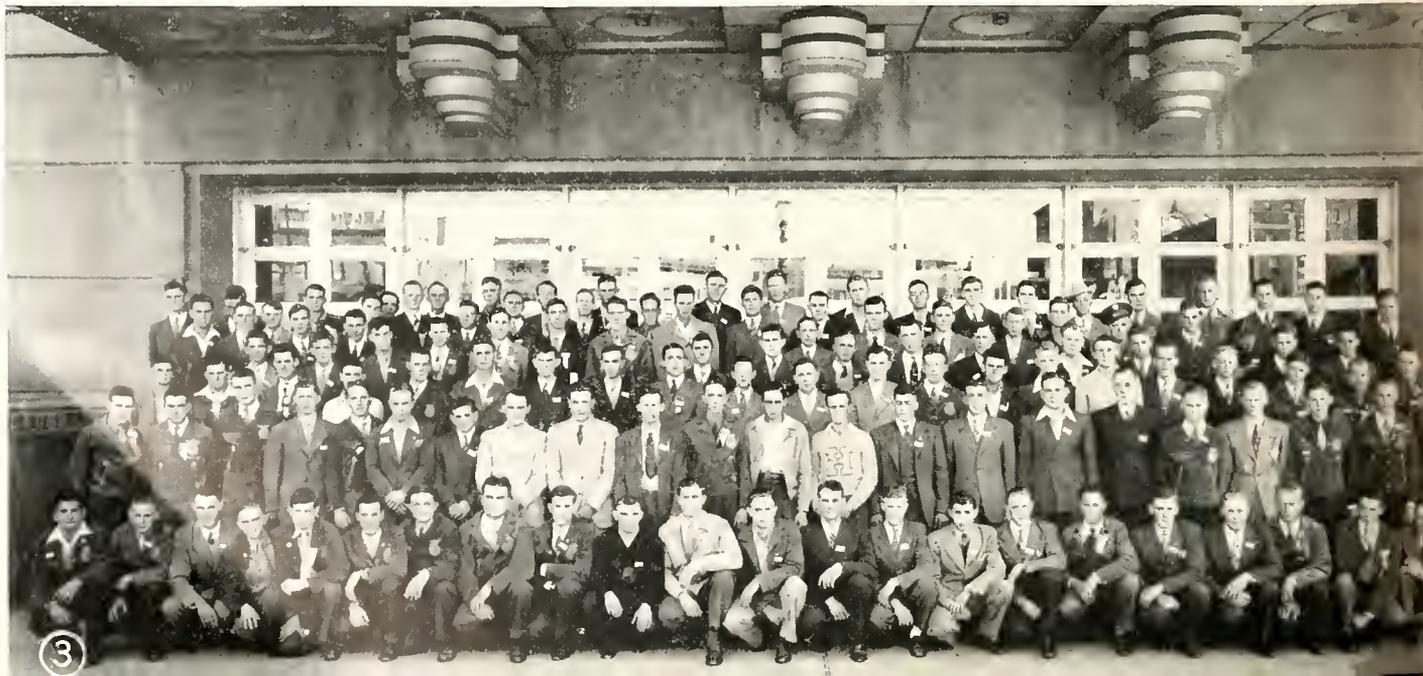
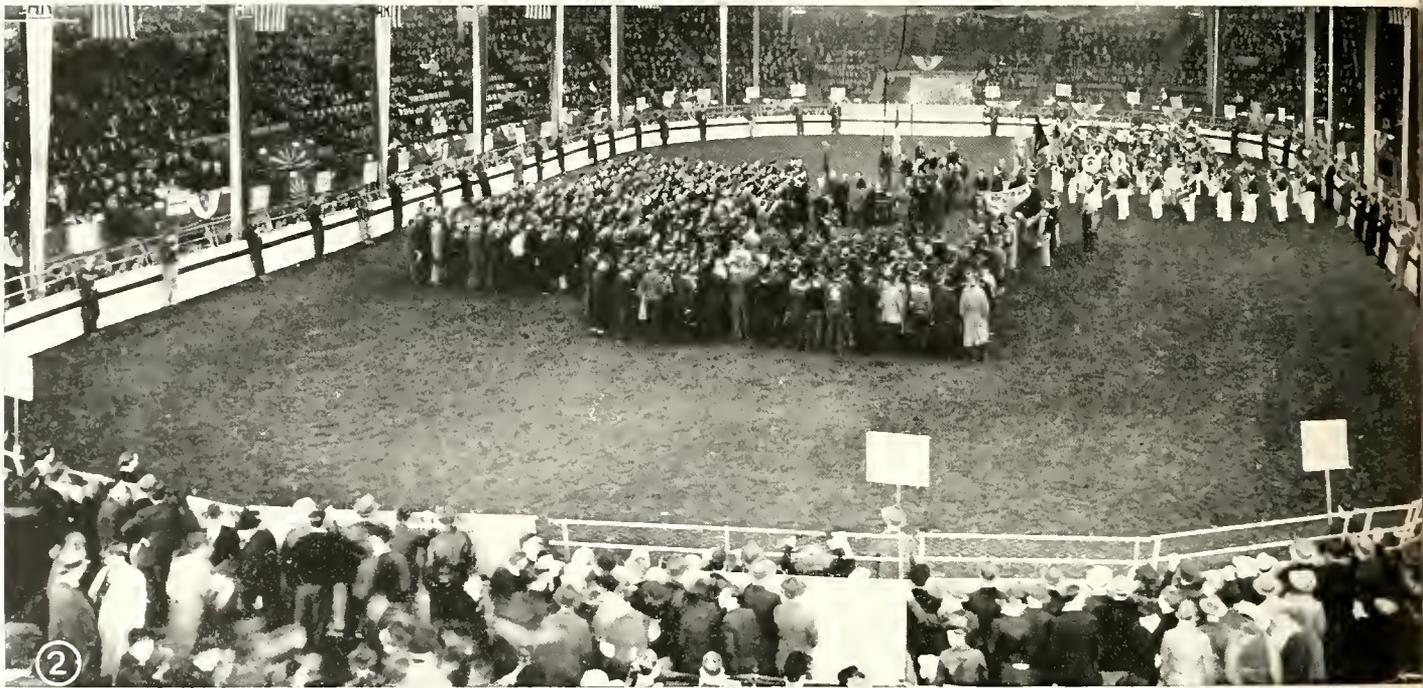


