



**NOVEMBER 11-14, 1975**

**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

**48th NATIONAL**

**FFA CONVENTION**

**PROCEEDINGS**





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**1975 PROCEEDINGS**

**48th  
NATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

**OF THE  
Future Farmers  
of America**



**HELD AT**

**MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

**NOVEMBER 11-14, 1975**

Prepared by the Future Farmers of America in cooperation with the Division of Vocational and Technical Education, U. S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D. C. 20202





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J.W. WARREN, Senior Program Officer/DVTE, U.S. Office of Education/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## Introduction

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) is the national organization of students studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools, under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. Launched at Kansas City in November 1928, the organization has continued to develop rapidly. The active membership is 485,793 in 7,838 chapters.

The primary aim of the FFA organization is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, citizenship and patriotism. Other purposes include: strengthening the confidence of youth in themselves and their work; more intelligent choice of agricultural occupations; improving the rural home and its surroundings; encouraging cooperative effort; encouraging thrift; improving scholarship; providing organized recreational activities and supplementing, by means of student-initiated and student-directed activities, the systematic instruction offered to students regularly enrolled in vocational agriculture courses under competent teachers of vocational agriculture/agribusiness. The support of State Boards of Vocational Education, working in cooperation with dedicated and experienced State Supervisory Staff and Teacher Education institutions results in agricultural programs designed to function as a strong part of our total educational system in America.

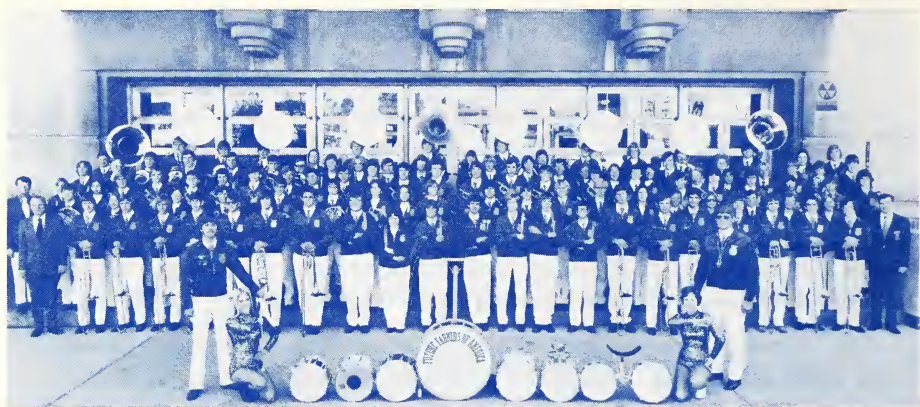
The FFA has taken its place with other organizations and agencies interested in the upbuilding of agriculture and the improvement of country life. National headquarters of the FFA is located in the National FFA Center at Alexandria, Virginia.

The 48th National Convention of the Future Farmers of America was held in the Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri, November 11-14, 1975. The 20,400 who registered from fifty chartered associations for that youthful exposition of progressive leadership development, together with many representatives from foreign countries, must surely have returned home with a stronger belief in the future of agriculture.

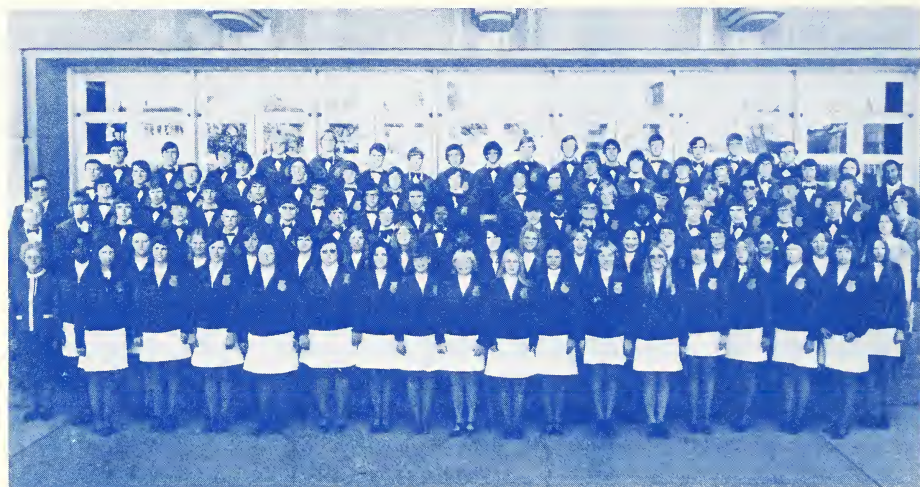
The minutes of the convention sessions are included, along with certain other important material which is supplementary to or explanatory of the convention activities. Thanks are due many persons whose leadership and dedicated efforts made possible one of the most successful conventions in the history of the FFA.

WM. PAUL GRAY

National Executive Secretary



NATIONAL FFA BAND



NATIONAL FFA CHORUS



NATIONAL FFA TALENT



# Official Delegates



702 candidates preparing to receive the American Farmer Degree

## **ALABAMA**

BILL GIBSON, Jasper  
GARY MITCHELL, Sylacauga  
DENNIS ADAMS, Brewton  
FRANKLIN DAWSON, Florala

## **ARIZONA**

HOWARD MORRISON, Gilbert  
CARLA VAN METER, Glendale

## **ARKANSAS**

TIM MATHIAS, Rogers  
KENT HENDRIX, Antioine

## **CALIFORNIA**

HENRY GIACOMINI, Ferndale  
MICHAEL HAT, Ripon  
EDIE BROWN, Watsonville

## **COLORADO**

TIM BRANN, Granada  
ALAN BARBER, Burlington

## **CONNECTICUT**

JUDI LIPTON, Somers  
PHILLIP BLIVEN, Ledyard

## **DELAWARE**

PAUL COLLINS, Frederica  
KENNY CARLISLE, Dover

## **FLORIDA**

CHRIS HARDEE, Chiefland  
RICK STRATTON, Sarasota

## **GEORGIA**

DAVID HAWKS, Commerce  
GARY BLACK, Commerce  
CHARLES ADAMS III, Camilla

## **HAWAII**

STEVE McPEEK, Kapaau  
DARRELL B. OKANO, Holualoa

## **IDAHO**

TOM LIMBAUGH, Fruitland  
RICK BRANDEL, Caldwell

## **ILLINOIS**

BOYD SCHAUFELBERGER, Greenville  
DAVE SHOCKEY, Ridott  
JON SCHOLL, Colfax

## **INDIANA**

DAVID PARKER, Fortville  
DAVID BECHMAN, Greenwood

## **IOWA**

DAN FRIEBERG, Fairfield  
KIRK WEIH, Tipton

## **KANSAS**

JAY MAYFIELD, Caney  
MARK K. SCANLAN, Manhattan

## **KENTUCKY**

STEVE McCUISTON, Murray  
THOMAS STRATTON, Lawrenceburg  
EDDIE LEACH, Hartford

## **LOUISIANA**

RONNIE BURNS, Shongaloo  
ELVIS CAVALIER, Donaldsonville

## **MAINE**

SCOTT WILLIAMS, Presque Isle  
HENRY J. FELCH, New Sweden

## **MARYLAND**

QUAY YENDALL, JR., Glencoe  
DANIEL TICE, Grantsville

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

RICHARD KUKLEWICZ, Turners Falls  
JAMES ROBERTS, Amherst

## **MICHIGAN**

DENNY GRABILL, Grant  
ED HAGUE, Webberville

## **MINNESOTA**

ROD HEBRINK, Renville  
DAVID HENNEBERRY, Renville  
KATHY KUBICEK, Lake Crystal

**MISSISSIPPI**

MIKE MOSS, Grenada  
HAL FRANCIS, Mantachie

**MISSOURI**

WESLEY THORN, Carthage  
GARY SEXTON, Pottersville  
TIM TWYMAN, Orrick

**MONTANA**

AUSTIN SORENSON, Kalispell  
DAN SALOMON, Ronan

**NEBRASKA**

STEVE KAMPFE, Gothenburg  
MARK HOLOUBEK, Clarkson

**NEVADA**

JOE O'DONNELL, Elko  
DOUG MORSE, Mountain City

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

JAMES QUIGLEY, Hudson  
DAVID CANTIN, Lancaster

**NEW JERSEY**

JAMES DREWS, Allentown  
SHARON SMITH, Milford

**NEW MEXICO**

BUB GRAHAM, Hurley  
RONNIE STOREY, Belen

**NEW YORK**

RICHARD BENNETT, Middle Village  
RICHARD HARRISON, Lyndonville

**NORTH CAROLINA**

CLIFTON FISHER, Brevard  
JEFFERY STEPHENS, Lumberton  
TIM RUFFIN, Cary

**NORTH DAKOTA**

ROBB BOYD, McKenzie  
DON NORDBY, Amidon

**OHIO**

ROB HOVIS, Helena  
RICK McDANIEL, Nevada  
SCOTT MILLER, Delaware

**OKLAHOMA**

JAMES BODE, Stillwater  
STEVE MEYER, Stillwater  
DEE SOKOLOSKY, Stillwater

**OREGON**

MIKE DICKMAN, Silverton  
TED WILLIAMS, Terrebonne

**PENNSYLVANIA**

GREGORY E. DAVIS, Middlebury Center  
GARY R. BUTTERS, Morris

**PUERTO RICO**

JOSE A. GARCIA, Corozal  
JOSE A. QUINTANA, San Sebastian

**RHODE ISLAND**

LOREN ANDREWS, Hope Valley  
DOREEN BRENTON, North Scituate

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

TOMMY GLADDEN, Winnsboro  
CURTIS WHITE, Loris

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

GALEN KELLER, Pierre  
STEVEN ENGER, Sioux Falls

**TENNESSEE**

TOMMY F. HUNT, Cottage Grove  
ALAN GALLOWAY, Burrville  
GAY IRWIN, Clinton

**TEXAS**

DOUG LEGGETT, Eldorado  
MARK ELLISON, Rosebud  
MARVIN ISAACKS, Arp  
JOHNNY LANE, Leander  
TIM ENDERS, West  
STEPHEN SEIDEL, Smithville  
REX W. KYLE, Janesville

**UTAH**

BLAKE NAY, Gunnison  
LYNN BAGLEY, Moroni

**VERMONT**

LYLE E. WILLEY, Bridport  
ANDREA HAMILTON, West Brattleboro

**VIRGINIA**

EDDIE STOWE, Danville  
JAY CECIL, Dublin  
DOUG BRADLEY, Brookneal

**WASHINGTON**

JULIE SMILEY, Mount Vernon  
BUDDY MILLER, Othello

**WEST VIRGINIA**

SAMUEL MORRIS, Dille  
JOHN HANNA, Renick

**WISCONSIN**

FERRON HAVENS, Darlington  
MIKE KAWLESKI, Junction City  
ANDY BENSEND, Dallas

**WYOMING**

RON JACOBSEN, Pine Bluffs  
BRAD CARLSON, Shoshoni

# Highlights of the 1975 National FFA Convention

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## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

The National Convention activities began with the registration of Official Delegates and their orientation for official duties, which were followed by committee meetings.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 General Business Session

The session began at 2:00 p.m. with the appointment of Constitutional Committees. Following the National Treasurer's Report, 14 committee reports were discussed and approved. Nomination of adults to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree, Distinguished Service Award, and VIP Citation, and organizations to receive the Distinguished Service Citation was made and approved by the delegates.

At 7:30 p.m., a Vespers Program was presented by the National Officers, in cooperation with the National FFA Chorus.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 Opening Session

The session began with the Posting of the Colors and the singing of the National Anthem by the National FFA Chorus. Mark Mayfield, 1974-75 National President, gave the invocation. Candidates for national office were introduced, followed by Scott McKain's retiring address "You Can." A pictorial pageant "A Future for America . . . FFA" was presented, courtesy of Farm Journal, Inc. An inspiring address by the Honorable Jimmy Carter, former FFA member and former Governor of Georgia, was well received.



Hon. Jimmy Carter, former  
FFA member and Governor of Georgia.



Johnny Bench,  
All pro baseball player





Hon. John Connelly,  
former Governor of Texas.



Jerry Clower,  
Farmers speaker for agriculture.

### Second Session

Highlights of this session featured an explanation of the FFA 1975-76 budget, the presentation of National Chapter Awards to 310 chapters, and the introduction of the judges of the Agricultural Proficiency Awards. This was followed by Gary Kelley's retiring address "If . . . In a Thousand Words."

Proposed amendments to the National FFA Constitution were properly discussed and the delegates approved the following amendments:

**ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP** — Delete present Section C, substitute Section C "Alumni Membership" — **Membership shall be open to former active FFA and NFA members, collegiate or honorary FFA and NFA members, present and former professional vocational agricultural educators, parents of FFA members, and others interested in and supporting the FFA.**

**ARTICLE IV, Section A, Paragraph 1**, be amended to read as follows: ". . . or show by postmark or other reliable evidence to have been mailed to the National FFA Treasurer on or before **May 15.**"

**ARTICLE V, Section B**, be amended to read as follows: "To retain membership during high school, the member must be enrolled in at least one vocational **agriculture/agribusiness** course during the school year and/or follow a planned course of study for an agricultural occupation, **which would include** a supervised occupational experience program, the objective of which is establishment in an agricultural occupation. Members may retain their active membership for three years after the first National Convention following graduation from high school or leaving high school, or until becoming 21 years of age, whichever length of time is greater."

**ARTICLE XVI** be amended by combining Sections A & B, to read as follows: "Section A. Proposed amendments to the National FFA Constitution **and Bylaws** may be submitted by the governing body of a State association, by the Board of National Officers or National Board of Directors. Proposed amendments to the National FFA Constitution **and Bylaws** from the States

must be submitted in writing to the National Organization by July 15 for review by the Board of National Officers and the National Board of Directors. All proposed amendments to the National FFA Constitution **and Bylaws** must be submitted by the National Advisor to the State Associations at least 45 days prior to the next succeeding National Convention. The Board of National Officers shall present their recommendations on each amendment to the National FFA Constitution **and Bylaws** to the delegates at the National Convention. An amendment to the National FFA Constitution may be adopted at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present, **and Bylaws** will require a majority vote of the official delegates provided they represent a quorum. Amendments to the Bylaws must be in harmony with the National FFA Constitution and Public Law 740."

### Third Session

A musical tribute to the Bicentennial by the National FFA Band, Chorus and Talent was presented. The National FFA Public Speaking Contest, which featured the four regional winners was held. Special recognition was given to the teacher educators and those preparing to teach vocational agriculture. Nineteen American Royal Queen Candidates were introduced by their respective State Presidents, special presentations were made to five VIP recipients and two organizations received the Distinguished Service Citation. A full house greatly enjoyed the inspiring address by Johnny Bench, All Pro Baseball Player. Presentation of the National Public Speaking awards and the naming of Eddie Blizzard, of Scottsboro, Alabama, as the national winner concluded the evening's program.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 Fourth Session

Following the Opening Ceremony and special FFA talent, National Officers of FBLA/PLB, FHA, DECA, OEA and 4-H, along with Miss AIC and Miss REA, extended greetings to the delegates. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to 30 individuals. Bart Brashears delivered his retiring address "Freeway of America." The 76 regional and national winners of the



The one and only Colonel Sanders.

