Agriculture's Leading Edge
The Best and The Brightest
They came from across the land, eager for the spectacle that lay before them. Over 23,000 FFA members, teachers, alumni, parents and friends traveled to Kansas City for an experience rich with inspiration, education and emotion.

The Secret of Our Success

Winning It All
For those who hear their names called, the convention provides a magical experience that lives forever in memory. Gene Starkey (right) of Paris, Ohio, saw years of hard work pay off during Friday night’s proficiency pageant when he was named national Soil and Water Management winner. (Photo by Mike Wilson)

Your Guide to Convention Proceedings

| Agriscience Student Recognition | 12 |
| Agriscience Teacher of the Year | 12 |
| Alumni | 15 |
| American Farmers | 6 |
| Band | 10 |
| Building Our American Communities | 24 |
| Business | 26 |
| Career Show | 21 |
| Chorus | 11 |
| Committee Reports | 27 |
| Alumni | 27 |
| Audit | 27 |
| Awards | 28 |
| Information | 29 |
| International | 27 |
| Magazine | 28 |
| Membership Development | 27 |
| National Contests | 28 |
| National Convention | 30 |
| National Leadership | 29 |
| NLCISO | 29 |
| Nominating | 30 |
| Organizational Development | 29 |

| Program of Activities | 29 |
| Supply Service | 28 |
| Computers in Agriculture | 9 |
| Contests | 23 |
| Delegates | 26 |
| Distinguished Service Citations | 14 |
| Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest | 24 |
| FFA Leadership | 31 |
| Honorary American Farmers | 14 |
| National Advisor Profile | 31 |
| National FFA Foundation | 13 |
| National Officer Candidates | 32 |
| National Chapter Awards | 6 |
| New National Officers | 32 |
| 100% Plus States | 31 |
| Prepared Public Speaking Contest | 25 |
| Proficiency Awards | 22 |
| Retiring Addresses | 18 |
| Safety | 9 |
| Speakers | 25 |
| Stars Over America | 8 |
| Talent | 10 |
| VIP Citations | 15 |
An Eye on the Future
Official convention delegates voted enthusiastically for 18 of 19 constitutional amendments, among them a much-discussed name change. Larry Case (left) discusses the ramifications of the approved wording, "National FFA Organization" and "agricultural education."

United We Stand
Delegates (above) celebrated FFA's new direction. From left, Ann Powalski, Alaska; Kris Williams, Minn.; Shawn Oliver, Miss.; Rudolph Pietrs, Virgin Islands; Heather Dunham, N.C.; and Joshua Cook, Calif.

Thanks, Roger Heath
This year Roger Heath put away his baton as director of the National FFA Band. Heath pulled off the miraculous by bringing together young musicians from across the country and blending their sounds into some of the finest music offered up at the past 20 national FFA conventions.
Rick Metzger, outgoing Alumni president (above), and Josiah Phelps, Alumni Council member, served as ring men for a spirited alumni auction. In its third year, the 360 donated items brought $26,000 in support of the FFA and the alumni. (Photo by Sam Harrel)

Mark Jenkins (right) of Milan, Tenn., explodes with excitement as he is announced winner of the Agricultural Electrification Proficiency award at the Friday night pageant. (Photo by Mike Wilson)

A convention-goer (below), caught up in the excitement of the National Agricultural Career Show, shares a laugh with new-found friends from across the country. (Photo by Sam Harrel)
Hundreds of FFA members were interviewed by a large contingent of media covering the convention and carrying news of the FFA to families and friends back home. Kurt Aumann (above) of Nokomis, Ill., discusses his proficiency award with Sandy Heng of RFD/TV. (Photo by Molly Wilson)

Joe Downey (right), 1988 National FFA Foundation Chairman and vice president of Dow Chemical Company announces record-setting support of $3.3 million generated for the FFA by more than 887 members of the Foundation. (Photo by Orlin Wagner)

Mike Miller of RFD/TV and David Pearce, former national FFA vice president, co-anchored the satellite television broadcast of the convention, bringing over 17 hours of live coverage to millions of American homes. (Photo by Sam Harrel)
No other national convention ceremony drew as many as FFA's highest degree after demonstrating to their state associations that they had fulfilled the requirements: at least 500 hours of service, or an equivalent from an outstanding SOEP, exemplary leadership abilities, active membership in the FFA for at least 56 months, and successful completion of a high school agriculture program.

National FFA Foundation sponsors made possible the presentation of the coveted gold key, certificate and a cash award and recognition luncheon.

Benson, Colrain; Donald W. Benjamin; George J. Barlow; Wayland E. Bower; Barry; Lenny B. Biriman; Payton; Scott D. Geowall; Patti L. Denson; Barry; C. D. Dunivan; Patricia A. Ender; Richard J. Esch; Alan; Karen A. French; Steve; Joseph R. Gaisford; Emerson; L. W. Garrett; Gail; David D. Geoghegan; Kent; Paul A. Harris; Ken; Matthew L. Hasche; Brad; Michael L. Hebl; Charisse; Lloyd; Darrell; Ann; Richard L. Hefner; Richard; Donald L. Helm; Melinda; Jon; Dan; Kevin J. Henry; Flash; Tim; Bruce; Todd; Jeremy; John; Lee; Lisa; Brian; Brian; Matthew; Scott; Christian; Richard; Robert; Justin; Matthew; Kurt; Brian; Mark; Peter; Daniel; Gary; Thomas; Todd; John; Robert; Robert; Will; Charles; Scott; Brian; Austin; Michael; Steve; Robert; Chad; Ryan; Matt; Robert; Kevin; Peter; Albert; Richard; Michael; William; Donald; Robert; William; Michael; Chris; Matthew; John; Brian; William; Robert; Thomas; Michael; Tim; Jack; Jeff; Ken; Alan; David; John; Michael; Michael; Kevin; Mark; Matthew; Richard; Robert; Matthew; Kent; Donald; Robert; David; John; Michael; Kevin; William; Andrew; David; Michael; Brian; Chad; Jeff; Saleem; Mark; Scott; Steven; John; Brian; David; James; David; John; Michael; Richard; Robert; William; David; John; William; Robert; Donald; John; Michael; Mike; Robert; Patrick; Ken; Mike; Mark; Jeff; Jeff; Sam; Steve; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Jeff; Je
NEW YORK: Timothy L. Durant, Onicea; Thomas G. Easman, Ellisburg; April D. Kelly, Wobconom; Douglas J. LaFieve, Locker; Kelly R. Marke, Warsaw; William L. Peddick, Rimesen; Elaine Perkins, Cazenovia; William S. Shoomaker, New Woodstock; Aram Vartanian, Watertown; William D. Welley, Watertown

NORTH CAROLINA: Derek Atkins, Troy; Ragan F. Bedder, Johnstown; Winston Sloan, Scott M. Brown, Marshall; Chad D. Bulfing, Pharis; Barry W. Calabrese, Shillery; Gregory S. Connick, Wayne; Brian K. Davis, Taylorsville; James A. Dunnigan, Durham; Tyrone M. Furl, Abbeemore; Vance R. Greenes, Belefonte; Zachary W. Green, Tinsley; Mark D. Hamilton, Randleman; Rhonda M. Happ, Soils; Loree Seven Sprins, Raeford; Andrew Thompson, Chapel Hill; Jonathan S. Ward, Lexington; John K. Walling, Fayetteville; John P. Williams, Ramsey

NORTH DAKOTA: Joel R. Carlson, Wright; Brianne R. Christianson, Fergus; Mark Hagemester, Fessenden; Michael D. Johnston, Rugby; Diane Keltch, Bismarck; Andrew W. Lamont, Stanley; Brenda Rae Cline, Buechel; Leroy J. Sandstrom, Libby; Arthur L. Schmidt, Williston; Philip Velk, Kinson; John M. Walling, Rolla

OHIO: Jay R. Ackley, East Liberty; Brian L. Arnold, Sabina; Warren L. Boeger, Yew; Jeffrey L. Bonduval, Gilmour; Ballinay L. Brand, Andohia; Laura L. Chatron, Browning Green; Jeff Coell, Mount Vernon; Todd A. Dale, Soo; John Davis, Delaware; Reis W. Febsie, Payney; Terry L. Filth, Grand Rapids; Robert G. Rcano, New Philadelphia; Scott Gompf, Magnolia; Thomas A. Hen J.; Metamora; Frank Keener, Ashland; Julie L. Lemmereg, Tilman; David L. Mannion, Jefferson; Dean Miller, Washington H.C.; Josh Nogot, Wauseon; John P. Poten, Delta; Philip D. Phillips, North Lewisburg; Todd B. Rahnes, Licensed; Marc A. Rogies, Norwalk; Robert J. Schippel, boiling; Rick I. Shoup, Perk; Bryan R. Smith, Novasian; Aaron J. Spies, Wauskea; Jerry Stecker, Paris; John Thurston, Delaware; John J. Underwood, Wapakoneta; Steve Wilhem, Coshoart; John F. Wyler, Fremont

OKLAHOMA: Todd A. Ballard, Alton; Grant Beades, Thomas; John L. Beck Jr., Pauls Valley; William B. Beck, Pauls Valley; Ron D. Cole, Selma; Brian K. Courtney, Pryor; Dani Durrel, Duncan; Fred A. Fischer, Hodder; Monica D. Fleming, Fairview; Brent C. Garvie, Burlington; John W. Gosney II, Fairview; Mark Hamrock, Billings; William J. Hendrickson, Airdar; David G. Herman, Duran; Mark A. Hix, Weatherford; Darin M. Howard, Mulhall; Russell Howard, Logan; Eddie P. Hunter, Sulphur; Daniel E. Ikem;_show; Steven J. L'Eer, Reno; Mary Jett, Beaver; Scott L. Johnson, Allon; Ronn Krasser, Chouteau; Randi D. Lechand, Mountain View; Chad F. Muege, Lawton; Kathleen Preston, Lavem; Chef J. Punvee, Fay; Joseph J. Remacko, Chickasha; Stephen Shave, Spaio; Sara E. Shires, Achille; Lisa R. Sprouce, McAlester; Shane A. Steward, Mobil; Trend D. Sites, Viola; Julie K. Woherb, Indiohama

OREGON: Michael A. Freeman, Amity; Timothy J. Heeter, Subility; Michael R. Hurd, Hamilton; Troy C. Mandires, Dayton; Timothy L. Oaks, Soo; John R. Schmitt, Amity; Stephanie M. Steiner, Tualam; Kevin L. Sullivan, West Linn; Andrew K. Stansell, Portland; Andrew B. Svar, Amity; Todd L. Bemfette, Kitzlund; Ronald E. Carlson, McCall; Ellen M. Cane, Columbus Cross RUS; Garrett U. Davidson, Shippenburg; Richard L. Firk, Harrisville; Barry L. Harns, Willow Street; Dwayne A. Haley, Glencoe; Bruce R. Hefner, Livingston; Robert D. Hendy, Wyoming; Mark W. Hildersh, New Castle; D. Eric Hipshy, Glencoe; Richard Soder, Bills Mills; John D. Heil, Wyoming; Phillip L. Hicks, Jenks

RHODE ISLAND: Kevin Alsworth, N. Scuttle; Matthew A. Knollwot, N. Scuttle

SOUTH CAROLINA: Cory S. Bair, Orangeburg; Jeffery T. Clayton, Inman; Larry A. Davis Jr., Greer; Daniel Richmont, Cremson; Melissa L. Tyler, Lost

SOUTH DAKOTA: Kevin J. Aabrecht, Marion; Marlo L. Anderson, Hartford; Kevin Fabrick, Watertown; Michael Fuller, Clark; Brad Hillman, Caro; Stanley D. Jaeger, Tyrndall; Russell Mater, Bowler; John R. Old, Gettysburg; David L. Schrieber, Hurley; Michael W. Wagner, Olve

TENNESSEE: Robert H. Barnett, Humboldt; John R. Butler, Dyersburg; Kimberly J. Carey, Cossville; Troy R. Cashon, Driessen; Joel E. Cox, Cleveland; Mark E. Douthart, Mohawk; Scott Dyer, Memphis; Timothy K. Hodges, Rogersville; Marshall Johnson, Harrquette; Jeff Jones, McMinnville; Danny R. Jones, Smithville; Terrell B. Kelsey, Crossville; James A. Lee, Cleveland; Geof Llew, Rock Island; Philip D. Prayer, McMinnville; Sarah L. Prince, Riceville; Barry F. Ouse, Old Fort; Jim Sanderfer, Jefferson City; Robert H. Singleton, Alexandria; Jeffrey Stekel, Glen Rose; Lara L. Swiney, Conover; Michael H. Thomas, Baywood; Ricky T. Tyler, Darien; Tammy, Richmond; Terry D. Tucker, Cooke; Michael Sh. Wayland, Baysdon; Mike Willong, Palo Pino; Paul W. Wood, Hico

UTAH: Don D. Brown, Fayette; William R. Brown, Samariau; Roy H. Carlison, West Point; Preston Howard, Richfield; Donald L. Jaques, Mountain Green; Keely Swallow, Fillmore

VERMONT: Thomas Bates, Eurex Falls; Rene B. Roy, West Charleton

VIRGINIA: Todd B. Bailey, Hamilton; Sherriette, Baxley; Bradley W. Bryant, Building; John D. Casi, Alton; Laura E. Cunningham, Danville; Paul B. Franklin, Champkin; Steven P. Funkhouse, McGehee; Gregory P. Gordon, Buffalo Junction; Melvin W. Harness, Abingdon; Keri Hively, Broadway; Carlton D. H. Hulst, Hulst; Jeffrey T. Kivore, Headford; Lin Ke, Linekenway; Kenneth W. McDonald, Pippin; William F. More, Mechanicsville; Michael S. Moulton, Cubby; Clinton M. Munson, Blay; Arnetta D. Nusseroll, Hamilton; Myron New, Fallston; Elizabeth Meleseeem, Huddleston; Mark E. Renard, Auro; James C. Routle, Cambridge; Michael D. Schrieber, John D. Carl, Existing; Paul D. Smit, Kettering; Barry L. Shrewler, York; John C. Smith, Lee; Jack R. Searls, Incarn; Carl D. Sprague, Gettysburg; Michael W. Swinney, S. Point; Kelby R. Teague, Vicksburg; Marsillie; Auburn; H. M. Thomas, Fullerton; Thomas L. Thor, Smoky; Larry C. Thomas, Whiston; Philip L. Vail, Meansville; Mark W. Via, Woolon; Tucker, Stalo; Scott L. Munson, Gallois; Jim Pritchard, Marlinton; Giana M. West, Red Spy

WISCONSIN: Daniel Bailer, Wilson; Jeffrey S. Bohn, Shawan; Randy J. Brooks, Orme; Mike Doblelay, Jon Elia, West Bend; Jeff Freas, Waupun, John C. Fritz, Lancaster; Daniel J. Gluckmann, Dionsonas; Donald J. Hall, Tomah; Dari S. Hoffman, Columbus; Warren M. Johnson, Osceola; Lori A. Langs, Darlington; Amber W. Meur, DeForest; Ronald J. Linder, Blanchardville; Steven L. Mack, Wind River; Lisa Mullen, Bloom; James Yanmar, Ordovia; Ted Otte, Greenhali; David D. Peirockwe, Redgann; Randy L. Poe; Mercedes, Wheeler; Robert L. Pratun, Evansville; David J. Rabeow, Walworth; Lester Schla; Denmark; Connie Schukle, Polka; Jay R. Sigg, Hollands; Regan P. Sirkula, Two Rivers; Patrick H. Stanley, Brookville; Timothy J. Welge, Platteville; Randall C. Wenzel, Singer; Greg L. Zimmerman, Osseo

WYOMING: Jona M. Ely, Stater; Robert J. Heinleinde, Worland; Tammy J. Keakhs, Sundance; Kelly F. Krakowe, Erland; Andy B. Malm, Albic; Tim L. Stater, Lovel; Chad Zelt, Mills

Sponsored by Armstrong Tire Company; Case IH; Cyramic Agricultural Division, American Cyanamid Company; Farm Credit System; Na-Chuas Plant Food Company; and Pioneer Hi-Bred Intenational, Inc.
Stars Over America

Cash awards sponsored by the Executive Sponsors of the National FFA Foundation

International Experience for National FFA Stars sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund and Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

There was anticipation you could have cut with a knife. A hush came over the auditorium and the six national officers gathered around the lectern to open the ceremonial envelope containing the names of the winners. For the eight regional stars, it was the moment for which they'd waited, and one which capped off years of hard work.