Annual banquet at a National Convention, Future Farmers of America, Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri. Music was furnished by an F.F.A. orchestra.

Hon. Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, receiving the Honorary American Farmer Degree at a National Convention of the Future Farmers of America. Each year this degree is conferred on a few individuals who have cooperated with and have assisted the Future Farmers of America organization in a significant manner.

The service flag of the Future Farmers of America which was unveiled at a National Convention at Kansas City.





① A State Future Farmer Band at a National Convention. Many State F.F.A. associations have official bands. These bands are composed of the best musicians representing many of the various local F.F.A. chapters throughout the State.

② Making the Star Farmer Awards on "Future Farmer Day" in the arena at the American Royal Livestock Show, Kansas City, Missouri, during a National Convention. Hundreds of head of livestock are exhibited annually by F.F.A. members at this show. National Future Farmers of America judging contests are held each year during America Royal Week.

③ Members of the Future Farmers of America who received the American Farmer Degree at a recent National Convention. This is the highest degree conferred by the National Organization of F.F.A. This degree is conferred only on boys who have received the "Green Hand," "Chapter Farmer" and "State Farmer" Degrees and who have achieved outstanding distinction in leadership, scholarship, cooperation, thrift, and supervised farming in vocational agriculture.

④ Star Farmers of America. Each year a Star Farmer of America is selected from the Future Farmer members receiving the American Farmer Degree. This is one of the highest honors conferred by the national organization. Members who have received this honor have demonstrated outstanding farming ability and superior qualities of leadership and citizenship.