19 Agricultural Proficiency Awards were presented in a colorful pageant. One hundred seven chapters were presented National BOAC Awards, and a slide presentation featuring BOAC activities was presented. Mr. Frank B. Elliott, Administrator, Farmers Home Administration/USDA addressed the convention prior to the closing ceremony.

#### **Fifth Session**

The FFA honored 80 adults in business, industry and education, plus 92 Vocational Agriculture teachers with the Honorary American Farmer Degree, at which time Luther Lalum, President of the NVATA, Inc., extended an address. "Our Challenge for the Future." Honorable John Connally, of Texas, delivered brief remarks, which were followed by the awarding of six service plaques to outgoing members of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees. Gerrit DeBruin spoke on "Life's Lesson" in his retiring address. Jerry Clower presented an inspiring, yet humorous address, related to the importance of agriculture and FFA's role in fulfilling the many opportunities through training in vocational agriculture. The lifelong goal of outstanding members was fulfilled when the American Farmer Degree was conferred upon 702 candidates.

#### **Sixth Session**

A colorful and interesting FFA Talent Revue was held, followed by the Grand Entry by the National FFA Band and music by the National FFA Chorus. Colonel Harlan Sanders was then presented a special award and gave greetings.

Special recognition was given to the sponsors to the National FFA Foundation, Inc. The 25-Year sponsors were introduced and members of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee were escorted to the platform. The Executive Council and Industry and State Chairmen were recognized. Mr. Edward F. Carter, 1975 Chairman of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee extended appreciation to all sponsors for their help, and also congratulated all award winners and their advisors upon their accomplishments. He was then awarded the Honorary American Farmer Degree and a special plaque. Mr. Robert W. Engle, 1976 Chairman of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee was then introduced. Recognition of Star, Gold and Special Project Sponsors was highlighted by a colorful slide presentation.

Dr. Terrell H. Bell, U.S. Commissioner of Education, addressed the convention and emphasized the need for relevant occupational training to continue strengthening agriculture. He complimented all FFA Foundation sponsors for the excellent role they are playing in providing incentives to set goals and to strive for excellence.

The "Stars Over America" pageant followed. Each Regional Star's accomplishments were depicted by a film, courtesy of CIBA-GEIGY Corporation.

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

#### **Seventh Session**

Highlights of the FFA International activities and introduction of guests were followed by Peter Giacomini's retiring address "Look Ahead to the Best in Life." Special guest, Tanya Tucker, extended greetings.

Top judging team winners were announced and introduced. National Chapter SAFETY Awards were presented to 92 chapters, followed by an outstanding audio-visual presentation, "Journey to Safety." The three FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award winners were introduced.





Hon. Nelson A. Rockefeller, Vice President of the United States.

The Auditorium was filled with excited FFA members and guests to hear Nelson A. Rockefeller, Vice President of the United States, deliver an inspiring address, in which he paid tribute to Vocational Agriculture/FFA for its great contribution to the production of food and fiber. He challenged FFA members to take advantage of their training to become outstanding leaders and to develop qualities of responsible citizenship with the help of dedicated teachers and professional personnel. The Honorary American Farmer Degree was conferred upon the Vice President. All in attendance were pleased that he remained through the closing ceremonies to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to observe the democratic process of the election of the 1975-76 national officers.

### **Closing Session**

Following recognition of FFA talent, the delegates accepted the Convention Committee Report. An informative slide series of the 1975 convention, accompanied by the FFA Band was enjoyed by all. Past National FFA Officers were recognized, followed by the Yearly Report of the National Officers, depicted by color slides.

Alpha Trivette delivered his retiring address "Dream On," after which parents and advisors of the national officers were recognized and awarded the Honorary American Farmer Degree.

The new national officers were installed in a colorful ceremony and greetings extended by the new president. The National FFA Chorus presented several patriotic numbers, after which the convention was closed by the new officers.

The Firestone Show concluded the evening's convention activities.

## **Special Recognition:**

### **AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE**

Each year at the convention, members who have achieved the highest degree are recognized in an impressive ceremony. There were 702 who received the degree.

### **HONORARY AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE**

Local advisors are often the "motivating force" behind FFA members who achieve high goals in the organization. Advisor's are selected by the state association on a criteria that encompasses the entire instructional program. There were 92 instructors receiving this honor.

The Honorary American Farmer Degree is also awarded to adults other than local advisors who have helped to advance agribusiness and the FFA, and who have given outstanding service on a national level. There were 80 receiving this recognition, including the parents and advisors of the national officers and the parents of the "Stars."

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

To appropriately recognize those adults who have given outstanding service to the FFA on a State or Regional, and in some cases National level, the Distinguished Service Awards are presented at the national convention. There were 30 receiving the award.

### **VIP CITATIONS**

There are many individuals, who from the beginning of the FFA, have continued to give support to the organization "over and beyond the call of duty." This year marks the fifth year that long-time friends and great supporters of the FFA have been recognized with a "VIP Award." Five distinguished gentlemen received this award.

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATIONS**

There are many organizations which have provided outstanding service to the National FFA Organization. They have contributed personnel, time and money to further the aims and purposes of the Future Farmers of America. This year two organizations received this Citation.



VIP Citation Recipients

## National Officer Addresses

### DREAM ON

Alpha Trivette, National FFA President

A few short years ago six shy Greenhands put on their first FFA jackets. With that they donned a mantle of dreams. They dreamed of doing but they didn't know what. They dreamed of going but they didn't know where. They dreamed of growing but didn't know how tall. They tried hard to find out; several times they even found stumbling blocks, but continued to dream and reach for those dreams. Suddenly they found themselves in the middle of thousands of FFA members; doing and going and growing. Then all too quickly came the rehearsal, the preparation, the writing, and the memorizing. Then the curtain rose. The convention hall will come to order. We are now holding the first session of the 48th National Convention of Future Farmers of America. Then came the distinguished speakers, the awards, the honored guests, the winners and all the hours of getting ready for tomorrow. Tonight, as the gavel sounds and the lights dim, you will not only witness the close of this the 48th Annual National FFA Convention, but also the end of the way of life for six young men who have served as your National Officers for the past 13 months. Then dawns the realization that it's all over. The year we dreamed of, the speeches, the conventions, the applause, the handshakes, and the smiles. It's all yesterday. But, you know tonight we are getting ready for tomorrow; a bright and more far distant tomorrow.





Right now if you ask us to describe our year, the answer would come very hard. Because we've never known this side of being National Officers. The side that requires us to move on and allow others to share the spotlight. But, ask us tomorrow and I'm sure, without reservation, we'll say that this year has been like a dream well lived; a dream come true. A dream that has grown and one that would have been neither possible nor necessary without you. Bearing in mind the many things you have given us, we hope we have given you a chance to dream and we encouraged you to dream on. Because we have realized this year that you had your dreams and that you pursued those dreams step by step. A dream come true is not time out to pat yourself on the back but a place to see where you are and evaluate whether or not you are heading in the right direction at the right speed.

Dreams are nothing more than goals with wings; motivating you to the place you want to be tomorrow in relation with where you are today. If you dream of high places and stubbornly pursue that dream, then your home will be in the mountain tops, ever climbing, ever seeking new plateaus. If you place your dreams at your feet, then you'll walk in those shoes all of your life, never changing pace, never changing direction until both you and others trample them or until your labors direct your dreams to take wings and fly, taking your feet along.

You see every man is given the chance to dream. From the very moment a child sees a bright colorful rattle, he reaches and tries desperately to hold it in his grasp. They dream much the same way. In the dreams of a child, we see fire engines and police uniforms, baseballs and pom poms, ponies and tractors. Behind them we see an enthusiasm and an undeniable childlike faith that brings fantasy and reality so close together. So close, in fact, that the difference is found only in growing up. As we grow, our dreams take on a more realistic approach, underscored with 'supposes' and 'what ifs' that alienate dreams and reality. It polarizes them both in meaning and practice.

The great Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers was asked, "What does it take to make a great ballplayer?" He replied, "any good man who ever played ball has a lot of little boy in 'em. Some just more than others; that's what makes 'em great ball players." If only we all regained that childlike enthusiasm that makes dreams come true, the kind that takes little freckled faced boys to the World Series; that takes a Greenhand to the National Public Speaking Contest and the kind that is given six boyish dreamers the opportunity to wear National Officers jackets. For you see, without dreams, men perish.

I won't stand here and pretend to you that your every dream in life will come true. It won't. But I'm convinced that there is no shame in that.

All of us remember Jim Croce who had many dreams in life, primarily for his young son, Adrian; many of which, unfortunately, he never realized. He wrote one song entitled, "The Hard Way Every Time", in which he said:

In chasing what I thought were moonbeams  
I have run into a couple of walls  
But in looking back at the faces I've seen  
I'd sure be the first one to say  
When I look at myself today  
I wouldn't have done it any other way.

I know of one FFA member who, in spite of the fact that some of the moonbeams he pursued, turned into walls, still dreamed. One dream he remembers in particular was that of being a professional baseball player. He felt his dream had come true one day when he received a letter from the

Kansas City Royals Baseball Academy inviting him to attend a tryout camp in Charlottesville, Virginia. The Sarasota, Florida based camp would provide for his education and also allow him to play baseball and then give him a shot at the pros.

This academy required a 6.9 second time in running the 60 yard dash. His turn came and he ran, only to clock at 7.1 seconds; two-tenths of a second too slow. He didn't make it. He failed, but learned how to win by losing. I guess it was that dream that came close, along with the determination and enthusiasm with which he pursued that dream that lead him to dream other dreams equally as challenging. No, I never made it to pro-baseball because I was two-tenths of a second too slow. Maybe I never will, but I thank God for giving me that dream and the ability and courage to pursue it. And now I can say, without doubt, I wouldn't have done it any other way. You see our dreams don't always come true, but, if we courageously pursue them and grow by a gradual procession of successes and failures, then our dreams are guiding us upward.

Without dreams and desires, there would be no ambition, no motivation. Without failure from time to time, there would be no success. Dreams, for some, is the difference between the road to the top and the road to despair. The difference lies in whether we let dreams or failures guide our lives. To say that the world lives in a dream would be an arrogant betrayal of life itself. But, this I can say that if everyone in the world allowed his life to be guided by dreams and lofty goal setting, followed by faith and determination, it would form the basis of a happy productive life for all. But, we've all gotta dream.

Dreams: they are the hope of civilization. Many people speak of making the world a better place to live in but few understand that the world never changes alone. It's people who change; they in turn alter their environment. The way to make the world a better place to live in, is by making sure that you do live in it, not merely exist in it and that you help others to do the same. I am here to tell you that if you've never dreamed, you've never lived. You've only existed and experienced. You can get by in life by not having a name to your dreams but if you don't have a dream to your name, you'll never make it.

Dreams: the challenge of tomorrow and our ability to face it. Yesterday's dreams are today's reality and the basis for tomorrow's innovations. Dreams: for the infielder, it's the World Series. For the halfback, the Super Bowl. For the young FFA member, it's the Grand Champion. For the six of us, it has been the past thirteen months.

Dreams: they've been our strength, our inspiration and our motivation. They have been nurtured this year by hope, prayer and an unshakable faith in each other and an old fashioned love of God, country, and family. Their foundations have been rocked, but, through it all, have never once faltered.

The six of us will take off our jackets tonight, knowing you have left us with many dreams to dream. We appeal to you to take them and dream on. Dream about what can be, not what is now. For it is for tomorrow we dream, not for yesterday. Through all of yesterday's dreams and experiences we get ready for tomorrow.

If I may, I would like to pause now to address the five young men who helped make my dream a reality. Who by their brotherhood challenged me to dream on.

The time is close when our dreams will take us many different directions and many miles apart. We will no longer work, and play and laugh and weep together. But that's only fitting, because you see it was our dreams that

gave us that opportunity to begin with. Now far greater goals and challenges await us.

To the five of you who have made my life far richer and made me content with memories of yesterday and dreams for tomorrow. Dream on.

To Pete: Never lose that youthful enthusiasm, for that will give credence to your dreams. Rely upon your ability to work efficiently and think clearly with all the knowledge you have and can obtain. Have self confidence but depend upon others to lend and accept knowledge, and you will always be a winner.

To Scott: The loftiness of your ideals will guide your hands to do things that make life pleasant and profitable. Never forget your first dreams; how you sought them, how you lost some, but grew and learned by them. Now dream on and pursue with integrity, and your life will be filled with joy.

Gerrit: Yours is happiness. A gift many spend a lifetime in search of. Never let it go. Continue to smile and to make others smile and your purpose in life will be complete. Be happy with life and live in happiness.

Bart: Your sincere consideration for all mankind is among your greatest attributes. It is strengthened by your love for life. May they always give guidance to your dreams and may your dreams give guidance to your life.

To Gary: Pursue with determination your goals in life. You are blessed with perseverance. Unite your determination with opportunities and transform those opportunities into realized dreams.

May God Bless all your dreams.

The six of us leave with an invitation to join us in the following John Denver's eagle in his song, "The Eagle and The Hawk".

Dance with the west wind, touch all the mountain tops  
Soar through the canyons and up to the stars

Reach for the heavens and hope for the future  
'Cause all that we can be is not what we are.

Now, no longer Greenhands. Tomorrow no longer National Officers, we will still dream. For you see, after all our dreams we still don't know how much we can do, how far we can go or how tall we can grow. As long as we keep dreaming, we'll never know, because there is no way to realize the heights that can be attained until you dream. That's why I appeal to you to dream on and grow by pursuing them. Grow to be the best of whatever you can be. Pursue without fear whatever your goals are in life.

His little daughter's cry broke the silence of the night and quickly the young father hurried to her bedside. She cried as his arms reached out and held her close. She said, "Daddy I'm frightened. I just had a horrible dream, and I'm afraid that if I go back to sleep, I'll dream again." After a moment of thought he whispered, "Don't be afraid. Go to sleep and dream on. Don't you remember all of those beautiful dreams you told me about? About the Prince Charming and being a cheerleader and even the time you dreamed you were a teacher. You were so happy with your dreams. See once in a while you may have a bad dream but all of the bad dreams in the world cannot take away even one of the beautiful dreams you've had. No, don't be afraid to dream. Dream on. Dream about the kind of world we are going to live in one fine day. Dream on. Right now spend the night in heaven. I'll be here to light your way. Tomorrow the world is gonna smile, but, little girl, in the meanwhile, dream on." To you who have given so much, God Bless You and dream on.



## YOU CAN

Scott McKain, National FFA Secretary

I have completed my work with this organization.

When the Friday night session is over at this National FFA Convention, and I walk out that front door on that night, for me it's **over!**

It is absolutely not because I want my FFA career to end that it is over. It is over because our constitution says that now is the time for my fellow officers and me to step aside, and turn the reins of leadership over to someone else.

Who can lead the largest vocational student organization in the world?

Who can lead the only group preparing young people for careers in the world's most important industry — American agriculture?

Who can accept the challenge and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the greatest youth group in America?

Who can achieve something in the FFA?

**You can.**

I'm not talking to the guy or gal sitting beside you; not the officers here; not your brother or sister, or mother or father. I'm talking to **you**.

I'm talking to you, just like Tom's mother talked to him.

Tom's teacher said he was plain old nuts. After four months in school, Tom's teacher decided he was mentally unbalanced. She made young Tom quit school, because she didn't believe he was mentally adequate to be with the rest of that first year class.