Then the words..."The Star Farmer of America is Clint Oliver and the Star Agribusinessman is Christopher Bledsoe." Wild applause followed, and the stars were rushed to the winner's platform.

Each regional star received $1000 and the Star Agribusinessman and Star Farmer received an additional $1000 each. All eight young achievers look forward to a week abroad on the International Experience Tour sponsored as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Star Farmers

J. Richard Speer, 21 Blues Mills, Pennsylvania Eastern Region

Richard Speer began to build his agricultural enterprise at age eight when his father gave him his first dairy calf. Today, in partnership with his father, he manages two farms totaling 560 acres and milks 56 Holstein dairy cows. A former state FFA treasurer, Speer is a member of the Southern Huntingdon FFA Chapter.

Wesley Eldred, 22 Bellingham, Washington Western Region

Wesley Eldred founded his dairy business in 1983 when he moved from an island off the Washington state coast to the mainland. Today, in partnership with his brother, he manages a herd of 123 dairy cows. Eldred, a former state proficiency award winner in diversified livestock, is a member of the Ferndale FFA Chapter.

Clint Oliver, 21 Reidsville, Georgia Southern Region

Clint Oliver's purchase of a bred Duroc gilt during his freshman year of high school was the start of his agricultural enterprise. Today his operation has diversified to include 150 crossbred sows, 1700 feeder pigs, 25 feeder calves and 60 goats. This former Star Georgia Planter (Star Farmer) is a member of the Reidsville FFA Chapter.

Scott Schelkopf, 22 Strasburg, Nebraska Central Region

After being sidelined by a spinal injury while playing high school football, Scott Schelkopf put increased emphasis on his agricultural enterprise. Today, utilizing artificial insemination and conservation tillage, he manages over 300 breeding hogs and raises 600 acres of corn and soybeans. The Geneva FFA member is a senior majoring in general agriculture at the University of Nebraska.

The Star Farmers and Star Agribusinessmen gathered for a reception following their awards program Thursday night. (Photo by Sam Harrel)

Star Agribusinessmen

Christopher Bledsoe, 20 Eldon, Missouri Central Region

Christopher Bledsoe began hauling livestock soon after he turned 16. As he saw his volume of business growing substantially, he formed a partnership with his brother. Together, they travel over 300,000 miles a year delivering livestock to and from the market. A former state proficiency award winner in specialty crops and agricultural sales and/or service, Bledsoe is a member of the Eldon FFA Chapter.

Steve Wilhelm, 21 Cusier, Ohio Eastern Region

Steve Wilhelm started working for Carter Lumber Company as a high school sophomore. He started as a yardman, loading and unloading trucks before being promoted to yard foreman and finally into sales. Wilhelm is looking to purchase his own lumber company in four or five years. The former chapter vice president is a member of the Bowling Green FFA Chapter.

Phillip Prater, 21 McMinnville, Tennessee Southern Region

Phillip Prater was hired by Paul Holder Realty and Auction in 1983. His first duties included placing and retrieving auction signs, preparing items for sale and bookkeeping. Today he is a real estate affiliate broker and apprentice auctioneer. Prater plans to obtain his broker and auctioneer licenses soon. This former Tennessee Star Agribusinessman is a member of the Warren County FFA Chapter.

John Gosney, III, 20 Fairview, Oklahoma Western Region

John Gosney purchased a used round baler to begin his agricultural enterprise. Today, this young entrepreneur has built a custom wheat harvest business that covers five states. He dreams of expanding his business into California. Gosney, a former Oklahoma Star Agribusinessman, is a member of the Fairview FFA Chapter.
Computers in Agriculture

Chad Luthro of Prairie, Iowa, was named national winner of the Computers in Agriculture competition. One of five finalists, Luthro was recognized for his mastery of computer technology and for his expertise in using computer systems to maintain farm and family records.

Luthro and the other finalists were judged during an expense-paid trip to the National FFA Seminar on Computers in Agriculture held in Washington, D.C. this past summer. Each also received an expense-paid trip to Kansas City and a plaque.

MISSOURI: Carthage; Stockton; Union
NEBRASKA: Leigh
NORTH DAKOTA: Williston
OHIO: Bowling Green; Greenville; West Muglinburg
SOUTH DAKOTA: Bowdle; Resyn
TENNESSEE: Bartlett
TEXAS: Tyler
WASHINGTON: Elma; Yelm
WISCONSIN: Beaver Dam; Denmark; Granton; Green Bay West; Marshfield; Mauston; Monroe; New Auburn; Oregon; Pulaski

SILVER
ALABAMA: Crossville; J.R. Pittard; Jackson ville "Gold"; Russellville
ARKANSAS: Lavaca
COLORADO: Holyoke
FLORIDA: Lake Placid; Sarasota; Vag Ag
ILLINOIS: Aledo; Cambridge; Dekalb; Franklin Center; Spoon River Valley
INDIANA: Clinton Center; Prairie Heights; Southwest- Hanover
IOWA: Clarion; Estherville; Marenisco; Vinton; Webster City
KENTUCKY: Lyon County
MARYLAND: Catonsville; Clear Spring
MICHIGAN: Charlotte
MISSOURI: Owensville
MONTANA: Cascade; Fairfield
NEBRASKA: Ravenna; Schuyler; Superior
NEW MEXICO: Goddard; Royon
NORTH CAROLINA: Forest Hills; North Ineed; North Liton; Sunny Valley
NORTH DAKOTA: J.E. Eastgate; Larimore
OKLAHOMA: Briarings
OREGON: Forest Grove; Illinois Valley
PENNSYLVANIA: Elizabethtown; Northern Lebanon
SOUTH CAROLINA: Green Sea Floyd; Pleasant Hill
SOUTH DAKOTA: Marion
TENNESSEE: Woodbury
TEXAS: Brownboro
VIRGINIA: Broadway; Essex; Sternewall Jackson Junior
WASHINGTON: Winlock
WEST VIRGINIA: Marion County
WISCONSIN: Bloomer; De Plare; New Holstein

BRONZE
ALABAMA: Daleville; Robert C. Hatfield; West Easley
ARKANSAS: Ancohpe; Peoria
CALIFORNIA: M. Whitney
CONNECTICT: Hartford
CONNELE: Hoosac Valley
OKLAHOMA: Muskogee; Milford; Suse Central
FLORIDA: Tate
GEORGIA: Cook; Newton County
IDAHO: Ramp; Nezus
ILLINOIS: Cosma Park; Clean; Mt. Carroll; Westmar
IOWA: Humbolt; North Polk
KANSAS: Centennial; City Center; Colville; Haines; Hinton; Shady; Willibrooms; Wintfield
LOUISIANA: Crowley; Oak Grove; South Lafourche
MAINE: Limonest
MINNESOTA: Marshall; Brookfield; Wilmar
MISSISSIPPI: East Marion; Weir
MISSOURI: Memphis; Nevada
NEBRASKA: Norfolk; Wisper
NEVADA: Diamond Mountain; Eureka; Ruby Mountain
NEW JERSEY: Monmouth County Vocational; Newton
NEW YORK: Churchua-Tioga Future Conv.; Greenville
NORTH CAROLINA: East Montgomery; Southern Guilford; Southern Wayne
OHIO: River Valley; Wauseon
OKLAHOMA: Dustin
PENNSYLVANIA: Quiet Growers
SOUTH CAROLINA: Lorris
UTAH: Layh
VIRGINIA: Carol County; Jefferson Forest; Liberty Junior; Northampton; Park View; W.R. Legue
WASHINGTON: Sumner
WISCONSIN: Blackhawk; Bosco; Green Bay East; Green Bay Preble
WYOMING: Douglas; Meeteese

Sponsored by Agri-Data Network, Ag Ed Network and FARMFUTURES Magazine

National Winner: Chad Luthro, Prairie, Iowa
1st Runner-Up: Tammy Pilcher, Chowchilla, California
2nd Runner-Up: Kirk Snaza, Roslyn, South Dakota
3rd Runner-Up: Ryan R. Kissell, Southwest Licking, Ohio
4th Runner-Up: Dow Raddal, Warren East, Kentucky

OREGON: Craig Sauers, Yamhill-Carlton
PENNSYLVANIA: Daniel Parkinson, W.B. Saul
SOUTH CAROLINA: Shane Bullman, Deran
SOUTH DAKOTA: Kirk Snaza, Resyn
TEXAS: Robert A. Schultz, Mansfield
UTAH: Russell Mills, Box Elder
VERMONT: Peter Sylvester, Enosburg
VIRGINIA: Richard L. Mills, Patrick Henry
WASHINGTON: Diane E. Weber, Benton
WEST VIRGINIA: Sandra J. Harms, Ripley
WISCONSIN: Dan A. Spors, Monroe-Mindoro
WYOMING: Frisco Kendall, Gillette

National Safety Awards

Sponsored by Dow Chemical Company and Farm & Industrial Equipment Institute

An ever-present concern of the agricultural community, safety has long been stressed to FFA members. Once again, chapters were recognized for their exceptional efforts to improve the safety and health of their communities. Bronze, silver and gold awards were presented during the Thursday morning session.

GOLD
ARKANSAS: Hartford
COLORADO: Byers
ILLINOIS: Bluffs; Jerseyville; Sycamore;
Winnebago
INDIANA: Carroll; Fort Wayne
IOWA: Butler Center; Benson; Cascade; Creston
KENTUCKY: Spencer County
MICHIGAN: Lainsburg
MINNESOTA: New Ulm

SILVER
ALABAMA: Crossville; J.R. Pittard; Jackson ville "Gold"; Russellville
ARKANSAS: Lavaca
COLORADO: Holyoke
FLORIDA: Lake Placid; Sarasota; Vag Ag
ILLINOIS: Aledo; Cambridge; Dekalb; Franklin Center; Spoon River Valley
INDIANA: Clinton Center; Prairie Heights; Southwest- Hanover
IOWA: Clarion; Estherville; Marenisco; Vinton; Webster City
KENTUCKY: Lyon County
MARYLAND: Catonsville; Clear Spring
MICHIGAN: Charlotte
MISSOURI: Owensville
MONTANA: Cascade; Fairfield
NEBRASKA: Ravenna; Schuyler; Superior
NEW MEXICO: Goddard; Royon
NORTH CAROLINA: Forest Hills; North Ineed; North Liton; Sunny Valley
NORTH DAKOTA: J.E. Eastgate; Larimore
OKLAHOMA: Briarings
OREGON: Forest Grove; Illinois Valley
PENNSYLVANIA: Elizabethtown; Northern Lebanon
SOUTH CAROLINA: Green Sea Floyd; Pleasant Hill
SOUTH DAKOTA: Marion
TENNESSE: Woodbury
TEXAS: Brownboro
VIRGINIA: Broadway; Essex; Sternewall Jackson Junior
WASHINGTON: Winlock
WEST VIRGINIA: Marion County
WISCONSIN: Bloomer; De Plare; New Holstein

BRONZE
ALABAMA: Daleville; Robert C. Hatfield; West Easley
ARKANSAS: Ancohpe; Peoria
CALIFORNIA: M. Whitney
CONNECTICT: Hartford
CONNELE: Hoosac Valley
OKLAHOMA: Muskogee; Milford; Suse Central
FLORIDA: Tate
GEORGIA: Cook; Newton County
IDAHO: Ramp; Nezus
ILLINOIS: Cosma Park; Clean; Mt. Carroll; Westmar
IOWA: Humbolt; North Polk
KANSAS: Centennial; City Center; Colville; Haines; Hinton; Shady; Willibrooms; Wintfield
LOUISIANA: Crowley; Oak Grove; South Lafourche
MAINE: Limonest
MINNESOTA: Marshall; Brookfield; Wilmar
MISSISSIPPI: East Marion; Weir
MISSOURI: Memphis; Nevada
NEBRASKA: Norfolk; Wisper
NEVADA: Diamond Mountain; Eureka; Ruby Mountain
NEW JERSEY: Monmouth County Vocational; Newton
NEW YORK: Churchua-Tioga Future Conv.; Greenville
NORTH CAROLINA: East Montgomery; Southern Guilford; Southern Wayne
OHIO: River Valley; Wauseon
OKLAHOMA: Dustin
PENNSYLVANIA: Quiet Growers
SOUTH CAROLINA: Lorris
UTAH: Layh
VIRGINIA: Carol County; Jefferson Forest; Liberty Junior; Northampton; Park View; W.R. Legue
WASHINGTON: Sumner
WISCONSIN: Blackhawk; Bosco; Green Bay East; Green Bay Preble
WYOMING: Douglas; Meeteese
Sponsored by Landmark Genetics and Manna Pro Corporation

National FFA Band

Sponsored by the General Fund of the National FFA Foundation

For the 58th year, FFA chapters were recognized for their excellence in activities such as community service, leadership, public relations and supervised occupational educational programs. The gold, silver and bronze emblem awards were presented at the Thursday afternoon session and capped off a successful year of achievement for 310 chapters.