① National F.F.A. Officers conferred with and were entertained by officials of the National Grange. Future Farmers of America chapters throughout the United States cooperate with, and many F.F.A. members join and take an active part in the affairs of local units of adult farm organizations. The F.F.A. is training future adult farm leaders for rural America.

② National F.F.A. Officers were honored at a dinner given by the U. S. Senators from their home States. Guests included the Hon. Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, and the Hon. Harry S. Truman, Vice President (now President) of the United States. The national farm boy officers were inspired by the stimulating talks made by their distinguished hosts.

③ National F.F.A. Officers with Congressmen from their States, the Hon. Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, and the Hon. Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The picture was made following a dinner given by their Congressmen at the Capitol in honor of the national farm boy officers of the Future Farmers of America organization.

State Activities



A group of teachers of vocational agriculture. Teachers of agriculture are college graduates. Much of the success of the Future Farmers of America is due to the instruction and counsel given by these teachers who serve as advisers of local chapters of Future Farmers of America. These men also guide and stimulate members to superior achievements in the F.F.A.

A meeting of a collegiate F.F.A. chapter. Collegiate chapters are organized to provide trainees experience in F.F.A. activities. College students studying to become teachers of vocational agriculture receive training in all types of Future Farmers of America activities while members of collegiate chapters in approved teacher training institutions.





A State association of Future Farmers of America meets for its annual convention. Each chapter is represented by delegates at the convention. Officers are elected, State contests are held, business is transacted and a program of work is prepared for the year ahead. These conventions are handled by boy officers under direction of the State F.F.A. Adviser.

A Future Farmer building on a State fair ground. The building has dormitory space for 600, a dining hall, exhibition hall, and show ring. Most State F.F.A. associations take part in State fair activities. Livestock is shown and exhibits are prepared for fairs by members of the Future Farmers of America. Many State fairs have a "Future Farmer Day."