Tom in tears, told his mother that he was giving up. He always wanted to make things for people, be an inventor, but he couldn't do that now.

Tom's mother looked him in the eye and said, "Yes, you can!"

And you know, even though he had a teacher who thought him insane, and only four months of formal education, Tom believed his mother when she said "you can."

Tom Edison believed he could be an inventor.

A young boy joined FFA, and set as his top goal to win the state public speaking contest.

His freshman year, he tried, and was beaten.

His sophomore year, he tried, and was beaten.

His junior year, he gave his speech to seven different civic clubs to prepare for that all important speech. His junior year, he tried, and was beaten.

His advisor looked him in the eye and said, "Yes, you can!"

And you know I believed my advisor when he told me that, because that winless kid was me.

I hope I've served you in a way this year so I have achieved your friendship during this year.

I know you can achieve something in FFA, too.

Kirk Sinclair is something special. Kirk wasn't feeling well, so he missed his Greenhand initiation ceremony, where I had the opportunity to speak.



Kirk's advisor asked if I could go and take Kirk his Greenhand pin and certificate. Upon arriving, we met Kirk wearing a baseball cap sitting on his grandmother's porch. Kirk and I talked about his program, his projects, his dreams for himself in FFA. He explained that the reason he wore the baseball cap was because of the one sole word on that cap. The word was "Pride."

"I'm so proud to be an FFA member!" Kirk exclaimed. Kirk, you see, was worried. He had missed his Greenhand initiation and was afraid that would cause him to miss out on some FFA opportunity.

Kirk's grandmother was worried, too. The lines of her face showed the strain, the tears in her eyes showed the pain as she told us how Kirk had just had three possibly cancerous tumors on his lungs. The reason he was sitting on the porch was because his right leg had already fallen victim to cancer.

Kirk's family was worrying whether he'd have a life to live.

Kirk was concerned of making the most of the life he had to live.

Kirk, and those of you here who are more physically blessed than Kirk, you can make the most of this life you have to live, because this organization gives you that opportunity.

Through FFA you have the opportunity to reach the goals, fulfill the needs, and lead the way for you and others like you.

I know the goals of this organization will be reached, for you can reach them.

I know the challenges of this organization can be met, for you can meet them.

I know the members of this organization will be led, for you can lead them.

As I've said many times this wonderful year of my life, "You can, for the world is yours." You with the basics; with the legs, eyes, and ears, and that's really more than what it takes to do whatever you want in life.

Today upon a bus, I saw a lovely girl with golden hair.  
 I envied her, she seemed so gay, and I wished I were as fair  
 When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle  
 She had one leg, she wore a crutch, and as she passed; a smile.  
 Oh, God forgive me when I whine  
 I have two legs, the world is mine.  
 Then I stopped to buy some sweets  
 The lad who sold them had such charm  
 We talked awhile, if I were late, 'twould do no harm  
 But as I turned to go, he said, "Thank you, sir, you've been so kind;  
 It's nice to talk with folks like you.  
 "You see," he said, "I'm blind."  
 Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.  
 I have two eyes, the world is mine.  
 Later, walking down the street I saw a child with eyes of blue  
 But he stood and watched the others play  
 It seemed he knew not what to do  
 I stopped awhile, then I said, "Why don't you join the others, dear?"  
 But he looked straight ahead without a word.  
 Then I knew, he couldn't hear.  
 Oh, God, forgive me when I whine  
 I have two ears, the world is mine.

## LIFE'S LESSON

GERRIT DeBRUIN, National FFA Vice President

I guess if there is a one sole purpose for a retiring address, regardless of what it is you are retiring from, that purpose would be to leave a message based on your observations and experiences while a member of that organization.

Of course, the organization common to all of us is the Future Farmers of America. My experiences and observations during my seven years of membership terminate today, so too can I summarize its lesson in a few words. Listen close as I share what you have taught me. You have taught me Life's Lesson.

You taught me the true preciousness of time and the true importance of using it wisely. You helped one to realize that it is a gift of God alone. And He, in His infinite wisdom, gives it to us just one day at a time. I have seen that gift become as active as a gushing current and as deplorable as a stagnant pond.

I realize it is difficult to fully relate to the challenge of living each day to the fullest and valuing your time for it is only when the well runs dry, that we know the real wealth of water.

But, imagine if you would, what would happen if you found out that you had only a short time to live. What would you do, where would you go, what would you say. No one knows the answers to those questions, but one thing is certain — you would do a lot, a lot more than what you do in a normal day.

When one mentions "a short time to live" names and faces come to mind. You think of the Brian Piccolos, Jim Croces, the Martin Luther Kings, the Kennedys, the astronauts, or the nameless, faceless unknown heroes who were called from this world before they had a chance to give of themselves and live for themselves.

Life is a precious gift — treasure it. Do as much as you can, as often as you can, for as many as you can.

Few cliches merit more recognition than this one:

"It is far better to wear out than to rust out."

Yes, Life's Lesson is plain and simple:



Learn to make the most of life.  
Lose no happy day.  
Time can never bring you back.  
Chances swept away.  
Leave no tender word unsaid.  
Live while life shall last.  
The mill never turns again with water that has past.



## "IF IN A THOUSAND WORDS"

GARY W. KELLEY, National FFA Vice President, North Atlantic Region

Last night the memories began, reality showed itself in such a way that I could hardly believe or accept it. A year as a National Officer has passed again for another, and so will tomorrow and the next day.

Many times this year, time has flown by so quickly that the pace has been unthinkable, the places unbelievable and the atmosphere untouchable. Oftentimes we get caught up in the flurry of activities and never have that needed moment to stop, take a breath and ask ourselves, what is it that causes the climax in our lives. We allow ourselves to call life bitter names, but only when we ourselves are bitter and dark. And, we deem her empty and unprofitable but only when the soul goes wandering in desolate places, and the heart is drunken with overmindfulness of self. This year has been no exception of the pace that the clock has put upon the lives of each of us. In order for any setting to be meaningful and useful to either you or me, each one must first find his peace from within, and peace to be real must be unaffected by outside circumstances. The circumstances that we six individuals found ourselves surrounded with last October here on this very stage, to be elected to serve and uphold the ideals and standards of such an organization as the Future Farmers of America, indeed came from within, barring all outside strife.



In painting my story of a year, sometimes I was angry and disappointed, elated, puzzled, worried and I suppose every emotion in the book. Whether we remember this year or the next as a most important year, let each become all that he was created capable of being; Expand if possible, to his full growth; and show himself at length in his own shape and stature.

"You are to build a better," God said. I answered, "How?"  
 "The world is such a huge vast place and complicated now,  
 And I am so small and helpless,  
 There is nothing I can do."  
 But God in all his wisdom said,  
 "Just build a better you."

The picture we are painting is an original, that can never be duplicated by another, nor can ever be erased once the brush is used. The painter must be in full control so as to make the lines even and fine, and the figures full and clear, so that the story it tells will be one of full color, ready for all to admire and appreciate; the works of a masterpiece.

Since the time I was able to speak my first word, people have said: Know thyself and find out just who you are. But to know oneself is a maxim that is as pernicious as it is ugly. Whoever studies himself arrests his own development. A caterpillar that set out to really "know itself" would never become a butterfly.

As the FFA exists today because of a spirit of desire to take the initiative, not just to improve or develop ourselves to be better men and women. We have established a firm foundation for which we must give in order to receive. The demands that have been placed upon the young people

of this generation, reflects directly on us here in this auditorium this afternoon. We are being questioned constantly, whether it is visible or not, by the public's eye. The question is always the same: How are they going to achieve as much as we have, when they are blessed with everything now. We must never allow unwarranted limitations to stand in our way, as an adversary that cannot be mastered. Don't always believe what the eyes and ears tell you. All they show is limitation. Look with your understanding, find out what you already know, and you'll see the way to fly. Only a mediocre person is always at his best.

I do not chose to be a common man, for it is my right to be uncommon — if I can. I want to take that calculated risk; to dream and to build; to fail and to succeed. I prefer the challenge of life to the guaranteed existence, the thrill of fulfillment to stale calm of Utopia. All of this is what it means to satisfy the inward self and perform the art work of a master. Each of us is given a bag of tools, a shapeless mass, and a book of rules. And each of us, whether a chapter member, a chapter officer or a state president, must make our lives a stumbling block or a stepping stone.

As we six individuals bring to a close the life that has been ours for the past seven years, I hope that the reflections we've left, the portrait we've painted this year, has been one that someone, somewhere has been able to share and benefit in bringing light to their very own world.

If today was October 18, 1974, would I still accept the challenge, would I still follow the route I have taken; the answer is an expected one of yes. The variations of one year to another, may have altered the charted path that was set for me to follow, but the goals and ideas would definitely remain the same. It is very difficult to express this feeling that is leaving me blank when I know the day is over and the work is done. Leaving tomorrow's crop to be planted by another.

If a picture paints a thousand words,  
Then why can't I paint you?  
The words will never show,  
The organization I've come to know.  
If a face could launch a thousand ships,  
Then why can't I explain?  
There's no grief, just loss,  
A loss for the words, that only a picture could explain.  
From freshman to senior,  
From hello to good-bye.  
You were all that there was left  
For me and millions before.  
And when this year was running dry,  
And many a tear I did cry.  
You came and poured yourself on me.  
Bringing a belief in tomorrow,  
And a thankfulness for today.  
Now one by one as we turn our backs.  
Six young men will simply say — Good-bye.

God Bless You All.

## LOOK AHEAD TO THE BEST IN LIFE

PETER GIACOMINI, National FFA Vice President, Pacific Region

Today is a day that I've looked forward to for a long, long time. During the past thirteen months that I've had the privilege of serving as one of your National Officers, I've looked forward to this very minute with a great deal of anticipation. Certainly, as I will hang up this blue jacket for the last time following this evening's session, this day does bring with it a certain degree of sadness and regret that I've been unable to do more as a member of the FFA. But in a positive vein, this day brings me these few moments this morning to share with you some of the thoughts and feelings that dwell inside of me.

The difficulty that I find in expressing myself at this time goes beyond any verbal descriptions that I could possibly utilize to explain the feelings of emotion that I am filled with. To most it would probably seem fitting to travel on a journey into the past. To a time six years, two months, and twelve days ago when a young man in Ferndale, California, walked into his first vocational agriculture classroom, and then to follow his path up to the present day. But it was Thomas Jefferson who once said, "I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." So in that light, I must realize that this is a time to look ahead rather than to reflect on the past. A time to look to the future rather than to reminisce on the past events.

We seem to be in a period in our country where we are constantly looking back. Everywhere we go we hear talk of the "good old days" in years past. We are at a time in history where we are continually being taken back to that era 200 years ago when our forefathers first banded together for the cause of freedom.

Yes, fellow Future Farmers and friends of the FFA, today as we celebrate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, it certainly is a time to reflect back on our proud heritage. But more than a time to look back, this also is a time to look ahead. To plan for the future which can only be as bright as the torch that we carry as the new generation which will inherit the traditions that have provided the strength of our Nation.

In June while attending the Colorado State Convention, an FFA member approached me in a crowd following the final session and handed me a small wooden plaque which she said she had seen that day, and that she wanted me to have because it reminded her of some of the talks I had given at the convention. She left before I could barely thank her or even ask her name. But the inscription on the plaque has left a lasting impression on me. On it was the word "CHALLENGE," and it was followed by a paragraph which read:

"Every man has within him the ability to do great things. His touchstone is challenge. No matter what his field of endeavor a man must measure himself against the demands of the world. To rise to the challenge . . .





ultimately this is the reason men build bridges, climb mountains, and do a thousand other things that manifest personal achievement and satisfaction."

The future presents us the greatest challenges we can possibly face. So as we go forward, the time is now to prepare for the challenges ahead. What better time than now, in the midst of our Nation's Bicentennial celebration, Nation itself, was founded upon strong principles and strengthened through the American people once again, in the same spirit and pride that filled our infant country in 1776. To once again move forward and build for the better life ahead rather than look back at what has been.

In this very day and age we find the challenge of tomorrow and the influence of change all around us. The world is changing today at such an increasing rate that we find merely keeping up with change offers us one of our greatest challenges.

Alvin Toffler talks a great deal about the acceleration of change in his book entitled, "Future Shock." In it he cites that if the last 50,000 years of man's existence were divided into lifetimes of approximately 62 years each, there would be approximately 800 such lifetimes. Of these 800, fully 650 have been spent in caves.

Only during the last seventy lifetimes has it been possible to communicate from one lifetime to another — as writing made it possible to do. Only during the last six lifetimes have masses of men ever seen a printed word. Only during the last four lifetimes has it been possible to measure time with any precision. Only in the last two has anyone, anywhere, used an electric motor. And the overwhelming majority of all of the material goods we use in daily life has been developed within the present, the 800th lifetime.

It is certainly beyond denial that change is becoming more and more of an influence as it thrusts us forward on our trajectory into the future. Even in our own organization, it can obviously be seen that the FFA has experienced more change in the past eight years than in the forty years before. Fortunately, most has been positive change, and the FFA still remains today as an organization which is largely of, by, and for the members. Yet it seems that more often we are finding adults on all levels of our organization who refuse to allow the members of the FFA to meet the challenges which are rightfully theirs.

The Future Farmers of America is an organization which, much like our nation itself, was founded upon strong principles and strengthened through lasting traditions. We can be forever proud of our traditions, and those concepts which have remained solid throughout the years. Yet we have to accept the simple fact that if we intend to continually progress we must quit wasting time looking back and instead focus our sights ahead to what is yet to be accomplished. That's why we selected as a theme during this Bicentennial year, "A Future For America," because we strongly feel that it is in that direction, while building upon the foundations of the past, that we must devote our full efforts.

So if the FFA truly is "A Future For America," it is up to us as members of this organization to fully dedicate ourselves from this time forward and meet, head-on, the challenges that the future places before us each and every day through the change that is taking place in society. It's time to stand up, today, and move **forward**, without hesitation, in a determined effort to achieve the goals that we set for ourselves as individuals and as an organization.

This past year I've given a countless number of speeches on the importance of goal setting and future planning. Yet the need to emphasize these points are there as they've always been. It's often too easy to simply lean back and cherish all of the great memories of the good times we've had and the progress we've made in the past. But the past is gone and the greatest challenges are still around us waiting to be conquered.

How convenient it would be if each of us had in our possessions our own personal crystal ball that could tell us of the tomorrows that are so much of a mystery today. Yet we know that such a situation would prove disastrous simply because it would remove virtually all of the challenge that man thrives on so greatly. So instead, we must accept the pure fact that what the future places in store for us depends largely on what we place in store for the future. And if we are to shape that future so that it may best serve all of humanity, we must begin making those plans now.

The FFA careers of we six national officers conclude following the close of this convention, and we can be happy that we have had the opportunity of serving this great organization, and we'll long hold with us the fantastic memories of this incredible year. Last year as I passed through the nominating committee, I felt the tremendous challenges I was then facing. First of all the challenge of whether I could actually be elected to a national office, and the second, even greater challenge I faced upon conquering the first: whether I could serve a full year in that capacity to the best of my ability.

I hope that in the last thirteen months I have adequately filled the position which I am soon to relinquish. Yet I know full well that the greatest challenges are ahead of me. I can look back and feel fortunate for the good times and the progress that has been made this past year. But I know that even better times lie ahead and that more progress can be made, for we've yet to see the best in life.