ARKANSAS: Charlie Vaughn, Hot Springs, French Horn; Daniel Wooren, Marshall, Trumpet
CALIFORNIA: Tom Kimball, Woodland, Tromper; Penny Smith, McKinleyville, Clarinet
COLORADO: Lynette Taylor, Glade, Flute
CONNECTICUT: Keila Mihiel, Naugatuck, Clarinet
FLORIDA: Kathy McCarthy, Palm Coast, Tromper
GEORGIA: J.L. Hams, Mount, Tuba
IDAHO: David Hansen, Dixie, Trumpet
ILLINOIS: Tammy Daniels, Waterloo, Clarinet; Susan Johnson, Edward, Clarinet; Tim Thulin, Galva, Percussion; Dan Tothill, LeRoy, Percussion
INDIANA: Julia Brown, Greenfield, Tromper; Reesam Dawson, Monroe, Clarinet; Craig Hep, Plymouth, Bass Clarinet; Paul Jacobs, Huntingdon, Tromper; Matt Jung, Topson, Bass Guitar; Andy Krogs, Denver, Tenor Sax; Lori Lafure, Fountain City, Flute; Brian Whites, Morgantown, Trombone
IOWA: Amy Drouth, Rockwell, Tromper; Emily Eakon, Le Claire, Tromper; Jeff Jochems, De Witt, Percussion; Marcy Mitter, Mount Ayr, Clarinet; Dianna Murphy, Knoxville, French Horn; Randie Riegel, Latimer, Trombone; Kim Shelter, La Porte City, French Horn
KANSAS: Kurt Berle, Longfellow, Tuba; Celia Jahne, Leonardville, Alto Sax; Troy Marden, Riley, Alto Sax; Greg Noloh, Newton, Tuba
KENTUCKY: Mike Cameslough, Stanford, Bass Sax
LOUISIANA: Matthew Lejeune, Midland, Trombone
MARYLAND: Rebecca A. Smith, Knoxville, Baritone Bass Class
MICHIGAN: Wade Hanna, North Branch, Percussion; Brenda House, Wexford, Baritone Treble Clarinet; Jennifer Ropades, Breton, Trumpet; Neilson Storms, Centreville, Trompet;
MINNESOTA: Dulce Anderson, Buffalo Lake, Alto Sax; Heidi Annstrom, Buffalo Lake, Bass Clarinet; Marie Arnold, Caledonia, Flute; Daun Bondhus, Sostenio, Clarinet; Tim Carlson, Welch, Trumpet; Spring Holland, Borden, Flute; Jason Shipps, Latham, Trombone
MISSISSIPPI: Eric Meador, Laurel, Trumpet
MISSOURI: S. Burtt, Burtt, Percussion; Arnold Feil, Mount Vernon, Tenor Sax; Bobby Garrett, Sweet Springs, Tromper; Mary Husmann, Butte, Flute; Brenda Jones, Chillicothe, Clarinet; Linda Martin, Buxton, Bass; Mary Martz, Wonderland, Alto Sax; Marisa Wike, Laran, Flute; Allen Zietar, Macon, Tuba
MONTANA: Dean Jardoe, Elkadah, Trombone; Heidi Swanson, Historic, Baritone Treble Clarinet; James Watts, Fairview, Trombone; Nebraska: Andrea Wekel, Long Pine, French Horn
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Chester George, Winnemucca, Minnon; Maine: Tim Yan, Wells, Clarinet
NEW YORK: Chester George, Winnemucca, Minnon; Maine: Tim Yan, Wells, Clarinet
NEW YORK: Tracy Brisk, Perry, French Horn
NEW MEXICO: Amanda Brown, Oliva, Baritone Bass Class
NEW YORK: Tracy Brock, Perry, French Horn
NEW YORK: Cheryl Henschen, Holyoke, Baritone Treble Clarinet; James Watts, Fairview, Trombone; Nevada: Andrea Wekel, Long Pine, French Horn
NORTH DAKOTA: Gretchen Anderson, Carrington, French Horn; Terry Enrockson, Westwood, Trombone
OHIO: Carrie S. Coomer, Versailles, Tromper; Bill More, Pequa, Tuba; Scott Snyder, Chillicothe, Tuba; Tracey Skam, Lewiston, Oboe; Mary Kimlin, Graytown, Bassoon
OKLAHOMA: Blake Peters, Verona, Baritone Bass Class; Amanda Brown, Oliva, Baritone Bass Class; Mary Anne, Goodnight, French Horn; Tom Eitgerald, Wheatland, French Horn; Dana Jarmol, wheatland, French Horn; Emily Klein, wheatland, French Horn; Laura Lee, Cleveland, Flute; Texas: Jim Foster, Rockdale, Tuba; Kansas: Hawkes, Houston, Oboe; Susan Lindsey, Upurth Springs, Flute; Gate Rask, Oaklandwood, Bass Baritone Class; Kim Work, Leland City, Clarinet
SOUTH DAKOTA: Kevin Nemick, Reslyn, Trombone; Wallace Walker, Hurley, Tub; Ken Weit, Harrisburg, Trumpet
TENNESSEE: Amy Golden, Arthur, Trumpet, Angela Lee, Cleveland, Flute; Texas: Jim Foster, Rockdale, Tuba; Kansas: Hawkes, Houston, Oboe; Susan Lindsey, Upurth Springs, Flute; Gate Rask, Oaklandwood, Bass Baritone Class; Kim Work, Leland City, Clarinet
UTAH: Jim Wilson, Lehi, Baritone Bass Class
WASHINGTON: Kenna Felt, Cerrano, Alto Sax; Vicki Lynch, Spokane, Flute; Pam Neller, Othello, Trumpet; Cheryl Van Beek, Othello, Bassoon
WISCONSIN: Albert Baker, Mt. Horeb, Trumpet; Mary Bachner, Rose Lake, Clarinet, Elizabeth Doh, Cannon, Clarinet; Jack Edwards, Wata, Baritone Bass Clarinet; Jennifer Kagi, Dis.eck, Baritone Bass Clarinet; Matthew Szymanski, Pulaski, Tenor Sax
WYOMING: Steven Stack, Meeteetse, Baritone Bass Class

Convention Rebroadcast
Re-live the memories of the National FFA Convention with your chapter members back home. Watch the rebroadcast of the entire convention Thanksgiving Day on RFD/TV. Tune your satellite to Spectrum Channel 23, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Central, Time, Nov. 24.
National FFA Talent

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

Director: Stan Kingma
Assistant Director: Owen Roberts
Chairperson and Assistant: Marilyn Kingma
Chairperson and Assistant: Joe Kingma

ALABAMA: Marion Owens, Thomasville; Lisa Peay, Union
CALIFORNIA: Tacy Johnston, Fallbrook FLORIDA: Venus Campos, Label, JoAnna Former, Live Oak GEDDES: Terry Thompson, Twin City IOWA: Stacie Burgin, Webster City, Kory Kasselberg, West Liberty; Merrif Mecks, Rock Rapids; Henry Meyers, West Liberty; Jeff Mohwinkle, Aplington; Andrew Streeter, Rockwell City; Lesa Wells, Milan ILLINOIS: Teresa Benson, Cortland; Matt Hamilton, Stockton; Andrew Mason, Pekin; Michele Panzico, Chebanse; Maria Pellezzi, Chicago; Jonathan Robert, Basco; Cameron Shields, Cisna Park, Julie Vanway, M. Vernon INDIANA: Lesli Sedl, Brook KANSAS: Shannon Bergstrom, Courtland, Julie Cheney, Eta KENTUCKY: Sara Faizer, Marion MICHIGAN: Bryan Barner, Oak Grove

MISSISSIPPI: Steve Johnson, Brook DAKOTA: Heidi Ensminger, Arushac, Chris Stephenson, Liberty

 tolerance. (Photo: Sam Harrel)

National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

Director: Stan Kingma
Assistant Director: Owen Roberts
Chairperson and Assistant: Marilyn Kingma
Chairperson and Assistant: Joe Kingma

ALABAMA: Marion Owens, Thomasville; Lisa Peay, Union
CALIFORNIA: Tacy Johnston, Fallbrook FLORIDA: Venus Campos, Label, JoAnna Former, Live Oak GEDDES: Terry Thompson, Twin City IOWA: Stacie Burgin, Webster City, Kory Kasselberg, West Liberty; Merrif Mecks, Rock Rapids; Henry Meyers, West Liberty; Jeff Mohwinkle, Aplington; Andrew Streeter, Rockwell City; Lesa Wells, Milan ILLINOIS: Teresa Benson, Cortland; Matt Hamilton, Stockton; Andrew Mason, Pekin; Michele Panzico, Chebanse; Maria Pellezzi, Chicago; Jonathan Robert, Basco; Cameron Shields, Cisna Park, Julie Vanway, M. Vernon INDIANA: Lesli Sedl, Brook KANSAS: Shannon Bergstrom, Courtland, Julie Cheney, Eta KENTUCKY: Sara Faizer, Marion MICHIGAN: Bryan Barner, Oak Grove

MISSISSIPPI: Steve Johnson, Brook DAKOTA: Heidi Ensminger, Arushac, Chris Stephenson, Liberty

 tolerance. (Photo: Sam Harrel)

National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

Director: Stan Kingma
Assistant Director: Owen Roberts
Chairperson and Assistant: Marilyn Kingma
Chairperson and Assistant: Joe Kingma

ALABAMA: Marion Owens, Thomasville; Lisa Peay, Union
CALIFORNIA: Tacy Johnston, Fallbrook FLORIDA: Venus Campos, Label, JoAnna Former, Live Oak GEDDES: Terry Thompson, Twin City IOWA: Stacie Burgin, Webster City, Kory Kasselberg, West Liberty; Merrif Mecks, Rock Rapids; Henry Meyers, West Liberty; Jeff Mohwinkle, Aplington; Andrew Streeter, Rockwell City; Lesa Wells, Milan ILLINOIS: Teresa Benson, Cortland; Matt Hamilton, Stockton; Andrew Mason, Pekin; Michele Panzico, Chebanse; Maria Pellezzi, Chicago; Jonathan Robert, Basco; Cameron Shields, Cisna Park, Julie Vanway, M. Vernon INDIANA: Lesli Sedl, Brook KANSAS: Shannon Bergstrom, Courtland, Julie Cheney, Eta KENTUCKY: Sara Faizer, Marion MICHIGAN: Bryan Barner, Oak Grove

MISSISSIPPI: Steve Johnson, Brook DAKOTA: Heidi Ensminger, Arushac, Chris Stephenson, Liberty

 tolerance. (Photo: Sam Harrel)

National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

Director: Stan Kingma
Assistant Director: Owen Roberts
Chairperson and Assistant: Marilyn Kingma
Chairperson and Assistant: Joe Kingma

ALABAMA: Marion Owens, Thomasville; Lisa Peay, Union
CALIFORNIA: Tacy Johnston, Fallbrook FLORIDA: Venus Campos, Label, JoAnna Former, Live Oak GEDDES: Terry Thompson, Twin City IOWA: Stacie Burgin, Webster City, Kory Kasselberg, West Liberty; Merrif Mecks, Rock Rapids; Henry Meyers, West Liberty; Jeff Mohwinkle, Aplington; Andrew Streeter, Rockwell City; Lesa Wells, Milan ILLINOIS: Teresa Benson, Cortland; Matt Hamilton, Stockton; Andrew Mason, Pekin; Michele Panzico, Chebanse; Maria Pellezzi, Chicago; Jonathan Robert, Basco; Cameron Shields, Cisna Park, Julie Vanway, M. Vernon INDIANA: Lesli Sedl, Brook KANSAS: Shannon Bergstrom, Courtland, Julie Cheney, Eta KENTUCKY: Sara Faizer, Marion MICHIGAN: Bryan Barner, Oak Grove

MISSISSIPPI: Steve Johnson, Brook DAKOTA: Heidi Ensminger, Arushac, Chris Stephenson, Liberty

 tolerance. (Photo: Sam Harrel)

National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

Director: Stan Kingma
Assistant Director: Owen Roberts
Chairperson and Assistant: Marilyn Kingma
Chairperson and Assistant: Joe Kingma

ALABAMA: Marion Owens, Thomasville; Lisa Peay, Union
CALIFORNIA: Tacy Johnston, Fallbrook FLORIDA: Venus Campos, Label, JoAnna Former, Live Oak GEDDES: Terry Thompson, Twin City IOWA: Stacie Burgin, Webster City, Kory Kasselberg, West Liberty; Merrif Mecks, Rock Rapids; Henry Meyers, West Liberty; Jeff Mohwinkle, Aplington; Andrew Streeter, Rockwell City; Lesa Wells, Milan ILLINOIS: Teresa Benson, Cortland; Matt Hamilton, Stockton; Andrew Mason, Pekin; Michele Panzico, Chebanse; Maria Pellezzi, Chicago; Jonathan Robert, Basco; Cameron Shields, Cisna Park, Julie Vanway, M. Vernon INDIANA: Lesli Sedl, Brook KANSAS: Shannon Bergstrom, Courtland, Julie Cheney, Eta KENTUCKY: Sara Faizer, Marion MICHIGAN: Bryan Barner, Oak Grove

MISSISSIPPI: Steve Johnson, Brook DAKOTA: Heidi Ensminger, Arushac, Chris Stephenson, Liberty

 tolerance. (Photo: Sam Harrel)

National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

Director: Stan Kingma
Assistant Director: Owen Roberts
Chairperson and Assistant: Marilyn Kingma
Chairperson and Assistant: Joe Kingma

ALABAMA: Marion Owens, Thomasville; Lisa Peay, Union
CALIFORNIA: Tacy Johnston, Fallbrook FLORIDA: Venus Campos, Label, JoAnna Former, Live Oak GEDDES: Terry Thompson, Twin City IOWA: Stacie Burgin, Webster City, Kory Kasselberg, West Liberty; Merrif Mecks, Rock Rapids; Henry Meyers, West Liberty; Jeff Mohwinkle, Aplington; Andrew Streeter, Rockwell City; Lesa Wells, Milan ILLINOIS: Teresa Benson, Cortland; Matt Hamilton, Stockton; Andrew Mason, Pekin; Michele Panzico, Chebanse; Maria Pellezzi, Chicago; Jonathan Robert, Basco; Cameron Shields, Cisna Park, Julie Vanway, M. Vernon INDIANA: Lesli Sedl, Brook KANSAS: Shannon Bergstrom, Courtland, Julie Cheney, Eta KENTUCKY: Sara Faizer, Marion MICHIGAN: Bryan Barner, Oak Grove

MISSISSIPPI: Steve Johnson, Brook DAKOTA: Heidi Ensminger, Arushac, Chris Stephenson, Liberty

 tolerance. (Photo: Sam Harrel)
Agriscience Teacher of the Year

Sponsored by the General Fund of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Regional winners of the Agriscience Teacher of the Year competition vied for the coveted top spot during interviews on Thursday. Leeman Charles Parker of Selma, Calif. was chosen for his innovative approach. He transformed an average high school agriculture department into one of the state's model programs. He is now working to implement a state-wide agriscience program.

Parker was the recipient of $2,000 and a plaque. All four national finalists received a clock, $1,000 and a plaque for their school.

National Winner: Leeman Charles Parker, Selma, Calif.

National Finalists:

Regional Winners:

State Winners:

Agriscience Student Recognition

Sponsored by Monsanto Agricultural Company

The notion of science in the agriculture classroom is nothing new. For the first time, however, FFA recognized the scientific efforts of students during a convention session. Developed on the heels of the Agriscience Teacher of the Year award, the two programs work hand in hand to encourage the application of science to agriculture.

The national winner, Gary Todd, Conestoga, Neb., and other finalists were chosen from a field of seven regional winners during interviews held on Thursday. Todd’s project explored the use of electrostatic spraying to increase the accuracy and effectiveness of chemical application. Electrostatic spraying is a process in which an electrical charge is given to a spray mixture while the opposite charge is given to the plants to be sprayed. His experiments demonstrated that 26 percent less herbicide was needed to cover a given amount of acreage.

As first place winner, Todd received a $5,000 scholarship. The runner up, Timothy Lam, Mt. Crawford, Va., received a $5,000 scholarship. The eight regional finalists each earned $500 for their efforts and all 50 state winners received a $1,000 scholarship.

National Winner: Gary Todd, Conestoga, Nebraska

Runner Up: Timothy Lam, Mt. Crawford, Virginia

Regional Winners:

State Winners:
ARKANSAS: Leslie J. Hays, Winona; COLORADO: Lon A. Motter, Flagler; INDIANA: Micah Hetty, Auburn; IOWA: Mike Barnes, Montez; KANSAS: Matt Hoelman, Republic; MAINE: Mary A. Rossignol, Washinton; MINNESOTA: Jennifer H. Butler, Hanover; NEVADA: Claire Hamer, Elko; NORTH CAROLINA: Rebecca M. Lew, Cary; NORTH DAKOTA: Mark Knudson, Crosby; OREGON: Andrew L. Gibbem, Hillsboro; WEST VIRGINA: John P. Patterson, Gay; WISCONSIN: Jill Geenen, Rudolph

Gary Todd, center, reacts to being named the FFA's first recipient of the Agriscience Student award. (Photo by Andy Markwart)
National FFA Foundation

If FFA members are the organization’s heartbeats, the National FFA Foundation is its backbone. The foundation provides solid support for a vast array of programs. From the incentives that motivate performance to the recognition that rewards accomplishment, the National FFA Foundation promotes and finances opportunities.

Nowhere was the foundation’s work more visible than at the National FFA Convention. The culmination of its efforts were everywhere. Accomplished public speakers competed before a packed house. Talented young musicians took their bows amidst thunderous applause. Skilled judges tested their prowess in evaluating livestock while aspiring agricultural economists tested their knowledge of farm business management. And, at Thursday night’s sponsor recognition, the foundation celebrated another successful year.

Outgoing chairman Joe Downey announced that another record-breaking sum had been raised—$3.3 million to be used in support of the FFA, the National FFA Alumni Association, the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association, the National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization, and the National Young Farmer Educational Association and Institute.