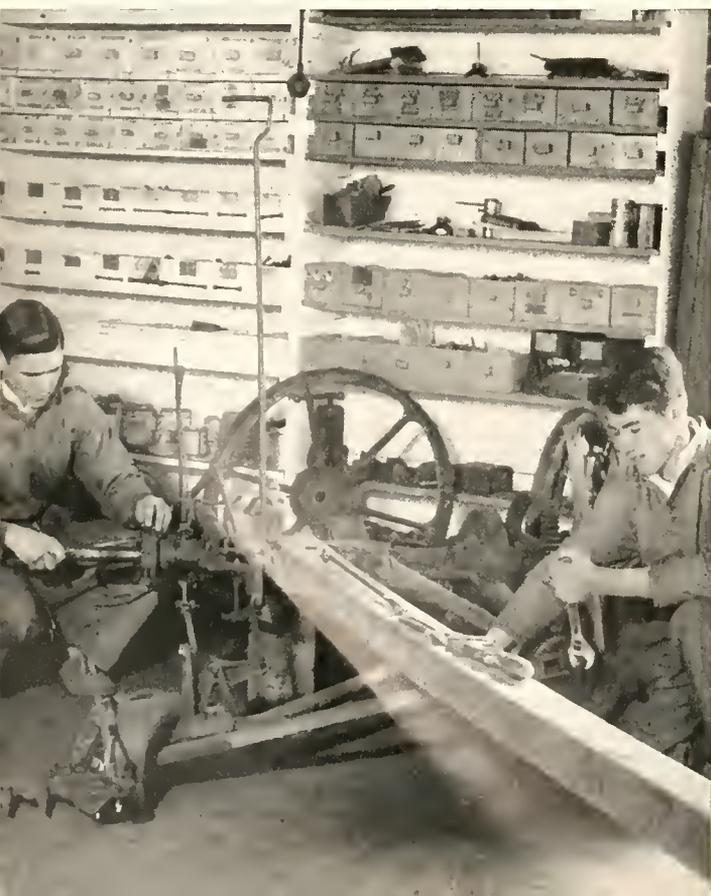
School Facilities

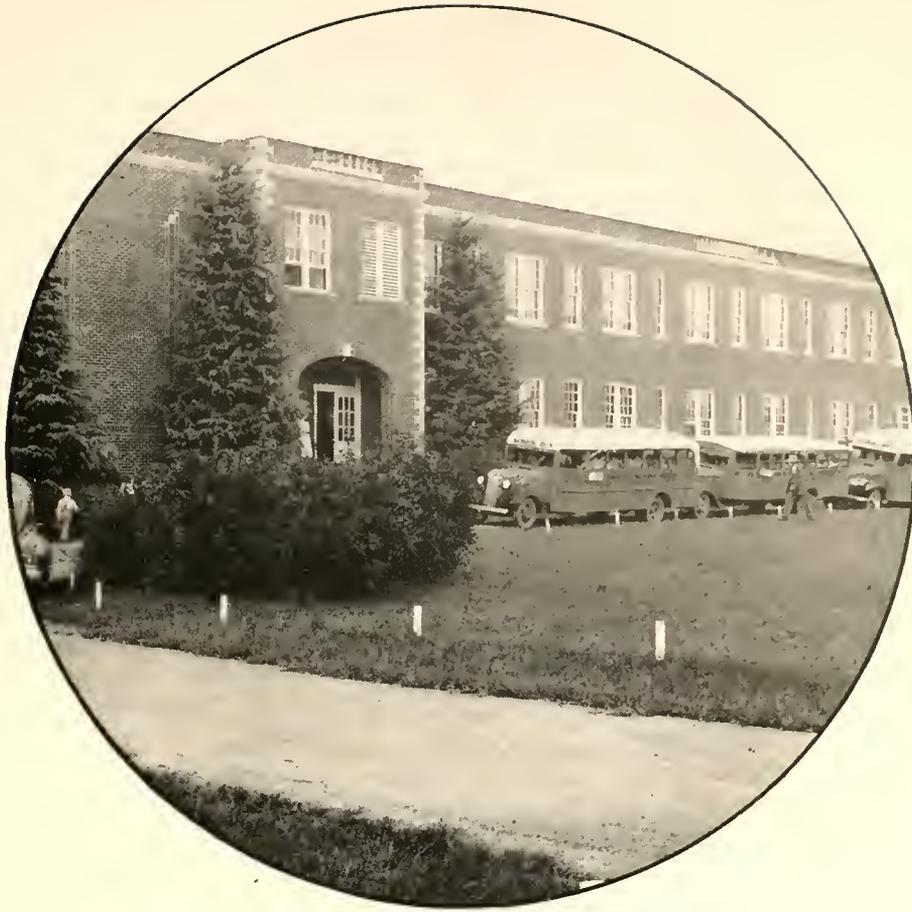


The department of vocational agriculture is frequently located in a separate building consisting of a classroom, farm shop, and an office. F.F.A. chapters use these facilities as headquarters. It is here that chapter meetings are held.