Today we pass the leadership of this organization on to six new National officers, and we can look ahead to the next year with confidence in the progress our organization will experience under their leadership. I hope and pray that these six will not take their challenges lightly, for in the selection of a team of national officers, we place a great deal of the future of the FFA for the next year in their hands.

As for the six of us, once again it is a time to look ahead rather than back. The challenges that the future offers us are far greater than those that we've already faced.

I look ahead, to the best in life,  
But t'would be easy to reflect,  
On a year such as this where  
We've always been the subject  
Of glamour, glory, and wide acclaim.  
In front for all to see.  
But we can't look back to what has been,  
So we look ahead to what can be.

Look ahead, to the best in life,  
Look ahead, not behind.  
For the greatest is yet to be discovered,  
The richest we've yet to find.  
The past is all behind us now,  
Forward we set our sights.  
For we've yet to do our finest work,  
We have yet to reach the heights.

Look ahead, to the best in life.  
Set your goal and score.  
As even when all the tasks seem done,



There's always room for more.  
The future belongs to a new generation,  
The bold, the strong, the true.  
Those who meet the challenges  
Whose work is never through!

## FREEWAY OF AMERICA

BART BRASHEARS, National FFA Vice President, Southern Region

Today, we as Americans are a transit and fast moving society; and we increase our mobility every year. Each of us travel the roads and freeways of this country almost daily. The freeways of America are filled with millions of people moving from one place to another whether for business or for pleasure. The freeways stretch their narrow ribbons of asphalt, concrete, and steel to every corner of this great and beautiful country so blessed by God. They connect our farms and marketplaces, our busy cities and peaceful countrysides, our snow-capped mountains and burning deserts. They link our towering forests and sandy beaches, our rolling prairies and timeless mountain lakes, our schools and churches, and our homes. Yes, our concept of the Freeway of America is a system of transportation routes familiar to us all — almost a way of life.

But, the Freeway of America that I speak is not a freeway of asphalt, concrete, and steel. In actuality, the Freeway of America is a way of life for all Americans. The Freeway of America is the road of freedom this country has traveled since its conception centuries ago. The free way has allowed this country to travel to unequaled heights of individual and national success. America's secret of success as an industrial, technological and intellectual power is the "free way" of America.

Several hundred years ago our forefathers came to this country, not for the rich bounty of a new land, but to enrich their lives in a land of real freedom. They sought to be unchained from monarchy and oppression of stangling societies throughout the known world. Men, women, and children poured into this wilderness continent in search of the free way of living, as lived by our native Americans. People with high ideals and principles forged and molded a self-governing society with freedoms unequaled in all the world. The Freeway of America, they shaped, insured freedoms in every area of human endeavor. Americans traveled freely in worship as they were inspired by God, not forced by men, Education was opened to all, not restricted to a select few. Each decided, by vote, who would represent their interest in government and even become candidates themselves, instead of being ruled by social elites or by dynasty. And finally, Americans could choose freely their career directions in life. Predestination by social class, race, color, or creed has become a thing of the past. Men who lived to build the Freeway of America have names common to all of us: Washington, Monroe, Hamilton, Adams, Jefferson, Webster, Grant, Truman, and Kennedy. These were common men with uncommon dreams of living free as Americans, as your countless thousands who have also lived and died to keep the Freeway of America passable for future generations.





Traveling in various directions throughout our history, Americans have reached their destination in life. However high and however far they traveled on the Freeway of America. FFA Greenhands were eagerly finding the paths and not by the state. Examples of Americans with successful travels are numerous. James Madison, oldest of twelve children, was described as a frail and sickly child. Free to apply himself, he became President of the United States and the so-called "Father of our Constitution." Andrew Carnegie began work in a bobbin bay in a cotton factory for \$1.20 a week. Traveling the Freeway, he later became a wealthy steel manufacturer and contributed great amounts of his wealth to education. Thomas Edison, a young man considered "addled" by his school master, had only three months of formal education, but changed the lives of millions of people with over 1100 inventions from an electric light to the phonograph. Claimed as the world's greatest inventor, Edison defined genius as one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration. Mark Twain, after the death of his father, worked as a printer's apprentice and later an apprentice to a Mississippi River pilot. Because of freely developed ability to write, Mark Twain was called, "the Lincoln of our literature." And at the age of fifteen, while working in his father's shop, George Washington invented a rotary engine. His career work rewarded his efforts with over 400 patents; and he organized sixty different companies. These and untold millions have made this country the rich and great nation it is today because they were free and traveled hard to achieve their marks of excellence as Americans.

Their successes stand as road markers on the Freeway of America to point us in the right direction and to make us conscious of our location and distance to our next goal.

As I look back to this year gone quickly by, I see the many roads I have traveled with my national officer brothers, Pete, Gary, Gerrit, Scott and Alpha. A road never again to travel as we have this year: but a road I shall never forget!

As a national officer, the Freeway of America has taken me into many different places from the mountains of Wyoming and Montana to Miami Beach, and from Washington, D.C. to the enchanted New Mexico plateaus. But more important than places, my travels have allowed me to share my life with the lives of others. Lives of people who were themselves traveling on the Freeway of America. FFA greenhands were eagerly finding the paths of a successful FFA career as they prepared and worked for degrees, offices, and various awards. Chapter and state officers were learning and training to become more effective leaders. Leaders in farming, business, government, and education were progressing forward to meet today's world-wide challenges. And people who were traveling to understand and help other people; and to become more aware of Him that is within us.

FFA members and friends, the Freeway of America is ours by heritage. We were born free to live our lives in the direction of our choosing. As our Creator breathed the breath of life into man, He endowed all mankind with the ability to think, to learn, to love, to communicate, and to work. With his divine gift of life, God has granted us the power of the whole universe to unfold and grow. With able minds and willing hands, we have what is necessary to achieve all heights of individual and national success and to insure that the Freeway of America does not end.

It is time that we as Americans rise up and move ahead to take advantage of all the opportunities of the Freeway of America. Strive to reach from within yourself all that you have to give; and dedicate yourself to reaching your highest aspirations of life on God's blessed Freeway of America.

## Agricultural Career Show

The Agricultural Career Show was established as a part of the National FFA Convention in 1966, adding a new dimension to the week-long activities. Professional societies, trade associations and educational institutions provide career materials and counseling in all areas of agribusiness. During its ten year existence, thousands of FFA members and advisors have been able to assemble the latest information available on career opportunities in the broad field of agribusiness and natural resources. In addition, high school counselors and school administrators become more familiar with the industry of agriculture through personal contact with the professionals manning the attractive career show exhibits.

Lists of the Agricultural Career Show exhibitors, with their addresses are maintained at the National FFA Center, and made available to vocational agriculture teachers. These exhibitors make career materials available throughout the year.

### EXHIBITORS

**AG Communicators**, American Association of Agricultural College Editors, American Agricultural Editors' Association, National Agri-Marketing Association, National Association of Farm Broadcasters

**American Association of Nurserymen & National Landscape Association**

**American Fisheries Society**

**American Phytopathological Society**

**American Society of Agricultural Engineers**

**American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of American**  
**Soil Science Society of America**

**American Society for Horticultural Science**

**Census of Agriculture**

**Central Missouri State College**

**Cooperative Extension Service**

**Division of Basic Grants USOE**

**Environmental Protection Agency**

**Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute**

**Farmers Home Administration**

**Federal Energy Administration**

**Jackson [Mn.] Area Vocational-Technical Institute**

**National Association of Animal Breeders**

**National Farmers Organization**

**National Grain and Feed Association**

**National Society of Livestock Record Associations**

**National Vocational Agriculture Teachers' Association, Inc.**

**North Central Kansas Area Vo-Tech School**

**Park College**

**Rockhurst College**

**Society of American Florists**

**Society of American Foresters**

**U.S. Department of Labor — Manpower Administration**

**The Wildlife Society**

**Youth for Understanding**

Committee Reports:

NOMINATING

We, the Nominating Committee, do hereby submit the following candidates for National FFA Office for the year 1975-76. After having given careful and deliberate consideration to all applications, we offer the following slate of candidates for the delegates consideration:

- President ..... BOBBY TUCKER, Mineola, Texas
- Secretary ..... MIKE JACKSON, Tipton, Indiana
- Vice President, Central Region .... RONALD J. WILSON, Manhattan, Kansas
- Vice President, Eastern Region ..... DOUGLAS D. LOUDENSLAGER,  
Morral, Ohio
- Vice President, Southern Region ..... ELTON BOULDIN, Boaz, Alabama
- Vice President, Western Region ..... LEONARD J. ANDERSON, JR.,  
Albin, Wyoming

Respectfully submitted,

- |                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ROBB R. BOYD, North Dakota (Chairman) | STEVE McPEEK, Hawaii    |
| JUDITH LIPTON, Connecticut            | MIKE DICKMAN, Oregon    |
| GARY W. BLACK, Georgia                | JAMES DREWS, New Jersey |
| TOMMY GLADDEN, South Carolina         | RON HEBRINK, Minnesota  |
| STEVEN L. McCUISTON, Kentucky         |                         |

AUDITING

We, the members of the 1975 Auditing Committee, after careful examination and investigation of the financial status of the FFA Organization, from the material presented us by the National FFA office, for the fiscal year July 1, 1974 through June 30, 1975, hereby make the following recommendations:

1. That the audit report of Stoy, Malone and Company be accepted as being true and accurate.
2. That the national organization commend Mr. Julian Campbell, National FFA Treasurer; Mr. Edward J. Hawkins, FFA Administrative Director, and the staff for their continuing efforts, interests and dedicated service for the betterment of the National FFA Organization.

Respectfully submitted,

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| TIM MATHIAS, Arkansas (Chairman) | KENNY CARLISLE, Delaware      |
| TOM LIMBAUGH, Idaho              | JEFF STEPHENS, North Carolina |
| CHARLES ADAMS, III, Georgia      |                               |



## Bicentennial & Golden Anniversary

### BICENTENNIAL

We, the members of the Bicentennial Committee submit the following recommendations for participation in our National Bicentennial celebration through "Celebration '76," a salute to our agriculture heritage by participating in an eight step FFA plan. Recognition will be earned by designating National FFA Bicentennial Chapters at the 1976 National Convention.

#### Local

The committee urges chapters be designated Bicentennial Chapters by participating in the following "Celebration '76" programs:

1. Food for America
2. FFA Washington Conference Program
3. Building Our American Communities
4. FFA International — WEA
5. FFA Week
6. Farmfest '76
7. FFA Calendar
8. Alumni — '76 A Year of Commitment

#### State

1. We recommend 100% support of state associations in sending delegates to participate in Farmfest '76.
2. Encourage the Minnesota Association to represent the FFA as tour guides and in operating a children's barnyard at Farmfest '76.
3. The committee suggests that the National Executive Secretary, Wm. Paul Gray, and Duane Leach, Farmfest-FFA liaison, supervise the state activities and displays at the FFA headquarters tent at Farmfest '76.

#### National

1. Distribute a list of ideas for chapters and states to participate in during the Bicentennial celebration.
2. Recognize Bicentennial FFA Chapters at the 1976 National Convention.
3. Prepare FFA handouts and a short film for the FFA headquarters at Farmfest '76.

The committee sincerely appreciates the work of the FFA Board of Directors, National Officers, FFA staff and 1974 Bicentennial Committee for organizing a Bicentennial celebration program.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

We the members of the Golden Anniversary Committee submit the following recommendations for participation in the FFA Golden Anniversary:

1. Complete the writing of the 50 Year History (Dr. A.W. Tenney).
2. Develop a 16 mm film of approximately 28 minutes featuring Star Farmers/Agribusinessmen of past, present and future depicting activities of the FFA.
3. High priority be given to finalizing plans for the National FFA Archives.



## Scenes of 48th National FFA Convention

Above: ATTENTION!  
Right: Hon. Terrell Bell  
U.S. Commission of Education  
Below: Recognizing International  
Guests





Above: Honoring Foundation  
sponsoring members  
Left: Robert Earle, Chairman  
elect, Sponsoring Committee  
Below: One of many receiving  
the highest degree.





4. Develop a slide series on the 50th Anniversary Theme to use on the chapter level
5. Develop a special FFA exhibit at the 1978 convention to include:
  - a. All official FFA paintings.
  - b. Archival articles relating to the FFA heritage.
  - c. Encourage the use of the new Municipal Building by allowing FFA Foundation to sponsor exhibits saluting FFA.
  - d. State exhibits of compatible nature showing their contributions to the FFA Heritage.
6. Suggest that local chapters and state associations use National Convention Proceedings as
  - a. Tell the role of the FFA in the development of vocational agriculture/agribusiness as well as FFA in individual development and FFA in international agriculture.
  - b. Promote community service in each state and chapter by the national office budgeting funds for the production of special radio, TV and news spots (high priority).
7. Fulfill the goal of printing and the use of the 50th Anniversary commemorative stamp.
8. Develop and sell at minimum cost a 50th Anniversary Medallion.
9. Calendar Department arrange 12 original pictures to depict the heritage of the FFA.
10. Supply Service to develop special sale items including:
  - a. 50th Anniversary Banquet supplies.
  - b. 50th Anniversary Flag.
  - c. Promotional items including billboards.
  - d. A 1928 design jacket for the use of delegates only at the 50th National Convention.
11. Give proper recognition of past National FFA Officers by:
  - a. Sending official invitations for the national convention.
  - b. Developing a slide series.
  - c. Publishing progress reports of past national officers in the National FFA Magazine during the 50th year.
12. Gear the 1977 talent show toward a nostalgic manner.
13. Stress the sale of calendar painting reprints.
14. Prepare FFA historic display for use at state and national events.
15. Present honor plaques to all chapters active for 50 years.
16. Develop new official FFA songs.
17. Print a series of "Milestones of the FFA" in the National FFA Magazine.
18. Develop a skit on the history of the FFA for states and chapters.
19. Develop Anniversary "Idea" Booklet.
20. Chapters fly FFA flag all year.

Respectfully submitted,

LYLE WILLEY, Vermont (Chairman)  
 MIKE MOSS, Mississippi  
 LYNN BAGLEY, Utah  
 DOUG BRADLEY, Virginia

MIKE KAWLESKI, Wisconsin  
 GARY BUTTERS, Pennsylvania  
 MARK HOLOUBEK, Nebraska  
 SHARON SMITH, New Jersey

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

We, the 1975 International Program Committee, submit the following recommendations for 1975-76:

In view of the past success of the FFA International Program, we support further development and success through continued effort, by encouraging increased participation and publicity of international activities through the following:

1. Encourage state associations and local chapters to make use of the WEA slide series, which is now available through the FFA Supply Service.

2. Encourage states to publicize FFA international activities through official state publications and other available media.
3. Suggest involvement of FFA Alumni affiliates on the local and state level in sponsoring international FFA activities.
4. Encourage investigation of collegiate and pre-collegiate education in conjunction with supervised agricultural experiences as a part of the WEA program.
5. Lend support to and stimulate interest in the International Ag. Olympics which will be held in November, 1976.
6. Encourage participation in the study seminar activities for state presidents and official delegates.
7. Encourage chapter participation in the WEA portion of "Celebrate '76" FFA Bicentennial Activities.
8. Recommend the WEA have an exhibit at the Farmfest '76 activities.
9. Appreciate and support the FFA Foundation in finding sponsors for FFA international activities.
10. We extend our sincere appreciation to Massey-Ferguson Inc. for their support of our international program.
11. We recommend the 1975 WEA participants be listed in the 48th Convention Proceedings and commend them for their participation.