Downey lauded the foundation’s professional staff based in Madison, Wis., for the organization’s phenomenal growth. “Bernie Stalter deserves recognition for the exceptional job he does as executive director,” says Downey. “His level of dedication goes beyond just doing the job.”

Nicholas Rabson, 1989 chairman elect of the Foundation Sponsors’ Board, addresses the Thursday evening session. Photo by Sam Harrel

35 YEAR SPONSORS
The Fertilizer Institute, Monsanto Fund, Pfizer Incorporated/Agricultural Division, Rohm & Haas Company and Western Auto Supply Company

25 YEAR SPONSORS
Farm & Industrial Equipment Institute, Kellogg Company and Welch Foods Incorporated

15 YEAR SPONSORS

Sponsors’ Board
Executive Council
Chairman
Joseph Downey
Vice President
Dave Chemical Company

Chairman-Elect 1989
Nicholas C. Babson
President & Chairman of the Board
Babson Bros. Co./SURGE

Chairman-Elect 1990
Thomas J. Hennessey
Chairman
TSC Industries, Inc.

Past Chairman
Robert C. Lanphier III
Chairman
DICKET-John Corporation

Sponsors’ Board 1987-1988
James Cowick
Publisher
SUCCEEDING LAMMING
John Coy
President, APCCO Associates
Thomas Dille
President & CEO, Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company
William A. Miller
President & CEO, American Pulp & Paper Corporation
Dennis Phair
President, Pharmis Farms, Inc.
Larry Reese
Past President, National FFA Alumni Association
Dale Wolf
Director, Delaware Development Office

Sponsors’ Board 1988-1989
Noel E. Callahan
President, Callahan Enterprises, Inc.
Wild P. Crowder
President, Agricultural Division, Pfizer Inc.
Darryl D. Pry
President, Cynamid Agricultural Division American Cyanamid Company
E. Donald Griffin
Vice President U.S. Operations, MSD AGVET Division, Merck & Co., Inc.
Larry D. Hayes
President, Agricultural Products, Ruder Manufacturing Company
Merle J. Kast
Senior Vice President/Executive Director, Sales & Marketing, Yaminia Motor Corporation, U.S.A.
John B. Kelly
President & CEO, Na-Chus Plant Food Company
Raymond Mattioli
Vice President, CBT, Inc.
Gary W. McMillions
Vice President, Public Affairs, Corn Synergistic Corporation
Rick Mezger
President, National FFA Alumni Association
Dale A. Miller
President and CEO, Sandvick Corp Protection Corporation
Bernard L. Nielsen
President, The Golf Company
Robert J. Rauksher
President Marketing, Amoco Oil Company
Robert W. Reynolds
President, North America, Monsanto Agricultural Company
Richard H. Severson
President, Kent Feeds, Inc.
Bruce G. Wheeler
President, Country General Stores
Jerome B. York
Vice President, Truck Operations, Chrysler Motors Corporation
R. Larry Young
Vice President, Manna Pro Corporation

Sponsors’ Board 1989-1990
Don Berg
Vice President, Milk Procurement Division, Land O’Lakes, Inc.
Neal A. Christopherson
Vice President, Ceere & Company
John Haid
Senior Vice President, Pilgrim’s Pride Corporation
Roger Heins
General Manager, Farmer Livestock Products
Jerry Kane
Vice President, First National Bank of Chicago
James W. Kent
Vice President, L. William Tewkes & Co.
Dr. Al Kern
Vice President of Commercial Development, Mycogen Corporation
Charles Scholes
Vice President Marketing, Vicon
Emmett J. Schermann
Vice President, LeaseAmerica Corporation
Charles E. Seaton
President, Kaiser Estech
James Spilarski
President Elect, National FFA Alumni
Lynnville Smith
Vice President Purchasing & Distribution, Carnation Company
George C. Thornton
General Manager, Marketing, ICI Americas Inc.
William Tribble
President and CEO, Ag America, Inc.
Gerald Welch
Corporate Vice President & General Manager, The Upjohn Company

13
Distinguished Service Citations

The strength of the FFA is due in part to the continual support of its sponsors. During the national convention, FFA members recognize those organizations and companies which have maintained a strong commitment to the future of agriculture through the National FFA Foundation. Three such sponsors were presented the Distinguished Service Citation at the Thursday afternoon session.

NAVISSTAR International Transportation Corporation

Formerly International Harvester, Navistar is a major producer of trucks and is a 44-year sponsor of the FFA. Navistar has sponsored two safety programs, "Brand 'Em for Safety" and "Brand 'Em II." Both efforts included instructional materials, audio-visuals and safety decals for equipment printed in three languages.

CHRYSLER Corporation — Dodge Trucks

Best described as a sponsor that wears many hats, Chrysler Corporation — Dodge Trucks provides funding for the International Experiences for National Stars program, the Cereal Grains Proficiency Award and the FFA Collectors' Buck Bettle Project. A sponsor for 36 years, the company also has two well-known individuals who give of their time in support of the FFA: Chairman Lee Iacocca, who spoke at the 1987 convention and Jerry York, vice president, Truck Operations.

DEKALB Genetics Corporation

The DEKALB Agricultural Accomplishment Award has been provided with an annual $10,000 to five outstanding students over the past 10 years. The award recognizes students who have demonstrated leadership, academic excellence and agricultural accomplishments. The 1998 recipient was Jake McKechnie, Wyoming, Wyo.
National FFA Alumni Association

As FFA members gathered in Kansas City, so did members of the National FFA Alumni Association for their 17th annual convention.

Twy W. Bye, President; Robert Schwambeker, Denmark, Wis.; and Duane A. Van Sickle, Buckeye Valley, Ohio, were honored as the FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recipients.

In the Outstanding Alumni Affiliate competition, the Denverak, Wis., and Bushnell-Prairie City, Ill., chapters earned first and second, respectively, from more than 1,200 local affiliates nationwide.

Alumni delegates elected Jim Sipierski, Green Bay, Wis., as the 1988-89 National FFA Alumni President. Other new officers are: Josiah Phelps, Fort Valley, Ga., vice president; Mark Williams, Owiedo, Fla., southern representative; and Roxann Sommers, London, Ohio, eastern representative. Past President Rick Metzger, Waterville, Ohio, and Western Representative Raymond Cockrum, Guthrie, Okla., will also remain on the National FFA Alumni Council for the next year.

Thirty alumni were honored as Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliates:

GOLD
Bushnell-Prairie City, Ill. 
Bendel, Wis.
Dann, Wis.
Mastons, Wis.

SILVER
Giles County, Ga.
Clay City, Kan.
Honier, Mich.

BRONZE
Firstproof, Fla.
Hill City, Kan.
Washington, Kan.

 scripture in that position was highlighted by implementation of a statewide FFA leadership program and the writing of legislation which resulted in a special annual appropriation of $500,000 for the improvement of vocational student organizations.

Ralph R. Dreessen Executive Director Oklahoma FFA Foundation

Ralph Dreessen has been part of FFA for 47 years—from serving as state supervisor of vocational education to four years on the National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees. He served as president of the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education and was on the policy committee for agriculture education of the American Vocational Association.

Sidney E. Koon Executive Director Colorado Vocational Association

From teaching high school agriculture to serving as state supervisor of agricultural education, Sidney Koon has been involved with FFA for 32 years. He served as state executive secretary and was named Outstanding Teacher of Vocational Agriculture for 18 years. Koon is an Honorary American Farmer.

O. Claude McGhee Professor Emeritus West Virginia University

Holder of a doctorate in agricultural education, O. Claude McGhee spent over 43 years serving high school agriculture and FFA. He taught high school for 19 years, and served as a university agricultural teacher educator for almost 25 years. McGhee has been awarded numerous honorary FFA degrees.

Owen S. Newlin Senior Vice President Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.

Owen Newlin has long been a force in the National FFA Foundation. He served as chairman in 1981, was a member of the Sponsors’ Board from 1979 to 1982 and served on the Board of Trustees in 1980 and 1981. He has been instrumental in Pioneer’s 33 years of support—for FFA, NVATA and NFHFA. Newlin has also headed the U.S. Feed Grains Council and was named Agri-Marketer of the Year by the National Agri Marketing Association.

Glenn See Former State Supervisor of Agriculture Education Mississippi

Many contributions to FFA and agricultural education are credited to Glenn See, who retired as state supervisor in 1982. Past positions include district livestock specialist, district supervisor, executive secretary of the Mississippi FFA Foundation and membership on the National FFA Alumni Board of Directors.

Jim Warren Former Employee, U.S. Department of Education Maryland

Jim Warren has been a familiar face at many National FFA Conventions. As an employee of the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., he served on the National FFA Board of Directors. Warren advised the National FFA Nominating Committee for 18 years, and also served as state advisor to the North Carolina association of New Farmers of America.

Auction

As the final "Sold!" echoed through the air at the 3rd annual FFA Alumni Auction, nearly $26,200 had been raised for the organization’s future activities.

A 1989 Silverado pickup donated by Chevrolet Motor Division brought the highest dollar value. Eugene and Nancy Adler of Bowling Green, Ohio, purchased the blue-and-gold pickup complete with FFA emblem.

A 1989 Silverado, Yuma, Colo., paid $2,450 for a Honda four-wheeler all-terrain vehicle (ATV), donated by American Honda Motor Company. Yamaha Motor Company also sponsored a four-wheel ATV, purchased for $2,425 by Mildred Moore, Popo, Miss.

Members of the Michigan FFA Alumni coordinated and collected the 320 plus donated items. Steve Meredith and Morris Fannon served as auctioneers.

Workshops

Sponsored by Land O’ Lakes, Inc.

Some of the most popular events of the week for FFA members were the Alumni workshops presented by former national officers Rhonda Scheulen, Kevin Biben, Steve Meredith, Kevin Coffman and Kevin Yost. Workshops chairman Otell Miller of Ohio organized an exciting slate of speakers. Each led a one-hour session.

VIP Citations

A highlight of the Friday morning session was the presentation of VIP Citations to persons who have provided exemplary service to the FFA.

Four have held high state posts in vocational and agricultural education, two have served as teacher educators and one has been National FFA Foundation chairman. Together, these men have served the FFA for a total of over 200 years.

Irving C. Cross Professor Emeritus Colorado State University

Irving Cross climbed the ladder of agricultural education, beginning as a high school agriculture instructor in 1948. He became an assistant professor at Colorado State in 1957, and became head of the agriculture education department in 1968. Retired in 1983, Cross has authored many articles about agricultural production and business.

Jerry T. Davis Former Assistant State FFA Advisor California Association

Under Jerry Davis’ leadership, California FFA membership grew from 12,000 to nearly 50,000. His 20-year tenure was recognized with a special citation for his unwavering support of the National FFA Organization and the California FFA Program.

Steve Fannon Former National FFA Supervisor of Vocational Education Illinois

Steve Fannon’s 20 years of service to FFA are honored with a special citation for his work in supporting agricultural education on state and national levels.

Andy Sipierski, left, outgoing president, congratulates newly-elected president (left) Sipierski. (Photo by Orlin Wagner)
"In our attic, I found an old FFA manual from the 1930s. On one page they had what they called 'Future Farmer Yells.' My favorite chant was one that went like this... 'Hayseed, pumpkin, turnip, squash, Future Farmers we are by gosh.' This chant symbolizes the changes in agriculture and in FFA over the years. Once these chants were appropriate because FFA was a farm boy club. Today, we need to respond to the needs of our time and use FFA and agricultural education to prepare young people as they serve the broad industry of agriculture."

Ron Wilson
National FFA Vice President 1975-76 and a member of the National Academy of Sciences study committee on Agricultural Education in Secondary Schools
A Moment in Paradise

Kelli Evans
National FFA President
Lincoln, Nebraska

I have witnessed paradise in many of you. You display a simplicity, but extraordinary quality of helping others out of the pure goodness of your heart. I believe expecting nothing but respect in return.

I started searching for those special moments early in the year. I was returning home in December, anxious to see my hometown friends and my family. I walked into the house and immediately saw the beautifully decorated evergreen tree. Under it was every young person’s dream—pretty paper, big boxes, presents, and more presents. As you might imagine, I searched the piles for the label with my name. I held, shook, and turned each one up and down, even thought about pulling the tape off until I opened the corner of wrapping as I fantasized about the possibilities inside the boxes. Later I glanced into my nine-year-old sister’s room and saw a large poster she had made and taped to her door. In one corner of the poster she had drawn a picture of our family and a heart with a time clock. In the top left hand corner were five lines she had listed her Christmas wishes.

My little sister had filled in only two of the lines. Number one: I wish my sister would come home soon. Number two: We wish our family would come home. We were expecting nothing but respect in return.

Sometimes we get caught up in a materialistic society, only thinking of ourselves and what others can do for us. We forget what it is all about: sharing unselfishly, exposing our hearts and ovaries and giving something nothing in return. Another lesson learned from a child’s innocent mind and heart.

Dear Diary, (February 9, 1988, Tokyo, Japan) We have and talk so much about how admirable it is for people to put individual wants aside, not be judgmental of others and come together for the good of a cause. This past week my fellow officers and I had many extraordinary experiences with some of the most unselfish individuals in the world—the Japanese people.

I visited my host family and witnessed the Japanese pride in giving others. I noticed a beautiful Japanese doll sitting in the front room and mentioned to my host mother how attractive it was. You can imagine how surprised I was three days later when they wrapped the same doll and gave it to me as a gift from their family. Although not uncommon, their people find satisfaction in giving to others and putting other’s wants and possessions aside.

As a simple concept. I often wonder if our country is getting away from such basics. Our generation is hollering out for our needs, who don’t judge others by their color, wealth or worldly status. Instead, we need yachts that will measure people by their quality of character; by their honesty, service, and generosity. And these simple qualities in great abounds and have can make the greatest contributions to our organization and our country.

FFA members, thank you for expressing these same unique, simple qualities in yourselves this year. As your officers, we listened to many opinions about the proposed constitutional amendments. Although we cannot predict the outcome of your recent decisions, I believe this will go down in history as a memorable one for the FFA. As FFA members, I believe that our future greatness, you and I, have come together and displayed an unbelievable service for the organization, and whole organization, now and into the next decade. May you continue to exhibit the ability to expose those simple qualities as you enter the company of men and women who are shaping the nation and its destiny.

Dear Diary, (July 25, 1988, Washington, D.C.) I called home today and heard my folks tell me about your contest. I’m very surprised. Apparently the winner will receive hundreds of dollars of scholarship money just by drawing a picture of their biggest wish. Again her thought process and action caught me off guard.

I collected photos of my 20-year-old brother, Kory, on the left side of the poster. Then she colored a solid, dark black strip to the immediate right of this which gradually faded to a lighter gray and eventually while we were still continued to the right. On the far right side of the page was a beautiful collage of our family and yard. At the very bottom was a little girl’s勤ched words, “I wish my brother could see again.” After a long-term battle with diabetes which forced him to the hospital a week earlier, it would be impossible, Kory courageously faced the loss of his eye’s this past year. Although Kory could not draw something everything from a bicycle, to a night rider car, to a new home, she again showed her unconditoned love and thought in her wish for another human being.

This was the first comment an Olympic gold medalist, Academy Award winner, or Nobel Peace Prize recipient makes when they are victorious? “Thank you to those who helped me get here.” FFA members, we can reach our goals. We believe in ourselves and practice to perfection, but unless we have the strength, love, and concern of others to see us along the journey, we may never find the silver lining of paradise called success.

In order to taste the sweetness of achievement, we need to search for strength inside our creator, but in other people. We need to distinguish those who genuinely want to help from those who may be hindered. The message is clear. We should find the right place, the right people with such a character that they will push us to be our best, pick us up when we fall and send us off the pedals when we succeed. This year I witnessed such interactions in many of you people. The FFA is surrounded by people of this caliber. Advices from friends, state and national staff, officers and members who are eager to offer guidance, but only have you in mind.