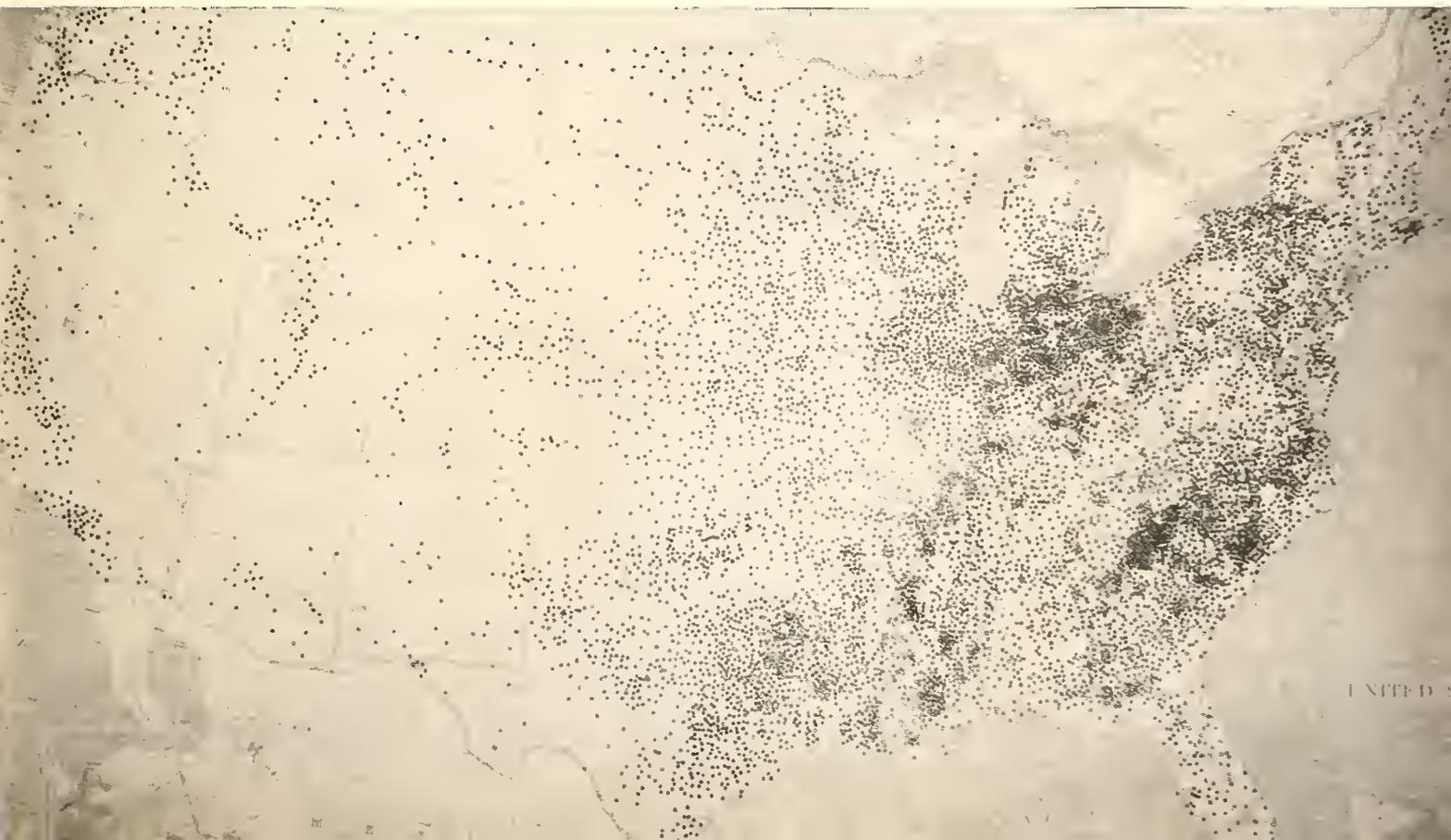
Members of the Future Farmers of America develop abilities in farm mechanics activities in well-equipped school shops. This training is popular with farm boys.

Students of vocational agriculture receive their instruction in well-planned, modernly equipped classrooms. Instruction develops abilities that lead to successful farming.





Departments of vocational agriculture are in public high schools serving rural areas. The Future Farmers of America is an integral part of the program of the vocational agriculture department and provides opportunities for valuable experience. Each dot on this map indicates the location of a department of vocational agriculture. In addition there are departments in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. F.F.A. chapters are located in, and a part of local departments of vocational agriculture.



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① F.F.A. members produce as shown by the number of the type of equipment, livestock and use app



② A purebred herd of of the Future Farmers of learn to produce quality manner in practical coo



③ A Future Farmer develops cattle. Many F.F.A. members business through their Earning while learning is

④ Members of the Future in their farming achievements enhances the sales value of members of the Future Farming programs

⑤ Future Farmers learn practices pays in the production practices are instruction provided for stu

⑥ Inspecting cotton for fiber is producing 100 acres farming program. "An old pound of cure" is an old

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① An F.F.A. member receives instruction on corn production. Teachers of vocational agriculture visit boys frequently on their home farms to assist them with their farming activities and to encourage them in their work.

② Recording production of a poultry flock. Boys study and apply profitable methods of poultry production in vocational agriculture classes. Instruction helps boys to expand their farming programs in a practical manner.