We want to thank Mr. Lennie Gamage for his assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

LOREN ANDREWS, Rhode Island (Chairman)  
RICHARD McDANIE, Ohio  
BLAKE NAY, Utah

DAVID HENNEBERRY, Minnesota  
HOWARD MORRISON, Arizona  
GREG DAVIS, Pennsylvania

## NATIONAL INCENTIVE AWARDS

We, the members of the National Incentive Awards Committee, in hopes of increasing participation in the FFA Incentive Awards Programs, submit the following recommendations:

### A. General

1. That a member oriented awards reference guide be published in an issue of the National Future Farmer Magazine.
2. That winners and sponsors on all levels be recognized through the use of pictures and slide presentations, with The National Future Farmer Magazine used to explain award areas and recognize winners.
3. That state associations provide special training at vo-ag teachers' conferences, especially the first year advisors, for the purpose of informing them of awards available.
4. That state officers be trained at regional state officer conferences to inform and motivate chapter members through the use of state leadership conferences and chapter visits.

### B. Foundation Awards

1. That an achievement award check list be used as a format or basis for selection of chapter proficiency award winners.
2. That the National FFA Foundation sponsor a Chapter Star Agribusinessman Award for local chapters.

### C. Achievement Awards

1. Recommend that chapters be encouraged to develop a check list for each curriculum in their vocational agriculture program.

2. State associations encourage chapters to appoint committees responsible for developing check lists.
3. Slide tape presentations and posters be made available for incentive awards.

The committee sincerely appreciates the work of the National FFA Foundation in funding incentive awards and commends them for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

AUSTIN SORENSON, Montana (Chairman)  
 LARRY REMER, Wisconsin  
 HAL FRANCIS, Mississippi  
 JOHNNY LANE, Texas

BILL GIBSON, Alabama  
 JOE O'DONNELL, Nevada  
 STEVE MEYER, Oklahoma  
 MICHAEL HAT, California

## NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARDS

We, the 1975 National Chapter Awards Committee, extend our thanks and appreciation to Lilly Endowment, Inc., Dow Chemical USA, Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute and the National FFA Foundation for their outstanding sponsorship of the FFA Awards Programs. We submit the following recommendations:

### A. Publicity

1. Encourage states to send informational newsletters to all chapters.
2. Encourage states to develop a state officer-chapter visit program to visit every chapter.
3. Inform advisors of programs and materials through statewide advisor conferences.
4. Encourage use of the films "The Game Plan" and "Safety in Action" along with other visual aids and reference materials available to FFA chapters.
5. Recognize and award certificates at the National FFA Convention to the three states with the highest percentage of participation in each of the National Chapter Safety, National Chapter and BOAC programs.
6. Increase utilization of news medias to recognize award winners and inform the public of programs.
7. Continue use and distribution of Thrust '75 and other reference materials to state associations and local chapters.

### B. Award Applications

1. Continue thorough revisions of all applications as necessary.
2. Change color of applications in order to distinguish the Superior Award application (Part I) from the National Award application (Part II) in each program.

### C. National Chapter Safety

1. Encourage use of the National Chapter Safety Award Handbook for chapter planning programs.

### D. National Chapter Award Program

1. Add to Public Relations-Division IX, a question of chapter participation in the Food for America program.
2. Add to Alumni Relations-Division IX, a question about having a local Affiliate Alumni
3. Award more points to Alumni Relations-Division IX, in the National Chapter Award



**E. BOAC**

1. Add a question to the BOAC application about state officer visitation and explanation of BOAC in a chapter BOAC program.
2. The "National BOAC Winners' Citation" should be referred to as the "President's BOAC Citation" and signed by the President of the United States.
3. Encourage continued use of the BOAC National FFA Chapter Community Development Program Handbook.

The 1975 National Chapter Awards Committee urges all FFA members and chapters to participate in these outstanding FFA programs.

Respectfully submitted,

BOYD SCHAUFELBERGER, Illinois (Chairman)	STEVE ENGER, South Dakota
STEVE KAMPFE, Nebraska	JAMES ROBERTS, Massachusetts
DARRELL OKANO, Hawaii	KENT HENDRIX, Arkansas
DEE SOKOLOSKY, Oklahoma	RON JACOBSEN, Wyoming

**NATIONAL CONTESTS**

We, the 1975 National Contest Committee, wish to express our appreciation to Ted Amick, Leon Wagley, Les Thompson, John Lacey and Peter Johnson for their efforts in organizing and carrying out of the 1975 National Contests. We would like to extend a special thanks and our appreciation to:

Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.; Associated Milk Producers, Inc.; Jones Dairy Farm; Wilson & Co., Inc.; Ralston Purina Company; The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company; American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.; Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc.; Gulf Crop Protection Products, Gulf Oil Chemical Co.; Trans-Sphere Corporation; Geo. A. Hormel & Co.; Oscar Mayer & Co.; and the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

We would also like to thank Robert Bell and Roger Lawrence for their assistance in the operation of this committee.

We submit the following recommendations:

1. That consideration be given to holding a National Parliamentary Procedure Contest.
2. That consideration be given to holding a National Horse Judging Contest (separate from the National Livestock Contest).
3. That Milker Unit Head Parts be taken out of the National Dairy Products Contest.
4. That consideration be given to holding a Natural Resources Contest.
5. That a certificate of participation be given to every member participating in a national contest.
6. That the national contests be periodically reviewed by qualified committees.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY GIACOMINI, California (Chairman)	RICK STRATTON, Florida
BOB GRAHAM, New Mexico	REX KYLE, Texas
PAUL COLLINS, Delaware	KATHY KUBICEK, Minnesota
HENRY FELCH, Maine	

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

It is indeed a pleasure to report to you on behalf of the 1975 National Convention Committee. We recommend that the Future Farmers of America extend our most sincere appreciation to the individuals and groups, for their time and dedication, who have made this convention so successful.

1. The 1974-75 National FFA Officer team, Alpha, Scott, Pete, Bart, Gerrit and Gary for being the example of inspiration, compassion, leadership and friendship throughout this year, and at this 48th convention.
2. The National Advisor, Mr. H. N. Hunsicker; National Executive Secretary, Mr. Wm. Paul Gray; National Treasurer, Mr. J. M. Campbell; National Board of Directors; all national staff members and secretaries; state staffs and local advisors for their untiring efforts and dedication to the FFA.
3. The sponsors of the FFA Foundation for their tremendous support which makes it possible for the FFA to honor their top groups and individuals.
4. The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller, Vice President of the United States, for taking time out of his busy schedule to share with us and for his support of agriculture and FFA.
5. The Honorable Jimmy Carter, former Governor of Georgia, for his remarks to us as a former FFA member.
6. Mr. Edward F. Carter, 1975 Chairman of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee, and all the members, for their outstanding service and leadership exhibited in that organization.
7. The Honorable Charles B. Wheeler, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri; the Kansas City Police Department and the residents of Kansas City for their hospitality and loyalty to the FFA.
8. To all members of the National FFA Band and Chorus and special talent, and a special thanks to our convention organist, Nancy Fairless of the Tennessee Association. We would also like to deeply thank Mr. Roger Heath, Mr. Marvin Myers, Mr. Don Erickson and their assistants for their faithful service and many hours rendered to the FFA.
9. The Kansas City/FFA Advisory Committee, Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and management and staff of the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium for their loyalty toward the FFA. A special thanks to Mr. Bill Brown, lighting, and Mr. Don Wolf, sound.
10. Mr. Art Mitchell, Director of Youth Activities with the REA in Washington, D.C.
11. Mr. E. Van Vleck and Farm Journal, for their outstanding slide program of a Future For America.
12. Opryland USA for their excellent salute to the music of the Grand Ole Opry. Special appreciation goes to the Ararat Temple for sponsoring this program.
13. To the Shriners and Sears Roebuck for opening up a game room for FFA members.
14. Honorable John Connelly, former Governor of Texas, for his appropriate remarks.
15. Johnny Bench, professional baseball player, Cincinnati Reds, for his support of the FFA.
16. Mr. Jerry Clower, Yazoo City, Mississippi, for an inspiring and entertaining address.
17. Mr. Luther Lalum, President of the NVATA, for representing all vo-ag teachers across the Nation.
18. Dr. Terrell H. Bell, U.S. Commissioner of Education, Washington, D.C., for his remarks reassuring his support to the FFA.
19. Colonel Harlan Sanders for his special remarks and loyalty for us.
20. The people of the American Royal for providing a day of festivities that was educational and entertaining for the members. Special thanks to Miss Tanya Tucker.
21. The Wurlitzer Organ Company for providing the electric organ which added pleasure to the convention.
22. The directors and assistants of the Press Corps, Courtesy Corps, Ushers, Stage/Arena Crews and all others who assisted in the smoothness of the convention.
23. The sponsors of all meal functions for taking time to meet with us and giving their continued support to us.
24. The sponsors of the slide and film presentations for their time and efforts in constructing these presentations to give us a better insight of our organization.
25. All companies, civic clubs and individuals who sponsored and made possible the many activities providing involvement and enjoyment for the FFA members.
26. The trade and professional associations, exhibitors of the information and worthwhile agricultural career exhibits and the state associations for their important and dynamic exhibits.

27. The respected judges, officials and participants in the various contests, awards programs and other special events for serving the FFA by selecting the winners.
28. Mr. Frank B. Elliott, Administrator, Farmers Home Administration, Washington, D.C., for his remarks and support to the FFA.
29. The Color Guard from Fort Leavenworth, U. S. Army Base.
30. All organizations of the press, television and radio that have let the Nation know about the convention, and our appreciation to Dan Reuwee for his publicizing efforts. A special thanks to the major television networks who sacrificed time to cover the Vice President's inspiring address and other convention proceedings.
31. Mark Mayfield for opening the 1975 National FFA Convention, with an appropriate invocation.
32. All chapter representatives and their advisors, and all state officer representatives and delegates for their attendance and cooperation in the conducting of the 48th National FFA Convention.
33. We commend the FFA members who attended this year's convention and conducted themselves in a manner that reflected the high ideals of the FFA. We strongly suggest that states use careful selection of convention participants so that future disciplinary problems will not arise. Local advisors and officers are likewise responsible for dress and conduct by participants at the convention.
34. The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company for once again climaxing our convention with their program.

Upon reviewing the 47th National Convention Proceedings and the 48th National Convention, we would like to thank, appreciate and commend the National Officers and Board of Directors for the biggest and best conventions ever. Thank you! In an effort to further this achieved excellence, we would offer these suggestions:

1. We feel that the extra time allotted for committee work for official delegates was well spent. Thank you.
2. We recommend consideration of increasing judging contests at the national level by offering contests implemented at the state level.
3. Encourage an atmosphere of inspirational patriotic pride at the 49th national convention by use of music, slides and speakers.
4. Special appreciation goes to all our guest speakers. In the future we would suggest the selection of speakers whose comments pertain to the individual members' needs and the true aims and purposes of the FFA.
5. We would ask for consideration of establishing a national convention preview, by region, to be conducted by the Regional Vice President. It would be implemented for the benefit of local chapter members to explain the importance and meaning of national awards and degrees, show audio visual reviews from the Supply Service, conduct state organizational meetings and to explain the mechanics of his/her convention.
6. Suggest that local chapters and state associations use National Convention Proceedings as one source for their FFA knowledge tests and quizzes.
7. Attendance at this year's convention was tremendous. In an effort to increase participation, allow more time for presentation of awards, hear guest speakers and special music, we suggest the following: that the national convention be lengthened by one-half day, beginning the General Business Session on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIE SMILEY, Washington (Chairman)  
MARK ELLISON, Texas  
CARLA VAN METER, Arizona  
RICHARD HARRISON, New York

DON NORDBY, North Dakota  
KIRK WEIH, Iowa  
TIM RUFFIN, North Carolina  
SCOTT MILLER, Ohio



## NATIONAL DEGREE PROGRAM

The National Degree Program Committee, after careful consideration and reviewing the 47th National Convention Proceedings, submit the following recommendations:

1. We suggest that Proposal C relating to amending Article V, Section B, of the National FFA Constitution, be accepted by the delegate body, in bringing the degree requirements in harmony with the new Constitutional change.
2. We recommend that the word "blazer" be stricken from Article VI, Section B, Number 4, under Active Membership Degrees and Privileges in the Constitution.
3. We find that in reviewing the qualifications for Chapter Farmer and State Farmer Degrees in relation to parliamentary abilities that continuity is lacking in the wording. We recommend that the Board examine a possible word change.
4. We recommend that state associations inform candidates for the American Farmer Degree to pay their dues and be familiar with the eligibility clause of the Constitution.
5. We recommend that more attention should be paid to the part of the American Farmer application relating to occupational goal and we recommend that valid systematic instruction in college or post-secondary schools leading toward acquiring agricultural training and experience be considered investments toward a career relating to agriculture and/or agribusiness.
6. We would also like to encourage local chapters to publicize recipients of the American Farmer Degree to serve as an inspiration to local members.
7. States should be encouraged to give proper recognition to the FFA Foundation for making available cash awards for Star Degrees.
8. We encourage better utilization of all State Farmers and American Farmers to serve as an inspiration to FFA members locally.
9. We recommend that the American Farmer Handbook, which will be available in the Spring of 1976, and Thurst '75 materials be used by FFA members in relation to their advances in degrees.

Respectfully submitted,

DENNIE GRABILL, Michigan (Chairman)  
QUAY YENDALL, JR., Maryland  
ELVIS CAVALIER, Louisiana

TED J. WILLIAMS, Oregon  
STEPHEN SEIDEL, Texas  
BRAD CARLSON, Wyoming

## NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI

We, the 1975 National FFA Alumni Committee, commend the Alumni Association for the progress it has made in supporting the National FFA Organization, and in doing so submit the following recommendations:

1. That local FFA chapters set a goal to start an FFA Alumni Affiliate and that established chapters set a goal to increase membership.
2. That all State FFA Associations set a goal to increase their number of FFA Alumni Affiliates by 10% of their local FFA chapters.
3. That Alumni organizers realize and stress the importance of the local chapter affiliates.
4. That collegiate affiliates be organized and run in an efficient manner equal to local Alumni affiliates.
5. That chapters participating in the Building Our American Communities Program and other long-range programs, be encouraged to involve their Alumni affiliate.
6. That the Legion of Merit Award winners be recognized at state conventions and also that "State" Legion of Merit programs be started.
7. That school administrators be invited to become actively involved as members of local affiliates.
8. That local Alumni affiliates place direct emphasis on leadership development of local FFA chapter members.