And it is now that I try the impossible yet necessary feat: a thank you. I’m standing before you as a combination of all the places I have traveled and all the people I have met. I thank God because I know you can accomplish more when the one who loves you most is a part of your life. I can do all things through His name which strengthens me.

I thank my family for their many blessings and unyielding support, my brother for showing me that true beauty is beyond sight, and my sister for her refreshing views on life. I thank my teammates. We knew this was for a million. Somehow we got here together and it certainly wasn’t by accident. We’ve shared dreams, private plans and challenges. And although we are all very different, we’ve had a common and strong fiber which has woven us together—the will be a team and our commitment to you, the FFA members. We will soon pass on the gavel. We retire knowing wholeheartedly that this organization is in the hands of chapter, state and national leaders from people who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of FFA members nation-wide.

Next I thank my country. It’s land full of opportunity and freedom where only this year of paradise would be possible.

I thank myself for having just enough confidence and faith to dream a dream and do the impossible amidst many tears, and risk myself. The rewards have far outweighed the drawbacks.

As we all return to our hometowns tonight, many of you may be rummaging the gift shops for the perfect souvenir or present for someone special. Friends. You’ll take it home wrapped in pretty paper and big boxes and give it to them saying, “Here, take this, and know now that I care.” Yet this year you have shown me time and again again that Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “Gifts are only apologies for doing more.” The fact is, you’re the gift itself. You’re openly and thoughtfully provided us with a smorgasbord selection—moments of paradise which a camera snapshot can’t catch. There’s probably no way you continue to understand what I mean, because the heartbreak is for your hugs, for your letters and cards with words of encouragement, for showing me all I have ever been to is what God made me, for the times your family welcomes you in their home, for singing at camp, for the pleasant surprises and phone calls, the reflecting pond, your home’s spotlight, and for helping me earn my wings, for letting me experience a natural high, for the touchscreen, and sharing, “Ever Since the World Began.”

Today I challenge each one of you to be as unselfish as you possibly can be, of the lives of others as you have mine.

Dear Diary, November 12, 1988, Kansas City, Mo. It’s so hard to think—cummilution of all my hopes, dreams, and hard work in this organization has come to an end all in one day. Yet, that none too late a day, as moment of paradise after another.

The personal challenge is making these into moments stretch to years.

If only I could bottle this feeling, where my dream world collided with reality for a whole year. It is just my hope they will shared a little of this feeling around me, who have put their heart in it. I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

A Run for the Roses

A run for the roses! What a perfect way to summarize and describe the fast-paced and exciting year. I have dreamed of running this race for years, and now, as aapplying that finish wire, I realize that in this run for the roses, it is not the roses, that is truly remarkable. You see, if I had to make a choice today, I would not trade the experiences I’ve had during my six years as an FFA member for these few flowers, even one of the most beautiful in the world. Indeed, it has been to the journey through these past six years and the affirmation of this brief moment that I will treasure and remember forever. And now, as I face the end of this race, I can only hope that these parting thoughts will help you prepare for your own run for the roses.

It is a run for the roses.

As fast as you can.

You will be depletion.

Your momentum is at hand.

It’s the chance of a lifetime,

In a lifetime of chance.

The chance of a lifetime in a lifetime of chance. This year has been a chance of a lifetime. It has provided a daily opportunity to watch FFA members blossom and bloom into talented young leaders from Clovis to Columbus and from Nacogdoches to the North Pole. I have been inspired as you’ve plagued. Your moments of paradise with those around me, the roses of friendship, knowledge and service to mankind.

But, as I sit and think about it, my entire FFA career has been filled with chances to run for the roses. I remember well the chance I had to stand on this stage five years ago and deliver my speech in the National Prepared Public Speaking Contest. It was a turning point in my FFA career and my life. I was awarded second place for my efforts that evening, but it’s not the plaque nor the check I received that strengthened my self-confidence and prepared me for future endeavors. I’ve been able to use that experience to speech before an audience of 22,000 people that made such an impact that the roses, and the roses, and those, and the roses, and those, and the roses. And although I didn’t stand in the winner’s circle. I grew from the experience of running the race.

To each one of you, I say, thank you for sharing this dream and to embark on your own run for the roses. After all, it’s that which the American Dream is all about—the opportunity to

Retiring Addresses

1987-88 National FFA Officers

Texas

Kevin Olczynski
National Secretary
Fort Collins, Colorado

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

AGRICULTURE'S LEADING EDGE — FFA

18
run for the roses—whatever those roses may be! I warn you, many people will tell you there are no roses left in American agriculture. They would like you to believe that our industry is without hope or future. However, they have not seen the garden of opportunities I’ve seen throughout this past year. The rapid growth in area of biotechnology, food science, agriculture and agmarketing is evidence that American agriculture is blooming along with your yard. And, with a percent annual shortage of qualified agricultural workers, our industry is crying for talented workers. As a result, the future is bright. Agriculture and America are betting their future on you. So as you prepare to run, the most difficult experience will saddle yourself with all the knowledge, experience, and skills offered through high school agriculture and the FFA. I encourage you to seek out and knock on the doors of my parents and advisors, for without the coaching I’ve received from my parents and advisors, I would have never made it out of the starting gates. I challenge you to search out the support and friendship of fellow FFA members. It is beneficial to have friends like the FFA friends like the five I’ve worked with this year that have been able to improve and prepare myself for each succeeding run. Finally, for your run for the roses, I hope you find a jockey who can guide and direct your life like my eternal jockey has directed mine. Only do I wish I were to know the true meaning of Proverbs 16:9, “A man’s mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

By before you leave from your starting gates, however, I suggest you once again that in the run for the roses, it’s the planning that counts, not the running. As Dennis Waitley writes in his book Bring the First, “The secret to reaping the greatest benefits from hard work and purposeful preparation is to avoid the temptation to rush for the finish line instead of waiting until you reach the destination.”

Earlier this year, I heard that same message in a high school agriculture class in Illinois. Leading up to the state competition, I was fortunate to find a jockey who had penned his way through the book of Cinithel Flights. They were returning home from the 60th National FFA Convention.

While this experience was undoubtedly, the most challenging experience of my year, I realize now the important lessons it taught me. During the service, a poem was shared which had been written by my jockey. Sherry was an ordinary FFA member just like you and me. She was chapter FFA vice president for the previous 3 years, and only days before her fatal accident, she had been a member of the ag mechanics team that competed in national competition right here in Kansas. Sherry was a 17-year-old girl who had penned her way through the book of Cinithel Flights. They were returning home from the 60th National FFA Convention.

So today, everyday, is a day to make a run for the roses for the roses and leave you with the words of a song written by Senior Nelson’s soccer coach in memory of the victims of flight 1731.

Why do we use to say what we feel? Why do we hesitate to be real
With nothing left, is life’s fate to talk
Please tell me why, why do we talk.

I don’t dwell in the future, don’t look to the past
Remember when life comes your way
That if my road ends today, my life will end today
So go out and make a memory today.

And this treasure gift from above.

You’ve got to be careful of empty pages
Tell me what you’re feeling and what you’re thinking
And this treasure gift from above.

This treasure gift from above.

And what you feel in your heart

In my heart is a magical dreamworld. A place to expect the unexpected. A vast array of hopes and dreams, free of restrictions, only sheer imagination. In my mind is a attic, a storeroom of dead memories, in this, feelings, emotions, attitudes, and opinions—reality. You can read books and books but not really get anything transpired. It seems as if somehow my dreamworld collided with reality and left remaining with me, a magic attic. In it is a reservoir of history of the present and the hope for the future. It serves as a place to rest contemplation, which is sometimes necessary, for the progress of the industry of agriculture. A place to envision the future of this organization. A place to seek my God, Savior, and the guiding light of my life.

And what you feel in your heart

In my heart is a magical dreamworld. A place to expect the unexpected. A vast array of hopes and dreams, free of restrictions, only sheer imagination. In my mind is an attic, a storeroom of dead memories, in this, feelings, emotions, attitudes, and opinions—reality. You can read books and books but not really get anything transpired. It seems as if somehow my dreamworld collided with reality and left remaining with me, a magic attic. In it is a reservoir of history of the present and the hope for the future. It serves as a place to rest contemplation, which is sometimes necessary, for the progress of the industry of agriculture. A place to envision the future of this organization. A place to seek my God, Savior, and the guiding light of my life.
Retiring Addresses

Terri Hanes
National FFA Vice President
Norman, Oklahoma

A small home in snowy Tajima City, I learned that regardless of color, religion, or nationality, the needs of people across the globe are the same. I was received warmly, made small talk, and on departure day was as my host fatherers asked after my train. Arriving at the hotel, I was anxious to hear the other students’ experiences and I noticed that Hollis sat quietly and listened. I have come to know Hollis as a person who values family like he.

Hollis humbly explained to me that his host-family had been moving experiences, one that he felt he could not justly describe. Thank you, Bill, for sharing your honesty and humility with me this year.

Throughout the year I have seen America in its wealth, resources, religion, education, opportunities, and people. A nation dedicated to the principles of democracy and freedom. A country committed to peace or even through a signed treaty with the Soviet Union. United States. United States. United States.

I have learned about my nation’s history in California, Canada, and Seoul, South Korea. And as space student, Discovery successfully orbited the earth, individual ships years of renewed faith and hope for the future. We are a proud America.

I shall always remember the state presidents’ conference in our nation’s capital. As we stood under the celestial sky peering into the reflecting pool at the Washington Monument, I had seen the statue of liberty and many other symbols of our nation. I have seen America in its wealth, resources, religion, education, opportunities, and people. A nation dedicated to the principles of democracy and freedom. A country committed to peace or even through a signed treaty with the Soviet Union. United States. United States. United States.

I have learned about my nation’s history in California, Canada, and Seoul, South Korea. And as space student, Discovery successfully orbited the earth, individual ships years of renewed faith and hope for the future. We are a proud America.

I shall always remember the state presidents’ conference in our nation’s capital. As we stood under the celestial sky peering into the reflecting pool at the Washington Monument, I had seen the statue of liberty and many other symbols of our nation. I have seen America in its wealth, resources, religion, education, opportunities, and people. A nation dedicated to the principles of democracy and freedom. A country committed to peace or even through a signed treaty with the Soviet Union. United States. United States. United States.

I have learned about my nation’s history in California, Canada, and Seoul, South Korea. And as space student, Discovery successfully orbited the earth, individual ships years of renewed faith and hope for the future. We are a proud America.

I shall always remember the state presidents’ conference in our nation’s capital. As we stood under the celestial sky peering into the reflecting pool at the Washington Monument, I had seen the statue of liberty and many other symbols of our nation. I have seen America in its wealth, resources, religion, education, opportunities, and people. A nation dedicated to the principles of democracy and freedom. A country committed to peace or even through a signed treaty with the Soviet Union. United States. United States. United States.
National Agricultural Career Show

Thousands of FFA members and guests enthusiastically visited the National Agricultural Career Show's educational and promotional displays. A diversity of exhibitors, from major universities to National FFA Foundation sponsors, offered convention goers a taste of their purposes and opportunities.

Over the years, the show has become a highly popular convention activity. Starting with the grand opening on Tuesday, the FFA members took advantage of the many booths to learn more about agricultural opportunities.

Concession stands and seating were available along with National FFA Talent perfomers. The Hall of States, where each state association could set up a booth, was a drawing card for those interested in finding out more about FFA and other parts of the country.

The "electronic classroom" provided members a chance to sit down at a computer keyboard. (Photo by Andrew Markwart)

Exhibitors

Elk Grove Village-

American Agriculture Board

Ag-Pac
Agri-Data
Agri-Education
Agricultural Communications
of Tomorrow
Agricultural Communicators
in Education
Alabama A & M University
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
American Angus Association
American Association of Nurserymen
American Breeders Service
American Cyanamid Company
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Fisheries Society
American Geophysical Union
American Institute of Cooperation
American International Charities Association
American Maine-Atjou Association
American Morgan Horse Institute
American Poultry Heredity Association
American Quarter Horse Association
American Salers Association
American Simental Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Amish Fresh
Batson Bros. Co./SURGE
Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology
Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Bureau of the Census
CAROUEST, Inc.
Case IH
Chevrolet Motor Division
Christian Farmers Association
Coca-Cola, USA
Cornell University
Data Transmission Network
Deere & Co.
Delmar Valley
Delmar Publishers, Inc.
DHHS/PHS/FDA/HCB
Diversified Marketing Associates, Inc.
Farm & Industrial Equipment Institute
Farmhouse International Fraternity
Farmland Industries
Federal Crop Insurance
Florida Department of Citrus
Food & Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine
Ford Motor Company
Gordon Bernard Co., Inc.
Hampshire Swine Registry
ICI America's Incorporated
IMC/Pitman Moore
Instructional Materials Laboratory
International Brangus Breeders Association
Interplan Publishing Corporation
Iowa State University
Kansas Agricultural Chemicals
Kaiser Agricultural Chemicals/Esstech
(Divisions of Vigno Industries, Inc.)
Kansai University
Lakeshore Technical Institute
Lincoln University
Louisiana State University
Michigan State University
Mid-America Dairy, Inc.
Mid-America Voc. Curriculum
Consolidated (MACC)
Moberg Chemical Corp
Modesto Junior College
Nab-Chrus Plant Food Company
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Farm-City Council
National Farmers Organization
National Food and Energy Council
National Grain and Feed Association
National Guard Bureau
National High School Rodeo Association
National FFA Organization Booths—
Agriscience Winner Displays
(Sponsored by Monsanto)
FFA Alumni
Building Our American Communities
Information/Careers
The National FUTURE FARMER
Take Pride in America
Washington Conference Program
Work Experience Abroad
National Pork Producers Council
National Research Council Board on Agriculture
National Rifle Association
National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association
National Young Farmer Educational Association
Nickerson Plant Breeders
Northwest Missouri State University
Ohio State University
Ohio University CMC/MACC
Parker College
Peace Corps
Pecan Valley Nut Company, Inc.
Penn State University
Puestos Rico College
Pioneer Hi-Bred
Purdue University
Remington Arms Company, Inc.
Rhode-Poulenc Co. Company
Rodale Institute
Rutman National Seal-Sweet Growers, Inc.
Select Sires, Inc.
Society of American Foresters
Society for Range Management
Soil & Water Conservation Society
South Western Publishing Co.
Southeast Community College
Southwest Community College
Southern Illinois University
Southern Vocational Technical Institute
Stone Mfg. Supply
Texas A&M University
Texas Tech University
The Society of American Foresters
Tri-State Breeders
U.S. Air Force
U.S. Army Recruiting Command
U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. Navy Recruiting Command
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Maryland
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri—Columbia
University of Nebraska—Lincoln
College of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin
Upjohn Company
USDA—Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA—Farmers Home Administration
USDA—Forest Service
USDA—Soil Conservation Service
USDA—Soil Conservation Society
Educational Branch
USDA—Soil Conservation Society
Recruitment
Virginia Tech
Vocational-Technical Education Consortium
Wisconsin
WIX Filters
Wildlife Society—Missouri Branch
Women's Christian Temperance
Association
Yamaha Motor Corp., USA

HALL OF STATES

Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming

Expanding into the north half of H. Roe Bartle Hall for the first time, the National Agricultural Career Show featured 152 exhibitors. (Photo by Andy Markwart)

21
Proficiency Awards

Friday night’s proficiency pageant was packed with excitement for the 116 members who were regional finalists. Earlier in the week, these regional winners took part in interviews at the Allis Plaza Hotel during which judges chose the winners, and they attended a luncheon in their honor.

During the proficiency ceremony, 29 regional finalists were named national winners. Each received $500, a plaque and a cash award to be used for travel to the convention. All national winners will also be guests of the National FFA Foundation sponsors on the 1989 European Travel Seminar. Regional finalists each received $250, a plaque and a cash travel award.