③ Members of a local chapter of Future Farmers of America buy government savings stamps and bonds with money earned from their supervised farming programs. Members of the national organization purchased more than \$8,000,000 worth of bonds during a twelve-months' period. Many chapter activities stimulate patriotism.

④ Tightening the pinion gear to the Pitman rod under the direction of a capable instructor. Members of the Future Farmers of America repaired 245,000 major farm machines and implements during a twelve-month period.

⑤ An "American Farmer" and his family on the soil where he has become established in farming. Satisfactory establishment in farming is a major objective of the Future Farmers of America and vocational agriculture.

⑥ Making the needed hog equipment for their supervised farming programs. Approximately 100,000 pieces of farm equipment are constructed annually by Future Farmers of America members in the school farm shops.



Cooperation



A local F.F.A. chapter harvests a potato crop which was raised cooperatively by the members. Many local chapters have a land laboratory which is located near the high school. The students "learn by doing," as they prepare the land, produce and sell the crop. Money earned from such activities is placed in the local chapter treasury.



Filling a trench silo. Members of the F.F.A. cooperate in the production and conservation of feed for livestock. The demand for cooperative "log rollings" has ceased to exist but the spirit of the pioneers is in evidence as F.F.A. members work together on important undertakings such as feed conservation, crop production and harvesting.



Members of a local F.F.A. chapter operate their chapter-owned tractor and pick-up baler. In many communities it has proven helpful for local chapters of the F.F.A. to purchase and operate on the farms of the members expensive equipment such as hay balers that certain small farms cannot economically afford to own and operate.



Selling fat steers on a Future Farmer Marketing Day. Five hundred F.F.A. members sold 1,300 head of livestock on this occasion. Members select animals carefully for their farming programs. They use up-to-date feeding and managerial practices. By doing this they obtain rapid gains and produce top quality beef for the market. →



Future Farmers purchase improved seed corn cooperatively. The chapter is promoting the use of better seed corn as one phase of a crop improvement program. Chapters have introduced improved varieties of crops and quality livestock in thousands of local communities. F.F.A. members are the "Johnny Appleseeds" of today. →



These F.F.A. members are selecting ewes for their farming programs. The Future Farmer chapter purchased a carload of ewes cooperatively. Boys select ewes according to quality, making a thorough examination of the teeth, fleece, covering of flesh, and conformation of the animal. Many chapters purchase livestock in this manner. ↓