9. That an "Alumni Article" be a part of state association newsletter.
10. That heavy emphasis be placed on Alumni membership drives, in the spring to appeal to graduating seniors.
11. That each state convention have an Alumni booth for the purpose of recruiting new members and promoting the awareness of the FFA Alumni.
12. That State Alumni Associations develop "beginning teacher" packets on the Alumni organization in their state.
13. That all State FFA Officers be familiar with Alumni structure in their state and the individuals holding office in that structure.
14. That all State FFA Officers be encouraged to become Alumni members.
15. That State Alumni Chairmen be placed on that State Foundation Sponsoring Committee.
16. That the structure and functions of State Alumni Associations be directly visible to local affiliates as well as to the National Alumni organization.
17. That a State Alumni Report be given during the State Vocational Agriculture/Agribusiness Teachers' Conferences.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID PARKER, Indiana (Chairman)  
FRANK DAWSON, Alabama  
DANNY GENTRY, Kentucky  
TOMMY HUNT, Tennessee

JON SCHELL, Illinois  
TIM ENDERS, Texas  
ED HAGUE, Michigan  
EDDIE STOWE, Virginia

## NATIONAL FFA SUPPLY SERVICE

We, the National FFA Supply Service Committee offer the following recommendations:

1. That the following items be offered for the use by the females:
  - a. An official scarf to be designed by the Supply Service.
  - b. A roll-top turtleneck both long sleeve and sleeveless styles.
  - c. A laboratory work smock.
2. That the official dress for female members be further specified to states, that the skirt be dark blue or black.
3. That the Supply Service take necessary steps to provide one standard emblem which is uniform in color and detail to be used on the official jacket.
4. That the cover page for the official scrapbook be offered as a single item from the filler insert.
5. That the official FFA business cards be offered in the Supply Service catalogue.
6. That a more permanent method of attachment be employed in affixing the official emblem and/or name plates to plaques and trophies.
7. That achievement certificates be offered by the Supply Service for chapter use.
8. That the official FFA Alumni jewelry and paraphernalia be made available through the FFA Supply Service catalogue.
9. That the use of denim pants and skirts be discouraged as a part of official dress.
10. That FFA members and chapters make all purchases of official items through the National FFA Supply Service.

The committee takes this opportunity to commend the Supply Service for their efficiency and high standard of quality. We especially recognize the unique and attractive Bicentennial cover for this year's catalogue.

Respectfully submitted,

ROB HOVIS, Ohio (Chairman)  
CHRIS HARDEE, Florida  
RICK BRANDEL, Idaho

ANDREA HAMILTON, Vermont  
JOSE QUINTANA, Puerto Rico  
GARY MITCHELL, Alabama

## NATIONAL FFA WEEK

We, the members of the National FFA Week Committee, submit the following recommendations for increased participation and utilization of materials available to help improve public relations during FFA Week:

1. Stress using FFA Week to chapters at any time coming in contact with members, such as state camps and leadership conferences.
2. Recognition of chapters on the state level for outstanding participation during FFA Week.
3. National Center make available a booklet on how to make an effective slide program for chapters and state associations which should include tips on photography, writing scripts, etc.
4. Encourage chapters and state associations to receive proclamations from local town and city officials and state governors.
5. Make better use of radio and TV through state and national officers by having programs and spot announcements statewide and nationwide.
6. Evaluate local public relations programs to determine where publicity is needed and would be most beneficial.
7. Encourage chapters to make use of materials available from National FFA Supply Service.

Respectfully submitted,

WESLEY THORN, Missouri (Chairman)  
SCOTT WILLIAMS, Maine  
CLIFTON FISHER, North Carolina  
EDIE BROWN, California

RICHARD KUKLEWICZ, Massachusetts  
JAY MAYFIELD, Kansas  
DOREEN BENTON, Rhode Island

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

We, the members of the National Leadership Conference Committee have reviewed, evaluated and accepted all aspects of the Washington Conference Program and Conference staff recommendations for the summer of 1976 and make the following proposals:

### Chapter Conference Program

1. Devote more time to instruction on basic FFA history and the history's importance.
2. Increase the number of conferences to seven week-long programs.
3. The committee supports the conference staff's recommendation to expand the conference program by adding one additional day to allow visitation to historical sights to highlight the 1976 Bicentennial Washington Conference Program.
4. Further consideration be given to the possibility of an additional conference sight to allow for greater participation.

### State Presidents' Conference

1. Pre-mail to all conference participants all information concerning dates, times, places and suggested preparation on Congressional visits.
2. Invite farm groups to attend in order that each attending person can better understand the updated and present status of American agriculture.

### Both Chapter and State Presidents' Conferences

1. Pre-mail to each Congressman a packet containing Congressional visits and times, factual information and other materials enabling him to better understand the organization.
2. Spend more time to advance the ability of members to improve communications and public relations abilities with adults, with emphasis on the Congressional visits.
3. Place more emphasis on how to incorporate FFA with Vocational Agriculture.

To follow up the 1975 Summer Leadership Conferences, we recommend the following resolutions go on record by the 48th Annual National FFA Convention:

"Be it resolved that the National FFA Organization sincerely appreciates the support and sponsorship from the General Motors Corporation of the 1975 State Presidents' Conference."



"Be it resolved that the National FFA Organization sincerely appreciates the efforts and cooperation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and a special thanks to Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz for taking time out from his schedule to speak to the participants of the State Presidents' Conference."

"Be it resolved that the National FFA Organization sincerely appreciates and would like to at this time issue a very special thank you to President Gerald Ford and his entire White House staff for the excellent tour of the White House and for his comments on his support of the FFA."

"Be it resolved that the National FFA Organization commends and appreciates the work of the National FFA Center staff; Dennis Sargent, Conference Director; Sammy Peebles; Bruce Erath; and Mike Goolsby, Conference Counselors; and National FFA Officers in making the 1975 Summer National Leadership Conferences a success."

Respectfully submitted,

FERRON HAVENS, Wisconsin (Chairman)

RICHARD BENNETT, New York

PHILLIP BLIVEN, Connecticut

DAVID BECHMAN, Indiana

JAMES D. QUIGLEY, New Hampshire

DANIEL TICE, Maryland

GAY IRWIN, Tennessee

DAVE SHOCKEY, Illinois

## NATIONAL PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

We, the members of the National Program of Activities Committee, have carefully reviewed and inspected the proposed 1976 National Program of Activities, and submit the following recommendations to the Boards of National FFA Officers and Directors for their consideration:

1. Consider use of the National Future Farmer Magazine for recognizing Foundation sponsors.
2. Consider use of the National Future Farmer Magazine in educating members by publicizing the Work Experience Abroad Program.
3. Have checks mailed directly from the National FFA Foundation to the award winners at the state level.
4. Encourage states to cooperate and participate in meetings of other farm organizations.
5. Encourage chapters and state associations to invite education administrators at the local and state levels to the national convention.
6. Recommend that all contests, especially new contests, supplement the vocational agriculture education program.
7. More efficiently use the national officers by providing information on their availability and by coordinating their travel among neighboring states.
8. Encourage national officers to evaluate a state's individual needs prior to a visit.
9. Make every possible effort to expand the National Officers' Tour.
10. Encourage National FFA Officers, national staff and the National Board of Directors to use the National Program of Activities as a guideline for planning and implementing the policies and functions of the national organization.
11. We commend the national organization for its efforts in the Thrust '75 program and encourage the use of similar programs to update chapters and state associations on new FFA programs.
12. Distribute the Convention Proceedings as rapidly as possible, and include a cover letter with the Proceedings to suggest how they may be better used by the chapters.
13. Include the National Program of Activities in the Convention Proceedings and supply the following year's delegates with results of the past year's National Program of Activities.
14. Consideration be given to recommendation of the National Convention Committee affecting the National Program of Activities.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES BODE, Oklahoma (Chairman)

DAN SOLOMON, Montana

DON FRIEBERG, Iowa

MARK SCANLAN, Kansas

JOHN HANNA, West Virginia

ALAN B. GALLOWAY, Tennessee

## REGIONAL STATE OFFICER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

We, the members of the 1975 Regional State Officer Leadership Conferences Committee, would like to acknowledge the efforts of the 1975 planning committee which met in Washington, D.C. last January to plan for the conferences, which we feel helped the 1975 state officers a great deal. However, we strongly suggest the following recommendations and objectives so that the state officers of the future will gain greater experience from these conferences, and that the conferences themselves would be improved.

The primary objectives for the Regional State Officer Leadership Conferences should be:

1. Improve communication ability.
  - a. Personal one-to-one relationships.
  - b. Improve speech mechanics, writing and presentation.
  - c. Gain knowledge of and use proper posture.
2. Develop, emphasize and practice social graces.
3. Meet other state officers and exchange ideas.
  - a. Have a state association evaluation.
  - b. Be open-minded, humble and work as a team.
4. Motivate and inspire state officers.
5. Assist state officers in planning state conventions and other activities.
6. Develop feelings of national and organizational patriotism.
7. Move "learning by doing."
  - a. As pertaining to each aspect of the conference.
8. Self evaluation and officer evaluation.

The committee also strongly suggests the following general recommendations in order that the preceding objectives be obtained.

1. To insure individual participation, we recommend that small groups be emphasized at all leadership conferences.
2. All state associations be encouraged to participate in a regional leadership conference and bring all state officers.
3. We recommend the revision and addition of the following materials:
  - a. Condense the size of the publications entitled Public Speaking Hints, Illustrating Your Speech, State Officer Handbook, and (Group Dynamics, so they may be presented in a more convenient form (5½ x 8½).
  - b. Make available more state officer handbook materials covering the many topics.
  - c. Present the complete set of "Leadership of Youth Groups" in a condensed size (5½ x 8½).
4. Prepare news releases for newspaper, radio and TV to be filled out by the delegates at conference time.
5. The host state make arrangements for a photographer to take group pictures.
6. Two national officers be provided for all regional conferences, and if the conference is rather large, at least one national officer for every 20 participants.
7. A member of the national staff attend each regional conference to serve as a resource person.
8. Each participant in the conference receive a framed certificate recognizing his or her involvement in the conference.
9. Funds be available for each regional conference to pay travel and per diem for outside resource personnel.
10. The host state provide names and addresses of those individuals to which "Thank you" notes or letters are to be sent, and have the state staff follow up on this recommendation.

11. State Officer Leadership Conferences should be arranged so that conferences are held no later than two months after a state officer assumes the duties of his or her respective office.
12. Develop a full three-day Regional Leadership Conference to insure that all points are covered extensively.
13. National Board establish a committee to realign and/or insure proper size of conferences as stated in recommendations one and six.
14. National Board establish a committee to obtain necessary funds to carry out the preceding recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

CURTIS WHITE, South Carolina (Chairman)  
BUDDY MILLER, Washington  
EDDIE LEACH, Kentucky  
LARRY ANDERSON, Minnesota

ALAN BARBER, Colorado  
DAVID HAWKS, Georgia  
DAVID CANTIN, New Hampshire  
DOUG MORSE, Nevada

## NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER MAGAZINE

We, The National Future Farmer Magazine Committee, commend Mr. Wilson Carnes, the editorial staff, the advertising staff and all persons connected with the production of the Magazine for publishing an excellent and enjoyable Magazine. After careful deliberation we submit the following recommendations:

1. Encourage FFA chapters, as a public relations tool, to send complimentary subscriptions of The National Future Farmer Magazine to —
  - a. Businesses
  - b. Organizations
  - c. Honorary Members
  - d. Sponsors
  - e. All other supporters of the FFA
2. Suggest that chapters maintain copies of The National Future Farmer by adding chapter name to the membership roster.
3. Write followup articles on individuals or chapter award winners on the national level.
4. Encourage collegiate chapters and Alumni affiliates to submit articles on their group activities.
5. Sponsor a Bicentennial essay contest, using the theme "A Future for America . . . FFA."
6. Recommend the continued use of opinion polls on articles concerning FFA members.
7. Suggest that the state reporter or an appointed state officer correspond with The National Future Farmer regularly by submitting articles on their state.

Respectfully submitted,

TIM BRANN, Colorado (Chairman)  
GALEN KELLER, South Dakota  
RONNIE STOREY, New Mexico  
DENNIS ADAMS, Alabama

TIM TWYMAN, Missouri  
SAMUAL MORRIS, West Virginia  
RONNIE BURNS, Louisiana  
MARVIN L. ISAACKS, Texas



## National FFA Foundation Awards and Contests

### STAR FARMER OF AMERICA

Since 1929, Star Farmers have been selected from the American Farmer candidates who receive the degree at the time of the National FFA Convention. A check for \$1,000 went to the Star Farmer of America, and checks of \$500 were awarded to each of the other three regional "Stars".

Star Farmer of America — Daniel Worcester, Hill City, Kansas

Star Farmer, Eastern Region — Roy Mitchell, Elkin, North Carolina

Star Farmer, Southern Region — Michael Vaughn, Smithville, Tennessee

Star Farmer, Western Region — Richard C. Lapp, Eckley, Colorado

### STAR AGRIBUSINESSMAN OF AMERICA

Beginning in 1959 the Star Agribusinessman of America has been selected from the American Farmer candidates. The Star Agribusinessman of America received a \$1,000 award from the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Each of the other regional "Stars" received \$500.

Star Agribusinessman of America — Bryce E. Westlake, Kinnear, Wyoming

Star Agribusinessman, Central Region — Ordell A. Stinson, Cresco, Iowa

Star Agribusinessman, Eastern Region — Joseph T. Mrugala, Springville  
New York

Star Agribusinessman, Southern Region — Phil Redditt, Orlando, Florida



Stars over America

## NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARDS PROGRAM

The National FFA Chapter Awards Program, conducted annually by the national organization, is designed to encourage and reward chapter effort, stimulate group action among members, and encourage improvement in local chapter programs of activities. The awards program has been a valuable aid in stimulating both individual and cooperative effort, and in crystallizing chapter programs of activities into a series of worthwhile activities.

Chapters were grouped into Gold, Silver and Bronze Emblem classifications, according to their record of accomplishments in supervised agricultural occupations experience programs, cooperative activities, community service, leadership activities, earnings and savings by members, conduct of meetings, scholarship of members, recreation and participation in state and national activities.

The top "Gold Emblem" rating was awarded to 124 local chapters, "Silver Emblem" ratings went to 111 chapters and "Bronze Emblem" ratings to 75 chapters. Chapters earning awards for this year follow.

Chapters earning awards for this year follow (listed by States):

Alabama .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Anniston, Chelsea, Crossville, Scottsboro.
Arizona .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Gilbert.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Westwood.
Arkansas .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Conway, Mansfield.
California .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Hilmar.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Mt. Whitney.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Dos Palos, Modesto.
Colorado .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Eagle Valley, Golden, Lamar, Larimer County, Woodlin
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Greeley.
Connecticut .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Housatonic Valley, Rockville.
Delaware .....	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Lake Forest, Mispillion.
Florida .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Bartow, Groveland Senior, Interlachen, Santa Fe "Sr.", South Sumter Senior.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Greensboro, Mulberry, Orlando-Colonial.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Bradford Senior, Brahman, Hamilton Senior, Moore Haven, Vernon.
Georgia .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Jeff Davis, Early County, Effingham County, Murray County, Oconee County.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	S.E. Bulloch, Dawson, Moultrie, Peach Winder-Barrow.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Commerce, Jackson, Montgomery County.
Hawaii .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Waialua
Idaho .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Fruitland, Kuna.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Meridian.
Illinois .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Galesburg, Georgetown, Paxton, Roanoke-Benson, Sycamore, Warren.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Ashland, Champaign, Jacksonville, Malta, McLeansboro, Mt. Carroll, Salem, Southwestern, Teutopolis.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Avon, Carlisle, Fairbury-Cropsey, Metamora, Olney, Sparland.
Indiana .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Brownstown Central, Clinton Central, Prairie Heights, Rossville, Woodlan.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Columbia City, Delta, Northfield, Tri High.