(*)denotes award winners

Agricultural Electrification
Sponsored by National Food & Energy Council, Incorporated; Klein Tools, Incorporated and LeaseAmerica Corporation
Central: Chad L. Reed, Carthage, Missouri
Eastern: Robert Huff, Woonsocket, Connecticut
Southern: Mark B. Jenkins, Milan, Tennessee
Western: Randall Gardner, Kaufman, Texas

Agricultural Mechanics
Sponsored by Case IH
Central: Roger Nelson, Spencer, Nebraska
Eastern: Robert Huff, Woonsocket, Connecticut
Southern: Darin Carpenter, Meersburg, Tennessee
Western: Noel Cowley, Richfield, Utah

Agricultural Processing
Sponsored by Carnation Company
Central: Eric Ripperger, Melrose, Indiana
Eastern: Scott Radford, Kirson, North Carolina
Southern: • Kirk Hawkins, Sarasota, Florida
Western: Chad Gray, Durant, Oklahoma

Agricultural Sales and/or Service
Sponsored by Babcock Bros, Co./ SHRG; General Motors Corporation and ICI Americas, Incorporated/Ag Products
Central: • Kurt M. Aumann, Nokomis, Illinois
Eastern: Bradley S. Webb, Fancy Gap, Virginia
Southern: Brian Esho, Gila, Georgia
Western: Jose R. Salinas, Santa Maria, California

Beef Production
Sponsored by National Beef, Inc. and American Simmental Association
Central: Richey Portwood, Versailles, Kentucky
Eastern: Dennis Menefee, Boyle, Virginia
Southern: Johnny R. Rogers, Madison, Tennessee
Western: • Stephen Knuston, Clyde Park, Montana

Cereal Grain Production
Sponsored by Chrysler Motors Corporation and Uncolul 76
Central: • Jeffrey S. Bauman, Berne, Indiana
Eastern: George L. Scott III, Milton, North Carolina
Southern: Darren G. Bruce, Oak Grove, Louisiana
Western: Joel Adams, Tonkity, Wyoming

Dairy Production
Sponsored by Alfa-Laval Agri, Inc.; American Breeders Service, and Mamma Pro Corporation
Central: Daniel Siemens, Cleveland, Wisconsin
Eastern: Irene G. Bonner, Millersburg, Pennsylvania
Southern: Ginger Wilson, Cleveland, Tennessee
Western: • Jay Wilson, Yelm, Washington

Diversified Crop Production
Sponsored by Caroll, Incorporated
Central: Roger Camahan, Allentown, Kansas
Eastern: Morgan B. Ciz, Buelton, Virginia
Southern: • Allen Lewis, Bates, Tennessee
Western: Jeff Stephens, Casa Grande, Arizona

Diversified Livestock Production
Sponsored by Wayne Feed Division/ Continental Grain Company and Starbar Division of Zoonco Corporation
Central: • Robert M. Davis, Clarkson, Kentucky
Eastern: Randall L. Eisenhauer, Bellevue, Ohio
Southern: Matt Pearce, Okoeho, Florida
Western: Kirk Oswalt, Toppenish, Washington

Feed Grain Production
Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Incorporated
Central: • Jeff Krieger, Greensburg, Indiana
Eastern: Gran Moler, Washington C.H., Ohio
Southern: Stephen C. Gindl, Canoann, Florida
Western: Justin D. Johnson, Akron, Oklahoma

Fiber Crop Production
Sponsored by Sandhills Crop Protection Corporation
Central: David McPherson, Dexter, Missouri
Eastern: • Wesley L. Barefoot, Dunn, North Carolina
Southern: Shannon D. Gray, Oak Grove, Louisiana
Western: Jason Herrin, Tipton, Oklahoma

Floriculture
Sponsored by The Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch; The Lerio Corporation and American Floral Endowment
Central: Michelle L. Schneider, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Eastern: William E. Syne, South Windsor, Connecticut
Southern: Rusty Hays, Opelia, Alabama
Western: • Gary Kots, Roy, Washington

Forage Production
Sponsored by Gehl Company and Northrup King Company
Central: James Blakely, Calhoun, Kentucky
Eastern: Robert R. Crabb Jr., Milton, North Carolina
Southern: David Johnson, Harrogate, Tennessee
Western: • Mario Flores, Chowchilla, California

Forest Management
Sponsored by Stone Container Corporation
Central: Mark Glasscock, Taylorsville, Kentucky
Eastern: Christopher A. Tifftor, Wilton, Virginia
Southern: • Al Griffin, Unlevee, Alabama
Western: David Persell, Elma, Washington

Fruit and/or Vegetable Production
Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Incorporated
Central: Kirt D. Meyer, Kendallville, Indiana
Eastern: • Jerry Boss, Arcadia, Ohio
Southern: Adrian L. Land, Brantford, Florida
Western: Kyle Smith, Tipton, Oklahoma

Home and/or Farmstead Improvement
Sponsored by Upjohn, TUCO, Asgrow, and O's Gold/Agricultural Division of The Upjohn Company
Central: Allan P. Tiede, Le Center, Minnesota
Eastern: Tim Worley, Leicester, North Carolina
Southern: • Tim Thomas, Athens, Tennessee
Western: Tyler J. Byas, Wheatland, Wyoming

Horse Proficiency
Sponsored by American Quarter Horse Association
Central: Todd Gridr, Columbus, Kentucky
Eastern: Robert M. Hunt, Monroe, North Carolina
Southern: Steve Beam, Arab, Alabama
Western: • Jeff Hanson, Hugo, Oklahoma

Nursery Operations
Sponsored by MSD AGVET Division of Merck & Co., Inc.
Central: • Adam Schumacher, Heron Lake, Minnesota
Eastern: Lionel C. Theland, Caribou, Maine
Southern: Nathan Walker, McMinnville, Tennessee
Western: Eric Sisilion, Winlock, Washington

Oil Crop Production
Sponsored by The Chicago Board of Trade and FMC Foundation
Central: Greg Greenwell, Unstown, Kentucky
Eastern: • Kirk Keeler, Athens, Ohio
Southern: Danny Leblune, Jennings, Louisiana
Western: Jose C. McIntire, Aga, Oklahoma

Outdoor Recreation
Sponsored by Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.
Central: • John W. Sherwood, Dadeville, Mississippi
Eastern: William A. Nobis, Woodburn, Virginia
Southern: Jason C. Stafford, Waverly, Tennessee
Western: Jason Watson, Ft. Bridger, Wyoming

Placement in Agricultural Production
Sponsored by DEKALB Genetics Corporation and Sowers Rubber Company, Inc.
Central: Chad L. Alverson, Wayland, Michigan
Eastern: • Gregory A. Stull, Wailsworth, Maryland
Southern: Anthony Curtis, McMinnville, Tennessee
Western: Rick Pack, Royal City, Washington

Twenty-nine national proficiency winners gathered on stage following Friday evening’s exciting ceremony.
National FFA Contests

A great many FFA members came to Kansas City with one thing on their minds: competition. These students of livestock, meats, dairy foods, forestry, horticulture, mechanics and business were eager to prove their expertise under pressure.

"This contest is a lot harder than our state contest," said Cole Everett, Prairie Grove, Ark., farm business management contestant. "I'd rather compete under all of this pressure than to have it easy."

All contestants were honored at banquets sponsored by their National FFA Foundation benefactors. At these meal functions, winning teams and individuals were announced. Each first place team received a trophy and team members were each presented with a plaque. The second through fifth place teams also received a plaque and all other teams received certificates ranking them as gold, silver or bronze. Individual scores were also recognized and these competitors received a medal or certificate of honorable mention.

Meats judges took to the cards at Safeway Distribution Center in Kansas City, Kan. (Photo by Sam Harrell)

Livestock Judging
Sponsored by Purina Mills, Incorporated
First Place Team: Atascadero, California, Jeff Evans, Steve Mora, Michele Randall
High Individual: Michele Randall, Atascadero, California

Meats Judging
Sponsored by Geo. A. Hormel & Company and Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation
First Place Team: Olive, Oklahoma, Larry Allison, Danny Randolph, Roy Varnell
High Individual: Cathy Donaldson, Lind, Washington

Nursery/Landscape
Sponsored by American Association of Nurserymen, Kubota Tractor Corporation and Rhone-Poulenc Company
First Place Team: Vancouver, Washington, Phil Nienaber, Jenny Glass, Andy Price
High Individual: Phil Nienaber, Vancouver, Washington

Poultry
Sponsored by Pilgrim's Pride Corporation and Tyson Foods Inc.
First Place Team: Springdale, Arkansas, Jason Yates, Cannie Harp, Les Shepard
High Individual: Les Shepard, Springdale, Arkansas

Forestry
Sponsored by Homelite Division of Textron Inc. and Champion International Corporation
First Place Team: Lineville, Alabama, Eddie Duke, Brandon McDonald, David Price
High Individual: Holly Mock, Atlanta, Georgia

Poultry Production
Sponsored by Chore-Time Equipment, Incorporated; Red Brand fence
Made by Keystone Steel & Wire
Company: and Pilman-Moore, Inc.
Central: • Steve K. Burdik, Great Neck, Minnesota
Eastern: Greg Mote, Seagrove, North Carolina
Southern: Scott Griffin, Cleveland, Tennessee
Western: Kirsten Olsen, Winfield, Washington

Sheep Production
Sponsored by American Sheep Producers Council, Incorporated; Justin Boot Company; and Kent Feeds, Inc. and Evergreen Mills, Inc.
Central: • John T. Clark, Fort Lupton, Kansas
Eastern: Travis L. Freeman, Sabina, Ohio
Southern: Eric Daison, Benton, Tennessee
Western: Billy R. Copeland, St. Vrain, New Mexico

Soil and Water Management
Sponsored by Ford New Holland, Inc.
Central: Kathy L. Keen, Weetmore, Kansas
Eastern: • Gene Staney, Paris, Ohio
Southern: Mark E. Hills, McComb, Mississippi
Western: Scott Barrington, Bradley, Oklahoma

Specialty Animal Production
Sponsored by Purina Mills, Incorporated; LucasAmerica Corporation; and Country General Stores
Central: • Ronald R. Ploof, Redgranite, Wisconsin
Eastern: Justin Forward, Bouchville, New York
Southern: Chris Flanders, Kite, Georgia
Western: • Kevin Bonham, Coreet, Oklahoma

Specialty Crop Production
Sponsored by RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company
Central: • Gun Saites, Deputy, Indiana
Eastern: • Donald F. Lea Jr., Milton, North Carolina
Southern: David Moyen, Speedwell, Tennessee
Western: Timothy S. With, Tangent, Oregon

Swine Production
Sponsored by Pfizer Incorporated/Agricultural Division
Central: Frank Nienkermeyer, Curville, Missouri
Eastern: Matthew M. Lantz, Fremont, Ohio
Southern: • Derek W. Bartholomew, Huron, Tennessee
Western: Darren DeLozier, Adair, Oklahoma

Turf and Landscape Management
Sponsored by O. M. Scott & Sons
Central: Bradley S. Shriner, Smithville, Missouri
Eastern: • Stephen Keso, Winchester, Virginia
Southern: Roger D. Shaggs, Bartlett, Tennessee
Western: Steve Branin, Collinsville, Oklahoma

Wildlife Management
Sponsored by The Prudential Foundation
Central: Shane Dalley, Clear Lake, South Dakota
Eastern: • Rodney D. Williams, Biscoe, North Carolina
Southern: • Monty C. McWilliams, Hills, Tennessee
Western: John H. Wright, Victoria, Texas

Agricultural Mechanics
Sponsored by Firestone Trust Fund
First Place Team: Riceville, Iowa, Jacob Christensen, Greg Drilling, Kevin Ries
High Individual: Nelson Book, Miles, Texas

Dairy Cattle Judging
Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Incorporated and Babson Bros. Co/SURGE
First Place Team: Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, Jill Marti, Denise Marti, Rachel Marti
High Individual: Ryan Starbuenk, Lynden, Washington

Dairy Foods
Sponsored by Mid-America Dairymen, Incorporated and Patz Sales Incorporated
First Place Team: Hanford, California, Katherine Thomsen, Gertrude Searcy, Cindy Cross
High Individual: Cindy Cross, Hanford, California

Farm Business Management
Sponsored by John Deere
First Place Team: Westphalia, Missouri, Patrick Ruehberg, Leon Ruehberg, Rachelle Kuster
High Individual: Darin Anderson, Marshall, Minnesota

Floriculture
Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation General Fund
First Place Team: Yanceyville, North Carolina, Bryce Barker, Kelly Butler, Wendy Gammon
High Individual: Wendy Gammon, Yanceyville, North Carolina

Forestry teams converged on Saphe Park to test their identification skills. (Photo by Sam Harrell)
Extemporaneous Speaking

Sponsored by American Farm Bureau Federation

In what has been described as one of the most challenging FFA contests, four regional winners took to the stage on Thursday afternoon to speak extemporaneously or “without rehearsal.” Participants were allowed only 30 minutes for preparation of a topic drawn at random. Each then delivered a six-to-eight minute speech and answered questions posed by the panel of judges.

All four contestants received a plaque and a cash award. The winner received $300, second place received $275, third place received $250 and fourth place was awarded $200.

National Winner:
Steven D. Gibson, Bolivar Central, Tenn.

Second Place:
Laurie Goehl, Cedar Mountain, Minn.

Third Place:
Linda Jo Blum, Stillwater, Okla.

Fourth Place:
Regina Williams, Singapore, Md.

“Preparing Agricultural Professionals to Work in a Global Agricultural Industry”
Steven Gibson, Tennessee

Today the American agricultural community is a very complex and complicated business. No one can the American farmer simply grow his crop, harvest it and then trade it to an investor. Today, the American agricultural industry is faced with the dilemma of foreign competition by developing nations. Farms and greenhouses are placed on agricultural commodity products by foreign nations which want to protect their national farmers and by price support systems and subsidy programs which are plaguing the American farmer.

Where can the American farmer turn? What must be able to do to solve these problems which are evident in his industry today? The answer lies in the ability of professional agriculture to assist the American agricultural industry in becoming competitive once again in world markets.

Honorable judges, fellow farmers and distinguished guests: how is America going to go about preparing agricultural professionals to work in a global agricultural industry? What qualities do these professional need to possess in order to be effective in the marketplace when looking at the global aspects of the agricultural industry?

Today the nation need to possess:
three basic attributes if they are going to be effective in helping the American agricultural industry:
1. The ability to attract the needed professionals to need to possess that is working diplomatically with foreign nations.
2. The need to increase the number of these professional need to possess that they are working diplomatically with foreign nations.
3. The need to increase the number of these professional need to possess that their ability to do so can be expanded.

If the American agricultural industry were to survive the 21st Century it will not only not be efficient, but he must be able to capitalize on these increasing markets. And the more that he must depend on the assistance of trained professional agriculturists.

These professionals must be able to go into these foreign nations and set up a trading system which should be beneficial to both the American farmer and the foreign nation. A system of bartering is such a system that will be efficient and will work well to make a profit on either American and these foreign nations.

The third attribute that is very important to international agriculture is that of these professionals working hand-in-hand domestically with the American agricultural industry in helping them get out from underneath the control of subsidy and price-support systems and in once again producing on a supply-and-demand basis. Because the American farmer has gone away from producing on supply and demand, he has seen; over the years, his surplus increase to a point that the real price for his product has been diminished greatly. He is watching foreign competitors steal his product markets away because his price is simply too high.

These trained agriculturists need to work with the American farmers in developing a new marketing system. They need to show the American farmer the power of cooperative marketing and supply-and-demand economics.

Many people feel the American agricultural industry is on the downhill side of the mountain and that it won’t be long till we’ll see a restructuring of the American family farm to large family-owned industries and they, if the agriculturists and the agricultural industry need to do more that they can through the assistance of trained professional agriculturists.