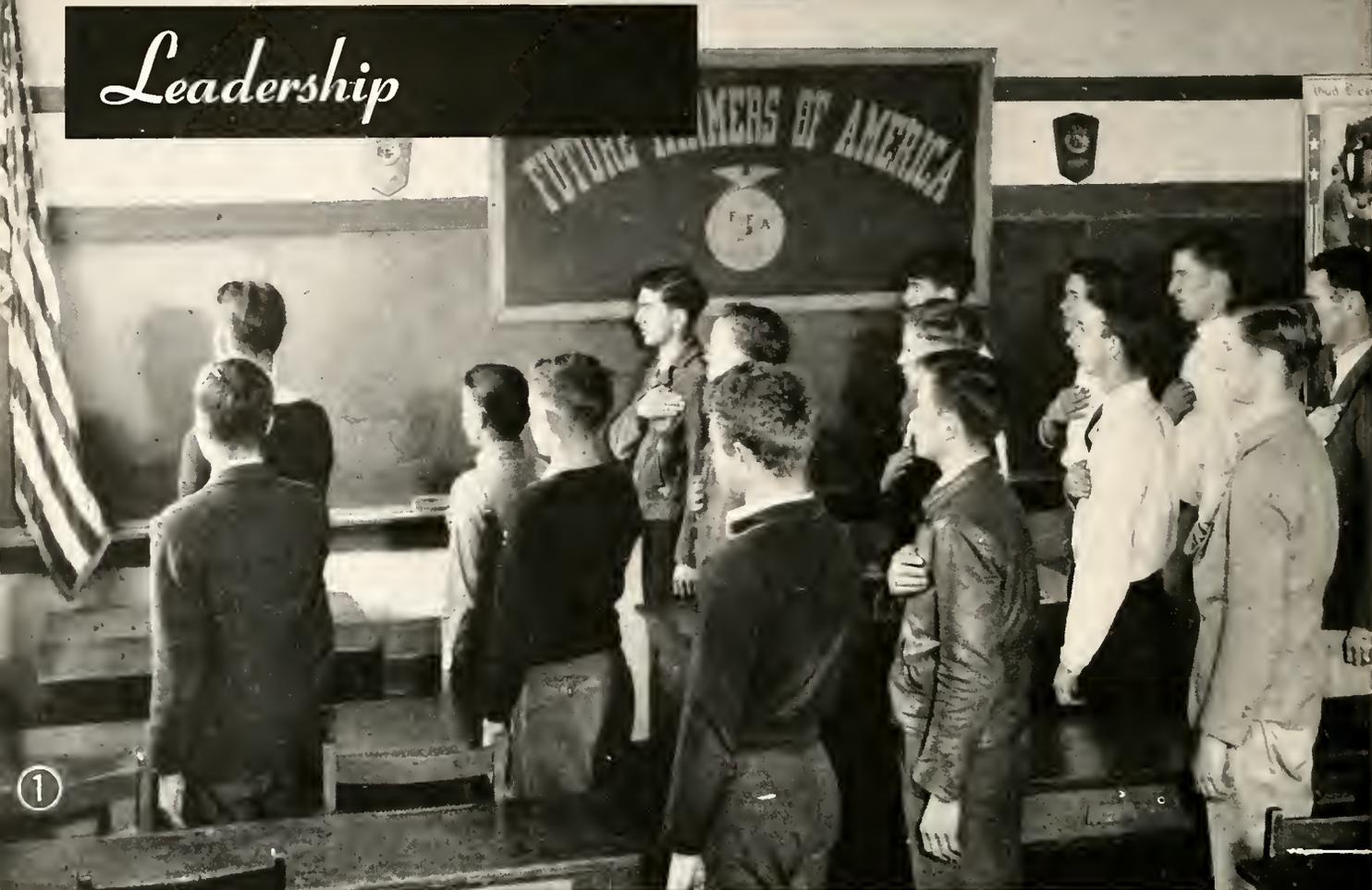
Community Service

- ① F.F.A. chapter members at work in their forest demonstration project. Growing timber is conserved and millions of seedlings are planted each year by Future Farmers of America. They are helping put idle acres back into production.
- ② Members of an F.F.A. chapter blood test a poultry flock. Farm boys learn in their vocational agriculture classes how to prevent and control the common diseases of poultry. They utilize this practical instruction in their farming programs.
- ③ A local F.F.A. chapter constructed this outdoor fireplace on the high school campus. Chapter members have been active in rural landscaping work. They beautify public property and improve the attractiveness of their farmsteads.
- ④ A group of F.F.A. members study methods of soil and water conservation. Future Farmers take an active part in conserving our natural resources. They terrace their land, plant strip crops and use many other soil conserving practices.
- ⑤ These young farmers are making a topographic survey of a farm in order that a soil conservation program may be planned and maintained. Members develop and use on their farms practical skills in many farm mechanics activities.
- ⑥ Treating a dairy animal for grubs. Members of the Future Farmers of America in one State treated over 109,000 head of livestock during a twelve-month period. They are making valuable contributions by reducing their livestock losses.
- ⑦ F.F.A. members testing seed for farmers in their community. These boys tested seed for more than 150 farmers. By performing such activities F.F.A. members eliminate large quantities of inferior seed and thus increase crop yields.





Leadership



① Members pledge allegiance to the Flag at a regular chapter meeting. Such activities give valuable training in leadership and citizenship to the farm boys of America.



② Members work together on committees. Chapter activities and responsibilities are assumed by committees.

③ A State winner in the National F.F.A. Public Speaking Contest, which is an annual activity of the Future Farmers of America. Finals are held at the National Convention.