Iowa .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Bloomfield, Buffalo Center, Bison, Iowa Falls, Manchester, North-Linn, South Hamilton, Waverly-Shell Rock.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Audubon, Monticello, Sac City.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Estherville, Webster City.
Kansas .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Arkansas City, Atchison County, Norton.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Mission Valley, Sabetha.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Paola, Smith Center.
Kentucky .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Caldwell County, Lyon County, Taylorsville.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Calloway County, Farmington.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Barren County.
Louisiana .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Oak Grove, Saline, Slidell.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Assumption, E. Broussard, Comeaux, Franklinton, Jena, South Lafourche.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Many, Pine, Winnfield Senior.
Maine .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Presque Isle.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Mars Hill.
Maryland .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Damascus, Walkersville.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Flintstone, Gaithersburg.
Massachusetts ....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Wachusett
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Essex.
Michigan .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Corunna, Marshall.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Alpena, Capac, Cassopolis, Ubly.
Minnesota .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Eagle Bend, New Ulm, Springfield.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Stillwater, Worthington.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Faribault, Jackson, Litchfield.
Mississippi .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Falkner.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Purvis.
Missouri .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Carl Junction, Carthage, Chillicothe, Salem, Trenton.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Albany, Cassville, Montgomery County, Princeton, South Shelby.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Houston, Ozark.
Montana .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Flathead.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Miles City.
Nebraska .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Kimball, St. Edward.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Ainsworth, Elgin, Geneva.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Clarkson, Loup City.
Nevada .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Ruby Mountain
New Hampshire ....	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Much To Do.
New Jersey .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Belvidere.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Allentown.
New Mexico .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Cloudcroft.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Cibola.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Logan.
New York .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Barker, Greenville, Hamilton.
North Carolina ....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Cary, North Iredell, West Columbus.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Southern Wayne, South Lenoir.
North Dakota .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Hettinger.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Beulah, Rugby.
Ohio .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Marysville, Miami Trace, Ridgedale.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Bloom-Carroll, Lakota, Lancaster, Loudonville, Peebles, Talawanda, Wynford.
Oklahoma .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Ames, Collinsville, Guthrie, Stratford, Thomas.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Chickasha, Eufaula, Holdenville, McLoud, Morriston, Ponca City, Sulphur, Tishomingo.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Davenport, Garber, Mannford, Okarche, Webbers Falls, Wellston.



Oregon .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Clatsop, Silverton.
Pennsylvania .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Cloister, Grassland, Northern Lebanon.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Headwaters, Manheim, Twin Valley.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Mifflinburg.
Rhode Island .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Chariho.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Scituate.
South Carolina .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Greenville.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	James F. Byrnes.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Belton-Honea Path.
South Dakota .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Hoven.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Pierre-Oahe.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Scotland.
Tennessee .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Bradley, Dickson County, Dyersburg, Horace Maynard, Lebanon, Meigs County, Rhea County, Rogersville, Warren County.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	McEwen, Mt. Juliet, Polk County.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Sevierian.
Texas .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Cal Farleys Boys Ranch, Grandview, Hull-Daisetta, Klein, Nacogdoches, Pleasanton, Valley View.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Agua Dulce, Aldine, Booker, DeKalb, Garland, Hamlin, Katy, Sidney Lanier, Little Cypress-Mauriceville, Loop, Midway, Quanah, Sulphur Springs, Tatum.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Calhoun, Cleburne, Crockett, Floydada, Frisco, Godley, Lindsay, Marble Falls,, Mission, Prosper, Riviera.
Utah .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Bear River, Millard Eagle, Sky View.
Vermont .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Middlebury.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Chelsea.
Virginia .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Christiansburg, Montevideo, C.T. Smith, Turner Ashby.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Appomattox.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	William Campbell.
Washington .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Kelso, Pasco.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Eatonville.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	North Thurston.
West Virginia .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Shady Spring.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Mannington, Ravenswood, Ripley.
Wisconsin .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Bloomer, Denmark, Evansville, Green Bay East Janesville-Parker, Monroe.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Delavan-Darien, Granton, Viroqua, Westby.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Black River Falls, Cadott, Sauk Prairie, Waupaca.
Wyoming .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Burns, Cheyenne.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Albin-Pine Bluffs.

## NATIONAL CHAPTER SAFETY AWARDS

The National Chapter Safety Awards Program is designed to stimulate activities by local chapters which will result in the more widespread use of safety rules, thus lessening the tremendous suffering and loss of life, time and property that is caused each year by preventable farm accidents and fires.

Each state is entitled to submit for national consideration at least two chapters or ten percent of all chapters receiving Superior Chapter awards. These applications were sent to their various regional offices where a panel of experts ranked them in the Gold, Silver and Bronze Emblem awards.

There were 29 Gold Emblem Chapters, 34 Silver Emblem Chapters and 29 Bronze Emblem Chapters. The winning chapters are as follows:

Alabama	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Scottsboro, York West End
Arizona	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Westwood
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Gilbert
Arkansas	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Magnet Cove
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Conway
California	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Mt. Whitney
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Modesto
Colorado	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Liberty
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Larimer Co.
Connecticut	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Housatonic Valley
Florida	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Brahman, Zephyr Hills
Georgia	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Ettingham County
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	T. J. Elder
Idaho	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Sandpoint
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Payette
Illinois	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Sycamore, Warren
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	McLeansboro, Mt. Carroll
Indiana	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Clinton Central
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Brownstown
Iowa	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Sac City
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Audubon
Kansas	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Atchison County
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Norton
Kentucky	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Lyon County
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Clark County
Louisiana	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Saline
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Jena, Sidel
Maine	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Limestone
Maryland	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Walkersville
Michigan	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Cassopolis, Hastings
Minnesota	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Eagle Bend
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	New Ulm
Mississippi	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Stone
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Pine Grove
Missouri	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Montgomery County
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Albany, Cassville
Montana	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Huntley Project
Nebraska	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Clarkson, St. Edward
New Jersey	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Belvidere
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	North Hunterdon Regional
New Mexico	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Las Cruces
New York	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Afton Apples
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Sherburne-Earlville

North Carolina .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	South Lenoir.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Sun Valley.
North Dakota .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Rugby.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Hettinger.
Ohio .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Big Walnut.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Westerville.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	River View.
Oklahoma .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	McLoud.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Watonga.
Oregon .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Silverton.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Scappoose.
Pennsylvania .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Cloister.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Northern Lebanon.
Rhode Island .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Chariho.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Scituate.
South Carolina .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Greenville.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Manchester at Furman.
South Dakota .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Hoven, Scotland.
Tennessee .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Greenback, Horace Maynard, Warren County.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Carthage.
Texas .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Hull-Daisetta.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Klein.
Utah .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Bear River.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Weber.
Virginia .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	C. T. Smith.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Botetourt Intermediate.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	W. R. Legge.
W. R. Legge.	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Eatonville, Kelso.
Washington .....	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Lewis County, Shady Spring.
West Virginia .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Denmark.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Beaver Dam, Green Bay East, Monroe.
Wisconsin .....	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Cadott.
Wyoming .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Burns.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Buffalo Bill.

Recognizing Excellence in Chapter Safety





## BUILDING OUR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

A contemporary, exciting and challenging program was recognized for the fifth time at this year's convention. The FFA-BOAC program is designed to provide total involvement of FFA members in meaningful programs designed to meet the determined needs of every community. It provides opportunities for FFA chapters to organize for action to make their community a better place in which to live and work and to take pride in telling about their accomplishments.

Gold Emblem ratings were awarded to 37 chapters, Silver Emblem to 40 chapters and Bronze Emblem to 30 chapters. Four regional winners were selected and appropriate recognition given to them at the national convention. The regional winners were:

Bowman Chapter, Bowman, South Carolina — National Winner  
Big Walnut Chapter, Sunbury, Ohio — Eastern Regional Winner  
Janesville-Parker Chapter, Janesville, Wisconsin — Central Regional Winner  
Tooele Chapter, Tooele, Utah — Western Regional Winner

Other chapters earning National BOAC awards this year were:

Alabama .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Ohatchee, Wetumpka.
Arizona .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Duncan.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Peoria.
Arkansas .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Conway, Hope.
California .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Hilmar.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Mt. Whitney.
Colorado .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Sterling.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Golden.

National BOAC Winner



Delaware .....	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Sussex Vocational-Technical.
Florida .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Mulberry, Zephyrhills.
Georgia .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Jackson.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Pelham.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Effingham County.
Hawaii .....	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Waialua.
Idaho .....	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Marsh Valley, Sandpoint.
Illinois .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Sycamore.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	McLeansboro, Mt. Carroll, Pinckneyville.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	R.O.V.A.
Indiana .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Brownstown Central.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Woodlan.
Iowa .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Colo, Winterset.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Sac City.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Prairie.
Kansas .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Columbus.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Fort Scott.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Hill City.
Kentucky .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Lyon County.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Fulton County.
Louisiana .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Provencal, Saline.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Crowley.
Maryland .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Walkersville.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Gaithersburg.
Michigan .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Belding, Corunna.
Minnesota .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Tracy.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Cannon Falls.
Mississippi .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Stone.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Pine Grove.
Missouri .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Carthage, Chillicothe, Pilot Grove.
Montana .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Forsyth, Joliet.
Nebraska .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Leigh.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Blair.
Nevada .....	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Moapa Valley, Ruby Mountain.
New Jersey .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Sussex Vo-Tech.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Belvidere.
New Mexico .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Clovis.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Cibola.
New York .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Hamilton.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Schoharie Valley.
North Carolina .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Clyde A. Erwin.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	West Montgomery.
North Dakota .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Rolette.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Cando.
Ohio .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Big Walnut.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Marlington.
Oklahoma .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Morrison, Pawnee.
Oregon .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Clatsop, Redmond.
Pennsylvania .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Brockway, Northern Lebanon.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Cloister, Solanco.
Rhode Island .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Chariho.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Scituate.
South Carolina .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Bowman, Greenville.
South Dakota .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Geddes.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Pierre-Oahe.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Lemmon, Scotland.
Tennessee .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Warren County.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Greenback.
Texas .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Lorena.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Adrian, Hamlin.

Utah .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Tooele.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Bear River.
Vermont .....	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Champlain Valley.
Virginia .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Appomattox.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Christiansburg, William Campbell.
Washington .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Inchelium.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Ferndale.
West Virginia .....	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Point Pleasant.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Hundred.
Wisconsin .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Denmark, Janesville-Parker.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Bloomer, Green Bay East, Janesville-Craig, Rice Lake.
	<b>BRONZE EMBLEM:</b>	Bonduel, Evansville.
Wyoming .....	<b>GOLD EMBLEM:</b>	Buffalo Bill.
	<b>SILVER EMBLEM:</b>	Burns.

### AGRICULTURAL PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Seventy-six regional winners of the 19 Agricultural Proficiency Awards met for a luncheon with persons from government, business and industry who served as judges. The judging of each of the 19 areas was done on the basis of interviews and information submitted to the FFA by regional winners. Each national winner received a check in the amount of \$250.00 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc., and regional winners a check for \$200.00. Following are Agricultural Proficiency Award winners who were recognized at the 1975 National FFA Convention.

#### AGRICULTURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Name	Chapter & State	Award
CLIFFORD D. DePRIEST	Marshall, Arkansas	National Winner
ROB HUDSON	Guthrie, Oklahoma	Western Regional Winner
JEFF WARD	Clinton Central, Indiana	Central Regional Winner
STEPHEN CRAIG ALLEN	Fairfield Union, Ohio	Eastern Regional Winner

#### AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

DAVID W. SCHELLDORF	Bearlodge, Wyoming	National Winner
RONALD KAISER	Little Falls, Minnesota	Central Regional Winner
LEWIS LEE TAPLEY	Hackneyville, Alabama	Southern Regional Winner
JAMES FELPEL	Cloister, Pennsylvania	Eastern Regional Winner

#### AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

TIMOTHY J. NOVAK	Denmark, Wisconsin	National Winner
NICK SEIBERT	Columbus, Montana	Western Regional Winner
RUSSELL DRIGGERS	Hamilton County Senior, Florida	Southern Regional Winner
KENDALL BRAXTON HEATH	South Lenoir, North Carolina	Eastern Regional Winner

#### AGRICULTURAL SALES AND/OR SERVICE

STAN HICKS	Greenville, Ohio	National Winner
VALDON CHRIS JENSEN	Emery, Utah	Western Regional Winner
DEAN R. SLABACH	Fairfield, Indiana	Central Regional Winner
LARRY THOMAS	Greenville High, South Carolina	Southern Regional Winner



**BEEF PRODUCTION**

TERRANCE PATRICK BULLIS	Mariposa, California	National Winner
VAUGHN MEEKS	Loup County, Nebraska	Central Regional Winner
OSCAR HARRIS II	Wayne County High, Georgia	Southern Regional Winner
DONALD GRAHAM	Cape Fear, North Carolina	Eastern Regional Winner
MATTHEWS II		

**CROP PRODUCTION**

MICHAEL D. SMITH	South Hamilton, Iowa	National Winner
RONNIE J. CURRY	Sterling, Oklahoma	Western Regional Winner
RONALD JONES	Covington, Tennessee	Southern Regional Winner
JEFFREY C. MILLER	Kutztown, Pennsylvania	Eastern Regional Winner

**DAIRY PRODUCTION**

JIM DEMMER	Ellendale, Minnesota	National Winner
WAYNE NELSON	Hilmar, California	Western Regional Winner
ELWIN NOLAN HUSSER, JR.	Franklinton High, Louisiana	Southern Regional Winner
JEAN M. TUGEND	Hillsdale, Ohio	Central Regional Winner

**DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

MARLIN TRISSEL	Mooreland, Oklahoma	National Winner
JEFF STROP	Prairie View, Kansas	Central Regional Winner
JAMES ROBERT LOVE	Warren County Senior, Tennessee	Southern Regional Winner
HAL JEFFERY STEPHENS	Orrum, North Carolina	Eastern Regional Winner

**FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

ROBERT RONALD McNAUGHTON	Derry Area, Pennsylvania	National Winner
TIM BERRY	Nueces Canyon, Texas	Western Regional Winner
JERRY ALLEN OTT	Carroll, Indiana	Central Regional Winner
IVAN BOND	Stone County, Mississippi	Southern Regional Winner