To be successful in these foreign nations, we must have these trained professionals available to them. It is the most successful farmer in the most successful industry in the world.
Prepared Public Speaking

"The Pursuit of Destiny," Danny Greller, Oklahoma

He was a man with a dream. A dream so vivid and compelling that it caused him to leave home and travel the majority of the United States. In 1903, as he embarked on his journey across the Atlantic to the unknown, he was confident of reaching his goals. He also had abilities to fulfill that purpose. Yet, as he traveled west, he realized that with a close, he would be forced to deal with the reality of uncontrolled fate. Doubts assailed his consciousness while panic was threatening to choke his thoughts and his dream. He questioned past decisions and worried about unanswerable dilemmas. How would he communicate, for he spoke only German? Where would he go? How would he get there?

Then he saw her towering in the harbor. She held a book and a torch in her hands. A crown was on her head, and a broken chain lay at her feet. Her more presence renewed his confidence. His dream continued to live.

In pursuit of destiny, like thousands of other immigrants, he had a dream. A dream that was not confined to a rather a global experience shared by mankind every day. This vision for the future consists of not simply monetary wealth, but human worth. Although several words approximate the definitions such as liberty, justice, and opportunity, it is a dream that is difficult to explain.

The young man must have had these thoughts and many more. Yet, this was more than just a story, and he was more than a nameless drifter. His name was Henry Mangerobny, my great-grandfather, and I am living testimony of his desire to achieve freedom. His dream seemed as boundless as the ocean, and his journey resembled a Quixotic adventure; yet, he continued to pursue dreams.

For the rest of this decade marked an American farmer who appeared to be morose and discouraged. Agriculture has been placed in a row with a wall and black-cloud-dooms. With one baletrust the initial collapse began, and the lingering sound of the continuous staccato of collapses is evident today. The chain reaction of the fall of American agriculture began on the family farms. It quickly spread to the agricultural companies, rural communities, and even metropolitan areas.

More recently, Americans have silently watched the door close to the greatest debtor nation in history with a trade deficit in excess of one hundred billion dollars for 1988. Even Wall Street has demonstrated tentative tendencies toward our economy. No longer is October 29, 1929 known as the largest one-day drop in the market. For October 19, 1988 replaces the previous date and now holds the dubious distinction of being known as Black Monday. Finally, the dethrones of 1988 perceived by many to be the worst in history, but also added to the distress of farmers that are currently in dire straits.

While American agriculture has been experiencing hardships today, as I stand before you, I can honestly say that despite the difficulties and frustrations of the current moment in American agriculture, the dreams still exists; the dream of agriculture becoming and remaining a viable and competitive industry.

The capitalist economy is a harsh and brutal world and one in which the meek rarely survive. However, the surviving agriculturalist must either adapt to the adversity or face eventual extinction. Adjusting to adversity could possibly be achieved by exploring a variety of "alternatives" which offer immediate savings. Exciting developments for agriculture are caused by the advancements of limitless research and technology. The practical application of research can increase the profit margin for both agricultural production and processing. Even though technical advances combined with alternative agriculture allow the farmer to profit in a non-traditional manner, it still must be recognized that these new breakthroughs alone will not save the farm. Governor for North Carolina Robert Scott stated, "We must remember that technology is a tool, not a solution."

The exploration of alternatives and the utilization of advanced technology are extremely necessary to ensure the ongoing survival of agriculture. However, salvation for farmers currently experiencing difficulties could depend upon the course of future agricultural policies and the recognition of current opportunities. As an FFA member, I am optimistic about tomorrow's recognition of current opportunities. As an FFA member, I am optimistic about tomorrow's agriculture, and I believe that now is the time for the future agriculturalist to start the acquisition of assets! For example, instead of allowing the stunted growth of a monopoly to add another constraint. Subtle changes in governmental policies combined with unscoop benefits for world trade suggest the coming of a more competitive industry.

For agriculture to realize a more prosperous future, the distortion of commodity prices by governmental subsidies must be eliminated. Yes, creating a market-oriented agriculture is an admirable goal, but one that will require global cooperation for the farmer to be competitive.

Liberalizing trade has been an ambiguous objective of the United States for 1988. For instance, during July, the United States took part in multilateral trade negotiations for international commitments of subsidy reductions. President Reagan has stated that the administration desires "to achieve the goal of free agricultural markets around the world by the year 2000." Ten years of phasing out subsidies beginning in 1990 would be extremely beneficial for American agriculture in the long term, even though immediate results could be disastrous for operators who are currently struggling for survival. The newly-elected president and his administration could provide a wildcard; still, a smooth transition along with policy consistency are the keys.

Dramatic new possibilities for international trade are looming on the horizon as the dollar has reached an all-time low in foreign markets. Additionally, the dollar has dropped a total of forty-six percent since 1985 in comparison to the Japanese yen. The weak American dollar increases the buying power of foreign currencies and should unleash foreign demand. Finally, the prospect of increased trade coupled with reduced subsidies of grain causes one to believe that the potential for agriculture in the future is brilliant.

Awhile often hints weighs in order to increase strength, but the body is a meat machine. For a muscle to gain strength, it must first fail. Unfortunately, failure on a number of agriculturists is expected, and lasting strength will be derived from each failure.

Much like that young German immigrant giant in 1903, young people today date to dream. My dream consists of an industrious, bold, and vibrant society. The future holds a myriad of opportunities, but only for those who will risk failure. To paraphrase the late Robert Kennedy, "Only those who are willing to dare great risk will reap great rewards. We Americans vow the future, not as a fate to be passively accepted, but as a bold reality to be realized. By blending the opportunities of today and the visions of tomorrow, we can build a healthier future while continuing the pursuit of destiny."

Guest Speakers and Friends

Gretchen Elizabeth Carlson, Miss America 1988, sponsored by Chevrolet; Denis Watley; Ron Wilson, Committee on Agricultural Education in Secondary Schools, Board on Agricultural Education, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences; Dr. Bonnie Guiton, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, USDE; Craig Patterson, Group Product Marketer, Commercial Products Division, Amway Corporation; Kevin Davis and Tom Schlesinger, members of 1988 USA

Men's Olympic Gymnastics Team; John Block, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; The Moody Brothers and The Platters, entertainers for Take Pride in America; Lowell Catlett, sponsored by Farmland Industries, Inc.; Dr. Earl Butz, sponsored by ConAgra, Inc.; Michael Broome, inspirational and motivational speaker; Jerry Clower, sponsored by Mississippi Chemical Company; Eddie Rabbit, American Royal entertainer.

Dr. Lowell Catlett addressed the future of agriculture and technology. His appearance was sponsored by Farmland Industries, Inc. (Photo by Andy Markward)
Amendments

Wednesday's business session was a showcase in FFA cooperation as delegates voted overwhelmingly to update FFA's constitution.

Not since 1969, when delegates voted to accept female members, has FFA debated such significant constitutional amendments.

At the 61st convention, 19 amendments were presented to the delegates. These amendments were the result of two years work by the National Study Panel on the Constitution and Bylaws chaired by Raymond D. Hagan, former state executive secretary from Missouri.

Key: • denotes passed amendments.

• 1. Change the organization's name from "Future Farmers of America" to "National FFA Organization"
• 2. Change the words "vocational agriculture" to "agricultural education"
• 3. Change the words "supervised occupational experience programs" to "supervised agricultural experience programs"
• 4. Remove redundant language regarding withdrawal of a state's charter
• 5. Expand the definition of secondary agricultural education programs to include grades 7-12
• 6. Remove the word "farmer" from degree names and insert "FFA"
• 7. Require that chapter FFA degree candidates have at least 180 hours of instruction, at least $150 earned and invested or at least 45 hours in excess of scheduled class time, and plans for continued growth in a supervised agricultural program.

cultural experience program
3. Increase the dollar amount for State FFA Degree candidates from $500 to $1000 and reduce the number of work hours required from 600 to 300.
4. Abolish the State FFA Degree quota system and allow states to determine how many degrees to award.
5. Allow American FFA Degree candidates to qualify based on a combination dollar/hour criteria as allowed for the chapter and state degree.
6. Change the number of American FFA Degree candidates a state can submit beyond their quota to 10 from five.
7. On the emblem, change the words "vocational agriculture" to "agricultural education.
8. Allow states and chapters to elect more than six officers.
9. Provide that each state gets two national convention delegates plus one additional delegate for each 5,000 members or major fraction thereof above the first 5,000.
10. Adopt the grammatical and incidental amendments recommended by the National Study Panel on the Constitution and Bylaws.
11. Indicate that the principal office of FFA is in the Department of Education, but that operations take place at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Va.
12. Increase the terms served by board members from two to three years.
13. Allow the national advisor to fill a board vacancy left by a USDE representative.
14. Adopt the membership and incidental amendments to the bylaws.

Delegates

Official delegates represented their states' interests in business sessions and enjoyed a front-row seat during the entire convention. In addition to voting on proposed changes to the constitution, producing committee reports and electing new national officers, the delegates experienced a highlight of the convention: playing key roles in the national convention.

ALABAMA: Shane Black, Athens; Kitty Sanders, Prattville; Mindy Shriner, Castieberry
ALASKA: Ann Powaski, Two Rivers; Carrie Wilson, North Pole
ARIZONA: Neil Schaefer, Peoria; Amy Scott, Chino
ARKANSAS: Nina R. Laughlin, Conway; Renea Roberts, Wickenburg
CALIFORNIA: Wendell Adams, Clovis; Kathy M. Amold, Rio Oso; Joshua F. Cook, Grotley; Rand J. Furr, Galt
COLORADO: Clark Miller, LaSalle; Brent Newkirk, Yuma
CONNECTICUT: Christopher Coutu, Lebanon; Jeanne Harris, Somers
DELAWARE: Sheila Apoa, Frankford; Keeth Shee, Smyrna
FLORIDA: Wesley Davis, Venice; Bech; Mike Swindle, Clewiston
GEORGIA: Stewart Humphrey, LaGrange; Ray Martin, Nalhle
HAWAII: Jackelyn Pascual, Kohala; Joseyman Michel, Kahalu
IDAHO: Casey Isom, Fruita; Angela Tucek, Melfa
ILLINOIS: Corey Torrance, Good Hope; Jon Van Dyke, Louisville
INDIAN: John Cohn, Talagai; Scott Dunn, Talagai
IOWA: Bill A. Beltzer, Alta; Timothy W. Teel, Woodburn
KANSAS: Dennis Fry, Fort Scott; Jackie McClary, Grand
KENTUCKY: Shannon Morgan, Aviston; Dana A. Tucker, Harrodsburg
LOUISIANA: Jody Adams, Winnfield; Paul Theriot, Iowa
MAINE: Brent Grass, Mars Hill; Linwood Winslow, Preble Isle
MARYLAND: Daria Beads, Grantsville; Stacey Trewell, Thurmont
MASSACHUSETTS: Donna Bigelow, Canver; Joseph Cote, Westminster
MICHIGAN: Susann Malone; Tom Nagel, Lowell
MINNESOTA: Chris Herring, Okoboji; Dean Van Buren, Clara City
MISSISSIPPI: Shawn Oliver, Madison; Susan Watkins, York
MISSOURI: Chris Hart, Center; Glen Waters, Nottome
MONTANA: Sara Hougen, Melstone; Stephen Knaulon, Clyde Park
NEBRASKA: Jake Classen, Ayl; Eric Thurber, Rocia
NEW YORK: Gayl Atias, Minden; Kevin Hetrick, Oceanside
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Marc Routher, Guildhall; Patrick Serrill, Keene
NEW JERSEY: Dan Berg, Cream Ridge; Michael Lapidus; Bienvare
NEW MEXICO: Randy Boudin, Portales; David Masser, Edgewood
NEW YORK: Ron Langly, Ham¬ mond; Todd Lighth, Mumsville
NORTH CAROLINA: Heather Dunham, Cary; James S. McJame, Anger; N. Scott Vanhey, Gold Hill
NORTH DAKOTA: Shane Goette, Donnybrook; Tom Liia, Lamore
OHIO: Travis Fitham, Sidney; Elisabeth Rodgers, Springfield; Laurie Sheridan, Athens
OKLAHOMA: Danny Greiner, Kingfisher; Scott Stewart, Tecumseh; Janet Womam, Yukon
OREGON: Scott Rubin, Socie; Brian Van Berg, Antelope
PENNSYLVANIA: Leen Heitler, Longmont; Jim Lade, Sopenhagen
PORTO RICO: Greereta Gerele, Camuy; Marvin Wise, Cales
RHODE ISLAND: Sheri Foster, Bradford; Julie Teut, West Greenwich
SOUTH CAROLINA: Gennie Lou Capps, Hemingway; George L. Umez, Cepe
SOUTH DAKOTA: Lee Frierson, Marle; Mike Jaspars, Eden
TENNESSEE: Leah Casten, Johnson City; Ruby Williams, Reagen
TEXAS: Donnel Brown, Thrakm¬ lon; Lea Ann King, Howe; Russell Lant, Lubbock; Ellen Lumpkin, College Station; Glen Alan Phillips, Seagavies; Keith Repp, Blossom
UTAH: Shad Sorensen, Oakley; Mike Thomson, Spanish Fork
VERMONT: Robert Genais, Enosburg Falls, Amy Pease, Tunbridge
VIRGINIA: Cindy Fannon, Charloe Courthouse; Scott Lilly, Mechanicsville
WASHINGTON: J. D. Basar, Malath; Ann Johnson, Enumclaw
WEST VIRGINIA: Jason Hughes, Ravenswood; David Sharp, Marmont
WISCONSIN: Bryan Hogans, Amigo; Bobbi Jo Oyer, Lodi; Michelle Waage, Tomah
WYOMING: Stephen Green, Pine Butts; Tira Quest, Hawk Springs

AGRICULTURE'S LEADING EDGE — FFA
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
Alumni

We express our gratitude to Woody Cox, John Hillison, Mildred Moore and Jim Sipior for valuable contributions to our committee. We have been enlightened by the knowledge that individuals have given us. The development of FFA Alumni affiliates throughout the country will aid in the preservation and promotion of agricultural education.

We suggest and support the following items:

1. Include Alumni programs and presentations at National Leadership Conference for State Officers. This will allow the National Alumni to reveal information and resources available to state officers so they can become better educated about the organization. This will also promote a better understanding between FFA and the FFA Alumni and their role in supporting agricultural education.

2. Initiate programs at the Washington Conference Program (WCP) which will be educational. This will also inform the alumni about the FFA and its activities. We encourage the conference staff to include information that will be motivational and educational for the alumni members present.

3. State FFA conventions and state FFA Alumni conventions will separate functions. This would allow the alumni to give 100 percent support at both the state FFA convention and the State Alumni convention. States with smaller alumni organizations may choose to hold their state Alumni convention in conjunction with the state FFA convention. We feel confident that this will increase the alumni's participation at both conventions.

4. Increase Membership through the visibility of the FFA alumni. We feel The National FUTURE FARMER magazine, along with state and local publications should allow the promotion of FFA alumni through articles and advertisements. We thank The National FUTURE FARMER magazine for allowing publication of alumni information. We encourage them to run an alumni article in each issue in conjunction with "Chapter Scoop." We also encourage state associations and local chapters to send correspondence.

5. When alumni dues are paid, alumni should then have opportunity to purchase a National FUTURE FARMER subscription.

6. Place articles in BETWEEN ISSUES to encourage chapter advisors to start alumni affiliates.

The national organization, state associations and local chapters will provide information regarding membership and lifetime membership to graduating students and adult vocational education groups. Due to the examples set by national and state FFA officers, we encourage them to become lifetime alumni members.

We would like to encourage chapter participation in all alumni activities. We sincerely believe that if implemented, these items would benefit the FFA as well as the Alumni Organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah D. Carden, TN (C)
Bryan Higgins, WY (C)
John Coln, IN (S)
Dale Kunkem, OK
Jocelyn Mansel, HI
Bill Belzer, IA
Jason Hughes, WV
Wiley Cox (Consultant)
John Hillison (Consultant)
Mildred Moore (Consultant)
James Sipior (Consultant)

Auditing

We recommend to the National FFA Organization:

1. The audit report of Stay, Malone and Company, found satisfactory and meeting the requirements of Public Law 740 for the fiscal year September 1, 1987 to August 31, 1988, be accepted.