④ Ready for a broadcast. Many F.F.A. members use radio as a medium to tell of their interesting achievements. Broadcasting is one phase of leadership training.

⑤ An initiation ceremony for Greenhands, the first degree in the F.F.A. Members are stimulated to greater achievement by striving to attain the four F.F.A. degrees.

⑥ "The meeting will come to order . . ." Members of the F.F.A. receive essential training in parliamentary procedure. Many State associations sponsor parliamentary procedure contests to stimulate increased participation in this important phase of training in leadership.



⑦ The British Ambassador, Earl of Halifax, receives the Honorary State Farmer Degree from an officer of the Future Farmers of America at a State meeting.



Recreation



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① A group of F.F.A. members enjoy a swim at a State Future Farmer Camp. Wholesome outdoor exercise of this kind is not available to many farm boys except when made possible through facilities provided by State F.F.A. associations.

② A Chapter string band. Members take their musical instruments with them on their camping trips and to their meetings. They enjoy playing and singing the old songs and ballads. F.F.A. string band contests are frequently conducted.

③ It's chow time on a camping trip. Camping is one of the favorite outdoor recreational activities of F.F.A. members. They take their tents to streams and lakes where they swim and fish. At night games are played around the camp fire.

④ Dining hall at a State F.F.A. camp. Facilities are available to feed and house 500 boys. Many associations have State camps which are used as recreational centers for the members. Special leadership schools are held at these centers.

⑤ Pitching for a ringer. Horseshoes is a universal sport among members of the Future Farmers of America. Athletic tournaments are held frequently on farms, at camps, at local chapter meetings and State conventions of the organization.

⑥ Volley ball is a popular sport with members of the Future Farmers of America. Members organize volley ball and diamond ball teams for inter-chapter competition. Tournaments are held at many State meetings to determine the winners.





A former member of the Future Farmers of America with his family in their comfortable farm home

A SUCCESSFUL YOUNG FARMER

One of the major objectives of vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of America is to develop the ability of young men to become successfully established in farming. This young farmer is typical of the thousands of former members of the F.F.A. who are applying on their own farms the instruction they received in vocational agriculture.

He was born on a farm. He attended a rural high school and values highly the training he received in vocational agriculture and the F.F.A. He is grateful to his teacher of vocational agriculture for the counsel and assistance given him. The local F.F.A. chapter to which he belonged was an outstanding chapter. He received many worthwhile experiences by participating in its leadership and other educational activities.

He and his wife plan together all important farm and home activities. They are proud of their two children. All members of this happy family enjoy their comfortable, attractive home and its surroundings.

The farming program which he began as a high

school student of vocational agriculture has been greatly enlarged. His home farm consists of 145 acres. He farms additional land each year. Each year he produces many hogs and beef cattle. His major crops are corn and peanuts. He is using many improved practices in his farming activities. His hogs have access to self-feeders. Spring water and excellent pastures are provided for hogs and beef cattle. The hybrid corn he grows greatly outyields native corn. Peanut seed is treated to prevent damage from bacteria. He uses modern machinery, practices soil conservation, and maintains his farm buildings in good condition.

He has expanded his leadership activities. He is now a member of the board of directors of a service club, a member of a farm organization, an active church member, a member of a regional cooperative, and chairman of the advisory board of a local lodge. As a result of his community leadership, electricity is used in the homes of many farmers in his neighborhood, including his own. He is a successful farmer, a good father and a valuable citizen.

The F. F. A. Creed

I BELIEVE in the future of farming, with a faith born not of words but of deeds—achievements won by the present and past generations of farmers; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come up to us from the struggles of former years.

I BELIEVE that to live and work on a good farm is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of farm life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I BELIEVE in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of organized farmers to serve our own and the public interest in marketing the product of our toil. I believe we can safeguard those rights against practises and policies that are unfair.

I BELIEVE in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I BELIEVE that rural America can and will hold true to the best traditions in our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.

RECREATION SERVICE
COOPERATION
THRIFT CITIZENSHIP
LEADERSHIP
ESTABLISHMENT IN
FARMING