**FOREST MANAGEMENT**

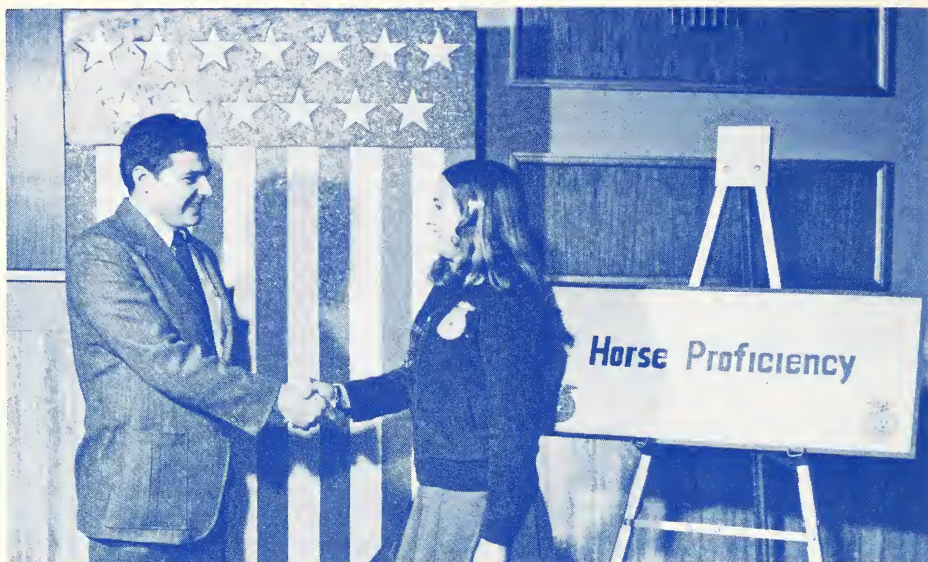
JAMES COOPER	Stone County, Mississippi	National Winner
CALEB BOETTCHER	Eatonville, Washington	Western Regional Winner
THOMAS E. BROWN	Alpena, Michigan	Central Regional Winner
RANDY LEE MILLS	Southern Wayne, North Carolina	Eastern Regional Winner

**HOME AND FARMSTEAD IMPROVEMENT**

STAN WERLING	Woodlan, Indiana	National Winner
LARRY BEALS	Silverton, Oregon	Western Regional Winner
RICHARD GRIMES	Centre, Alabama	Southern Regional Winner
WILLIAM M. DOTSON	Wirt County, West Virginia	Eastern Regional Winner

**HORSE PROFICIENCY**

JODI LYNN PEACOCK	Medina County J.V.S. Animal Science, Ohio	National Winner
GARY DELZER	Reardan, Washington	Western Regional Winner
SUSAN SHEA	Owatonna, Minnesota	Central Regional Winner
JOE C. LOTT, JR.	Wildwood Senior, Florida	Southern Regional Winner



First Girl National Agricultural Proficiency Winner

**ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE**

JONATHAN WHITE  
JERRY LEE SHELTON  
BARRY LEE GUTHRIE

THOMAS GREEN

St. Paul, Oregon  
Lincoln County, Kentucky  
Warren County Senior,  
Tennessee  
Marlington, Ohio

National Winner  
Central Regional Winner  
Southern Regional Winner  
  
Eastern Regional Winner

**OUTDOOR RECREATION**

R. ALAN BOSWELL  
SCOTT SKIFF  
SUZIE TYRRELL  
RONNIE GRAHAM

Damascus, Maryland  
Eagle Valley, Colorado  
Sycamore, Illinois  
Conway, Arkansas

National Winner  
Western Regional Winner  
Central Regional Winner  
Southern Regional Winner

**PLACEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION**

EDDIE WAYNE BLIZZARD  
JIMMY DEAN HILL  
JEFFREY SLUSMEYER  
NEAL WILKINSON

Scottsboro, Alabama  
Parker, Arizona  
Lone Oak, Kentucky  
South Rowan, North Carolina

National Winner  
Western Regional Winner  
Central Regional Winner  
Eastern Regional Winner

**POULTRY PRODUCTION**

DAVID H. JOHNSON  
LYNN GOODWIN BEAGLEY  
CHARLES CANTRELL  
JAMES EDWARD HAINES

South Hamilton, Iowa  
North Sanpete, Utah  
East Hall, Georgia  
Francis Scott Key, Maryland

National Winner  
Western Regional Winner  
Southern Regional Winner  
Eastern Regional Winner

**SHEEP PRODUCTION**

BRAD D. MYERS  
LARRY McCRIGHT  
LINDA LOUISE CHRISTIAN  
DAVID C. BARRETT, JR.

Danube, Minnesota  
Crook County, Oregon  
Fayetteville, Arkansas  
Warren, Ohio

National Winner  
Western Regional Winner  
Southern Regional Winner  
Eastern Regional Winner

**SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT**

JAMES NOBLE  
BRAD BECKMAN  
JOHN HINZ  
STEVEN EARL BURKE

Carrollton, Ohio  
Emmett, Idaho  
Chilton, Wisconsin  
Jenkins County, Georgia

National Winner  
Western Regional Winner  
Central Regional Winner  
Southern Regional Winner

**SWINE PRODUCTION**

DIRK N. WEBB  
BRENT L. SANDIDGE  
RANDALL WAYNE HANNA  
JOE RYAN

Elk City, Oklahoma  
Marshall, Missouri  
Greensboro, Florida  
Peebles, Ohio

National Winner  
Central Regional Winner  
Southern Regional Winner  
Eastern Regional Winner

**NATIONAL FFA PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

The National FFA Public Speaking Contest is held in Kansas City, Missouri. It is the final elimination of a nationwide contest that started in local chapters, with winners progressing through area or federation competition, then state contests, and four regional contests.

Each of the four members who participated in the national contest already had won a medal at the local chapter level and a \$100.00 prize at the state level. The winner of the national contest received \$300.00. Other awards were \$275.00 for second, \$250.00 for third and \$225.00 for fourth. All awards and travel funds are provided by the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc.

National Public Speaking Finalists





Each contestant spoke from six to eight minutes on an agricultural subject of his own choosing, then was subjected to five minutes of questioning by the judges. Scoring was done on the basis of speech delivery, manuscript and answers to questions.

#### JUDGES

Royce Bodiford, Radio Farm Director, Station KGNC, KGNC-TV, Amarillo, Texas (President-Elect, National Association of Farm Broadcasters)

Arthur R. McQuiddy, Vice President, Public Relations, International Harvester Company, Chicago, Illinois

Barbara S. Thompson, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Madison, Wisconsin

#### TIMEKEEPERS

Harold E. Heldreth, Manager, Youth Activities Department, National Safety Council, Chicago, Illinois

Kemp E. Swiney, Program Leader, 4-H Youth, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

#### SPEAKERS

First Place — Eddie Blizzard, Scottsboro, Alabama

"NOT JUST A FARMER"

Second Place — Wayne Rush, Moscow, Idaho

"FEEDING THE HUNGRY WORLD"

Third Place — David Errol Dunlap, Whiteland, Indiana

"THE WORLD NEEDS OUR HELP"

Fourth Place — Mark Depta, Hamilton, New York

"AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE FFA"

## Not Just a Farmer

EDDIE BLIZZARD, Scottsboro, Alabama

Recently I witnessed an event that upset me tremendously. Two old friends met at the county courthouse. It had been years since Joe and Fred had seen each other. Joe, out of curiosity, asked Fred, "What are you doing now?" To which Fred replied, rather excitedly, "Oh, haven't you heard, I'm a rocket expert now; I helped put the last man on the moon! But knowing you, I'm sure you have just as much to boast about." Sadly, Joe hung his head, "No, I'm afraid not," he said, "You see, I'm just a farmer."

Just a farmer! Joe typifies too many who have struggled long and hard in our most basic occupation — farming. These patriots have been blamed for inflated food costs; they have battled endlessly with weather, disease, and insects; they have braved shortages in production supplies; they have endured price squeezes by the score; and they have now become weary.

But I could never think of an individual engaged in the vast field of farming as "just a farmer!" Why, to me farming is the proudest of all callings. The work of the farmer is far superior to the space scientist or the atomic engineer. I rank the humanitarian role of the farmer with that of the heart surgeon or the medical researcher who finds a cure for cancer. As the shortage of food becomes more and more critical, the farmer will be called upon to stretch his productivity more and more. Just a farmer? Never! The farmer almost holds the whole world in his hands.

Just a farmer! What a narrow perspective! My association with farming has taught me that the farmer is a superior man. He must be a mechanic as his machinery constantly needs repair. He must be a market expert who figures out what crops offer the brightest prospect for cash return. He makes this calculation before planting; then, he must decide whether to sell at harvest or store for a future market. The farmer needs at least a working

knowledge of chemistry since he must test his soil to match its composition with the fertilizer and lime requirements of the crops he wishes to grow. He also handles a multitude of chemicals, such as pre-emergents, insecticides, fungicides, and defoliants, which can be fatal to both wildlife and man if misused. In addition, the livestock farmer must be a practical veterinarian who can, in an emergency, deliver a calf and give a cow an injection of calcium gluconate in case she comes down with milk fever. Routinely, he administers vaccines and worming medications, castrates, emasculates, and often repairs ruptures in his animals. One farmer I know attended an artificial breeding seminar so that he is now able to breed his own cattle through artificial insemination. More than this, a farmer is a businessman whose wrong decisions can force him out of business quickly. "Operating a successful farm today requires a man who works with \$100,000 a year in capital. This farmer must have the ability to look his banker in the eye and ask for a \$50,000 operating loan and have the records to back up his request." Just a farmer? Never! This man called farmer could easily be labeled a proverbial "Jack-of-a-lot-of-trades," and he must be proficient in all these areas.

What most farmers today need is encouragement. As Franklin Roosevelt was fond of saying, "Credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat." "The story is told of a child being stranded on the fourth story of a burning building. The child came to the window; as the flames were shooting higher and higher, she cried for help. A fireman started up the ladder. The wind swept the flames near him, and it was getting so hot that he wavered and almost slipped to his death. Thousands looked on, and their hearts quaked at the thought of the child having to perish in the flames. Suddenly, someone in the crowd cried out, 'Give him a cheer!' Cheer after cheer went up, and as the fireman heard, he gathered fresh courage. Up he went into the midst of the smoke and the fire. Soon he brought down the child in safety." Isn't the farmer saving our children and us? Isn't this superior man deserving of our cheers?

I want to be a farmer! Not just a farmer, covered with dust and sweat, but rather a man with credentials. If I am to be the kind of farmer I want to be, I realize that I must have training. This is why I have set my occupational goal early. Presently, I have completed my third year in agribusiness education, and I know that if a young man wants to become a really good farmer, a college education is advisable. "In this country only the best prepared and most efficient farmers will survive the competition. We have been fond of saying that the farmer's raw materials are the soil, the sun, the air, the rain, and the seed; but these poetic phrases do not take into account all that farmers must know, and have, and do in order to convert the raw materials into finished agricultural products and to market them in prime condition at the right time."

As a farmer I will be faced with multiple decisions. These decisions will not only affect me but other people as well. A recent survey indicates that one farmer today produces enough food to feed fifty-five people. If I make the wrong decision as a farmer, my inability to produce will be felt by at least fifty-four others.

As a farmer, I will take my place with the other scientists. There may be times when I will be dirty-handed, but I will be a scientist, nonetheless. What is more important than the soil? As I work with soils and crops and animals, I will experience the miracle of germinating seeds and watch my livestock grow from calf to cow, from pig to hog, from chick to hen. In other words, I will work with the science of life. I will forego the white jacket, the

weatherized lab, and the walnut-paneled office for fields with long rows of plants, the hum of motorized tractor muscles, and livestock that manufacture the raw materials from my soil into a steak, ham or chicken breast.

As a farmer, I shall have as much status as the most prestigious fellow, for I shall be a producer of food, that precious commodity that people have yet to discover a way to live without. I shall feel no less important than the doctor, the chemist, or the rocket expert. I will take my place with the Woodrow Wilsons, the Albert Schweitzers, the George Marshalls, and the Albert Einsteins, for haven't you heard? "I'm going to be a farmer!" Just a farmer? Never! But a really good farmer? Yes!!



An Outstanding Judging Team

## NATIONAL FFA CONTESTS

An important part of each National FFA Convention is the National FFA Contests. All seven National Contests — Agricultural Mechanics, Dairy Cattle, Horticulture, Livestock, Meats, Milk Quality and Dairy Foods, and Poultry — are conducted in Kansas City. The winning teams and the high scoring individuals receive special trophies. The contests and the national winners are listed below.

### AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS — 41 State Teams Participated

**First Place — MINNESOTA.** The team was composed of Lyle Hovelson, Kip Marvig, and Tim Siegel, and coached by Charles L. Erickson, instructor, Hawley Public High School, Hawley, Minnesota. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Ron Moore, Vinton, Iowa; 2. John Gibbs, Fremont, Ohio; 3. Kip Marvig, Hawley, Minnesota; 4. Leo Dassow, Chatsworth, Illinois; 5. Cliff Peterson, Altamont, Kansas.



**DAIRY CATTLE — 47 State Teams Participated**

**First Place — MINNESOTA.** The team was composed of Rick Rugg, Jeff Rugg and Darwin Hanson, and coached by Don Ritland, instructor, Austin High School, Austin, Minnesota. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Keith Spinks, Lincoln, Arkansas; 2. Jeff Rugg, Austin, Minnesota; 3. Dwight Hoover, Martinsburg, Pennsylvania; 4. Wendell Dotterer, Smithville, Ohio; 5. Brent Reese, Smithfield, Utah.



Judging Contestants

**LIVESTOCK — 48 State Teams Participated**

**First Place — OHIO.** The team was composed of Mark Goodman, Dale Wolf and Gary Scheffler, and coached by Jim Neff, instructor, Bucyrus High School, Bucyrus, Ohio. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Jim Bryant, South Whitley, Indiana; 2. Andy McVay, South Whitley, Indiana; 3. Eddie McQueen, Stet, Missouri; 4. Mark Goodman, Bucyrus, Ohio; 5. Scott Collins, Manteca, California.

**MEATS — 37 State Teams Participated**

**First Place — TEXAS.** The team was composed of Darrel Leigh Jordan, Kenneth Gene Jordan and Dominic Skaggs Martin and coached by Jay Lee Marek, instructor, Mason High School, Mason, Texas. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Dominic Skaggs Martin, Mason, Texas; 2. Kevin Manke, Perkins, Oklahoma; 3. David Parrick, Perkins, Oklahoma; 4. Mark Peterson, Austin, Minnesota; 5. Darrel Leigh Jordan, Mason, Texas.

**HORTICULTURE — 41 State Teams Participated**

**First Place — OHIO.** The team was composed of Terry Petrella, Sue Pivnicka, Elena Meloni and Debbie Frederick, and coached by Ruth Smith, instructor, Washington Park Horticultural Center, Cleveland, Ohio. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Hope Friedrich, Cresco, Iowa; 2. Wayne Swanson, Litchfield, Connecticut; 3. Terry Petrella, Cleveland, Ohio; 4. JoAnne Finley, Florissant, Missouri; 5. Larry Teske, Janesville, Wisconsin.

**MILK QUALITY AND DAIRY FOODS — 34 State Teams Participated**

**First Place — MISSOURI.** The team was composed of Mike Hooper, Randy Ingram and Donnie Maples, and coached by Melvin E. Barnes, instructor, Licking High School, Licking, Missouri. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Donnie Maples, Licking, Missouri; 2. Jackie Smith, Hanford, California; 3. Mike Hooper, Licking, Missouri; 4. Tony Periera, Hanford, California; 5. Robert O'Neil, Madison, Wisconsin.

**POULTRY — 35 State Teams Participated**

**First Place — KANSAS.** The team was composed of Lynn Bartel, Clyde Jost and Joel Suderman, and coached by Truman Drener, instructor, Hillsboro High School, Hillsboro, Kansas. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Judy Hickerson, Santa Maria, California; 2. Lynn Bartel, Hillsboro, Kansas; 3. Sandra Frerich, San Antonio, Texas; 4. Joel Suderman, Hillsboro Kansas; 5. Terry Brown, Cowden, Illinois.

American Royal Queen







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FFA's Bicentennial Exhibit



The Beginning of the End