2. Place a copy of the budget summary in the delegate convention package sent to the official delegates and the state FFA staff before arrival in Kansas City and provide upon request copies of the National FFA Organization Budget from the National FFA Center.

3. Continue to distribute a condensed financial report in each delegate package that is received upon registration in Kansas City and encourage these delegates to share this information with their fellow state officers.

4. Continue to provide upon request copies of the Stoy, Malone and Company report from the National FFA Center.

5. We feel that these recommendations will provide a sound basis for the financial growth of the National FFA Organization.

6. Make posters available which would spark an interest in various local programs to local chapters.

7. Publicize International programs through The National FUTURE FARMER magazine, FFA Alumni Association Newsletter, BETWEEN ISSUES, and UPDATE in order to encourage participation among members and to develop a list of potential host families.

8. Inform state officers and state staff members of International programs at National Leadership Conferences for State Officers, including the new video and the revised International program booklet.

9. Initiate a Building Our International Communities Program (BOIC).

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Morgan, KY (C)
ANGELA THORCK, JD (C)
Tony Young, VA (S)
James R. Laddie, PA
Timothy W. Teal, LA
Russell Laird, TX
Wendi Adams, CA
Debra Fry, KS
Scott Ryckman (Consultant)

International

We make these recommendations:

1. Publicize the new video entitled, "A World Journey," in order to encourage use by state associations as well as by local chapters.

2. Compile a list of exchanges from the United States and participants from inbound countries who are willing to make presentations at various state and local functions.

3. Update International Programs booklet to include: Work Experience Abroad; Work Science Studies, and travel seminars and developing projects, in a style similar to the ROAC and Food for America brochures. The new booklet should be funded by various sponsors and provided free of charge through the FFA Supply Service catalog.

4. Encourage Washington Conference Program staff members to allot time for International interns and staff members to deliver presentations on international programs.

5. Make posters available which would spark an interest in various local programs to local chapters.

6. Publicize International programs through The National FUTURE FARMER magazine, FFA Alumni Association Newsletter, BETWEEN ISSUES, and UPDATE in order to encourage participation among members and to develop a list of potential host families.

7. Inform state officers and state staff members of International programs at National Leadership Conferences for State Officers, including the new video and the revised International program booklet.

8. Initiate a Building Our International Communities Program (BOIC).

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Stewart, OK (C)
Nina Laubacher (Consultant)
Tina Guest, WY (S)
Joe Cote, MO
Weesley Davis, FL
Aaron Johnson, WA
Sasann Malsberg, MI
Christina Miller, CA
Eddie Smith (Consultant)
Richard Strangeway (Consultant)
Jack Pitzer (Consultant)

Business
Business

Committee Reports

National Awards
We have reviewed Achievement Building Our American Communities (BOAC) National Chapter, National Chapter Safety and Proficiency Awards; and the Degree Program. We support the following recommendations:
1. Provide information about the Achievement Award Program to state officers, and discuss the program at National Leadership Conference for State Officers and promote it on the state level.
2. We advocate the importance of the BOAC program and commend the NR NABC for their continued support.
3. Continue distribution of BOAC information, and encourage state officers to stress the filling of applications by chapters.
4. We encourage BOAC members to become involved in the Take Pride in America program.
5. Develop additional national safety programs, such as the "Brand Em" campaign.
6. Explore more sponsor-ship for the National Chapter and National Chapter Safety programs.
7. We recommend that permanent national staff address the Awards Committee of the 62nd National FFA Convention concerning American FFA Degree quotes and minimum qualifications.
8. Re-examine the 79 proficiency award areas and implement new proficiency areas such as computers in agriculture, public relations, and agrimarketing.
9. Standardize national criteria for issue to states concerning BOAC, National Chapter and National Safety Chapters, to be followed on all levels.
10. Brief the chairman, co-chairman and consultant by conference call before they reach Kansas City so that more information may be brought.
11. We stress that committees should spend more time addressing specific issues of their committees before making recommendations (in order that they be qualified members.)
12. Provide access to the past five years' committee reports for committee members because programs are based on a five-year schedule.
13. We stress the fact that if these recommendations are to be beneficial to our organization, the responsibility lies with you, the state FFA officer, in promoting activities on the chapter level.
14. We appreciate our sponsors and encourage all members to write thank you notes to these dedicated individuals and companies. We also extend a word of appreciation to our consultants Bob Seefeldt, program specialist-award s, and Kim Balie, staff intern, National FFA Center.
Respectfully submitted,
Mike Jasper, SD (C)
Kim Sanders, AL (CO)
Christi Hart, MO (S)
Joshua Cook, CA
Clayton Kaneshiro, HI
Scott Vanhoy, NC
Travis Flechman, OH

National Contests
We bring forth the following recommendations:
1. Maintain efforts by the board of directors to promote contest opportunities and participation.
2. Update current and future contests by including updated tests dealing with new technical developments in that area of agricultural industry.
3. Periodically evaluate all contests to determine their suitability due to the evolution of agricultural practices.
4. Once policy has been established for adding, delet- ing, or changing contests, we recommend the following possible national contests be researched: agribusiness management, agrimarketing, agriscience, computers, parlia- mentary procedure, horse judging, crop judging, land use judging, and wool.
5. We recommend that first chairman be given to agrimarketing and agriseries contests.
6. Consider other dates and sites for national contests when it is not feasible to hold the contest(s) in Kansas City during the national conven- tion. If such a situation should arise, we also recommend that the winner(s) of that contest be awarded a trip to the national convention and that they be recognized as the national winners.
7. We agree with the National FFA Contest Study Committee with reservation on the following 2, 7, 12, 14 and 15.
8. We express our thanks to the Committee, particularly Chairman Kirby Barrick of Ohio State University, for all their efforts throughout the course of the past two years on national contest issues.
Respectfully submitted,
Julie Classen, NE (C)
Kathy Almond, CA (CO)
Roni Langtry, NY (S)
Kevin Hetrick, NV
Marc Routbide, NH
Gautt Littrell, IL
Leon Heesey, PA
Philly Allsh, DE
K. C. Beavers (Consultant)

The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine
We, on behalf of the membership of the National FFA Organization, wish to express our sincere thanks and appreci- ation to The National FU- TURE FARMER magazine staff and commend them on a job well done.
After intense discussion and organized planning, we submit the following sugges- tions:
1. State associations compile information for regional highlight departments, including photos and articles on their respective states for the National FUTURE FARMER staff.
2. State officers are re- quested to compile information at chapter visits to send to "Chapter Scoop".
3. Graduating seniors are encouraged to continue membership after high school in the FFA and subscribe to the magazine in order to stay informed about FFA issues.
4. The following ideas for articles were recommended for future issues: features on current agricultural issues dealing with domestic and international economics that might affect FFA members and new innovations in science and agricultural tech- nology.
5. If members are not receiving their magazines, or would like to receive the magazine at home, they should contact their chapter advisor and request that it be sent directly to their home.
6. Members are to be encouraged to send in art- work, photographs, etc. for publication. It will also be noted that feature articles may be submitted by any member.
Respectfully submitted,
Les Adm King, TX (C)
Cindy Fanning, VA (CC)
Michael Isam, OR
Jeannine Harris, CT
Lee Jesen, SD
Amy Scott, AZ
Rudolph Pieters, VI
Casey Iacon, ID
David Sharp, WV
Andrew Markwart (Consultant)
Cleon D. Luett (Consultant)

National FFA Supply Service
We commend the National FFA Supply Service on an excellent job of providing quality products; professional service and progressive improvements. We also com- mend the service in their choice of a new 1988 catalog cover with bright blue colors and the picture of the national officers.
We recommend the following new items:
1. Blue corduroy vest, for unoffcial attire only, to be manufactured in Wyoming, and with all income, market- ing, and distribution to be handled by the National FFA Supply Service.
2. Pierced earrings with gold emblem stud and/or blue backing with emblem;
3. Corduroy FFA Official jacket with attachable name tag; chain placement and adjust- ments to avoid zipper show- ing.
4. Box to display medals;
5. FFA socks and scarf;
6. FFA stadium seats;
7. FFA gear for underwear;
8. 100 percent cotton T-shirts.
9. More durable briefcases with possible price around $50.00 each.
We suggest the following for improving catalog layout:
1. Highlight various catego- ries on the film page;
2. Place letters beside all items displayed in catalog.
We suggest discontinuing the SOE top.
We recommend the supply service investigate more efficient methods of operating the sales booth to avoid confusion or long waits for service.
We encourage chapters to purchase from the supply service. We request that all state officers and others associated with the FFA strive at all times to promote the purchase of items from the supply service.
We recommend that the waterfall scarfs be designated as official dress.
We recommend that a revised version of retiring officer plaques be offered for sale.
We believe these recommenda- tions are in the best interests for our organization in providing quality products. Our thanks to Dennis Shafer and Debbie Quigley for their unmeasurable guidance and assistance in these matters. Respectfully submitted,
Shean Oliver, MS (CO)
Ruby Williams, TN (CC)
Donna Bishop, MA (S)
Larrie Van Nest, OR
I. J. Bauer Jr., WA
Todd Lightly, NH
Patrick Sorell, NJ

AGRICULTURE'S LEADING EDGE — FFA
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
Committee Reports

National Information Service

After analyzing the program needs of the National Information Service, we believe our primary concern should be external public relations and we make the following recommendations for the improvement of the information services of the FFA.

1. In developing advertisements and public service announcements, we encourage the incorporation of females and minorities into these advertisements. We also encourage the use of the new posters illustrating this diversity.

2. Improve direct communication with state officers by providing a list of all information and instructional material sent to the local chapters, and providing a newsletter specifically for state officers highlighting the activities and opportunities available.

3. Produce a short FFA activities preview to be added before appropriate home video rentals.

4. Provide promotional materials that emphasize involvement with other youth and student organizations on contemporary issues.

5. Establish a State Reporters Conference providing insight concerning the responsibilities that their position entails (possibly in conjunction with State Presidents Conferences).

6. Improve the quality of the national convention videos available through the supply service.

7. Provide a list of those stations who provided funds for promotional materials in order that members at the state and chapter levels may write notes of thanks.

We thank the staff of Information Services: Bill Stegg, director; Jeri Matris, program coordinator, for their hard work during the national FFA convention as well as for the many programs implemented by the National Information Service throughout the past year. We hope that these recommendations will be strongly considered by the National Information Service and encourage them to keep the excellent work.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Von Bank, TX
George Ulmer, SD
Sherryl Fister, RI
Richard Sowers, VT
Keith Rep, TX
Bobbi Jo Owen, WI
Mindy Stringer, AL

National Leadership Conferences

We submit the following recommendations:

Washington Conference Program

1. Set up appointments for congressional visits and allow a representative from Congress to participate.

2. Provide a tour guide to all event stops: recognize George Washington for his contributions to our organization while members are touring Mount Vernon, and set aside one day to tour Washington, D.C. to foster patriotism.

3. Schedule registration earlier so that more activities may be conducted on Monday.

4. Require a national officer to be present on Monday and Friday of each conference or their participation is possible.

5. Include sideline show a posed shot of each member or state group present; give members the option to purchase slides or videos of the slides, and use only current week's slides.

6. Consider the following areas for new team work; cooperation; public relations; interview skills; and applications of developed skills.

7. Devote more workshop time to FFA and careers.

8. Allot more time to tour the National FFA Center.


1. Continue expansion of the program to new states.

2. Begin registration earlier to lengthen the workshops.

3. Presidents' Conferences

4. Include more leadership development activities, participation for the state officer term and preparation for the National Convention.

5. Schedule both Year I and Year II staff and members of officers to share activities and responsibilities.

6. Organize congressional visits.

7. Increase time at National FFA Center.

8. Visit the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

9. Provide an opportunity for each individual to choose tour stops of Washington, D.C.

10. Exchange unique state ideas.

We commend the FFA staff for its marketing strategies: videotapes for WCF and pamphlets for the Made for Excellence Program. We would also like to commend the national officers, the WCF staff, and the MFE staff for their work.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Kroger, NJ
Richard Sowers, VT
Scott Roberts, AR
René J. Roberts, AR (CO)
Scott Durie, IN (N)
Brett Robinson, WV
Jackie McClaskey, KS
Jon VanDyke, IL
David Massey, NM
Marshall Stewart, Consultant

Program of Activities

The members of the Program of Activities committee have analyzed FFA's national program of activities and submitted the following recommendations:

1. Continue efforts to strengthen ties with areas outside of the continental United States.

2. Encourage the FFA to study the establishment of agricubusness, agriscience (research and technology), sales and service, and job interview contests not directly related to production agriculture.

3. The National FFA Board of Directors and staff establish criteria for national parliamentary procedure and demonstration contests.

4. Encourage agriculture teachers to rename and/or restructure traditional agricultural classes to appeal to students, if necessary.

5. Establish an inter-state FFA conference program similar to WEA for exchange and work experience among FFA members in the United States.

6. Revise Article IV, Section VIII of the National Program of Activities regarding the American Royal Queen to conform to the American Royal Ambassador Program.

7. Update the Program of Activities to comply with any changes to the National FFA Constitution.

8. Supply delegate committee members with a report on the action taken regarding the previous year's committee recommendations.

We commend the National FFA staff for keeping this document orderly and up to date.

Respectfully submitted,
Brett Newbanks, CO (C)
Shane Goetz, ND (N)
Clen Alan Phillips, TX
Carrie Wilson, AK (S)
Kris Whitaker, AL
Michael Walton, LA
Scott Ruby, OR
Heather Gunham, NC
Stacey Achorn, RI

National Leadership Conferences for State Officers

We compliment the national officers and the national staff for conducting successful and efficient National Leadership Conferences for State Officers (NLCSO). Some suggestions are as follows:

1. Each state and area should have an NLCSO that is adapted to their area. This may mean more work for the national officers, but it is necessary and could be accomplished by their meeting with the state coordinator two months before the conference.

2. Communication is vital to the effectiveness of a state officer. Require a prepared speech, mock interviews with use of video and/or audio recorders, extemporaneous speaking, and attendance by speech and debate specialists.

3. Allow more time for discussion and debate of FFA and agricultural topics, such as constitutional amendments.

4. Allow more time for state officers to discuss the following: formulate mission statements (game plan), write a goal planning for both teams and individuals; opportunity for interview and evaluate the benefits that they can bring to their teams; compliment fellow officers, building team unity; and constructive criticism.

5. Emphasize preparation for chapter visits. National officers should make more work, presentations and other activities to the participants, state officers should give their own presentations and at the end of the conference, schedule a critique of both the national and state officers.

6. Hold a dance as this is a time of fun, sharing, and a time to get to know other state officers.

7. The national officers did not have enough time to spend with themselves and with state officers other than in sessions. With the addition of consultants, state advisors, and executive secretaries, this problem can be avoided.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Lou Capas, SC (C)
Eric Thurber, NE (C)
Michelle Wasco, WI
Roland Fumarie, CA
Jody Adams, LA
Shad Sorenson, UT
Ray Fumasi, IL
Darla Broadwater, MA
Rich Katt, NE, Consultant

National Organizational Development

We propose the following recommendations:

Agricultural Marketing and AgriScience Programs

Appoint a national committee of representatives from the board of directors, Area V, S. Department of Education, U. S. Department of Agriculture, National Vocational Agriculture Teachers' Association and consultants from the agricultural business and agriscience fields to research and develop agricultural marketing and agriscience programs. With the results of this research, contests on a state and national level as well as new proficiency areas, should be created. A report from this committee on its findings will be given at the July, 1969, meeting of the board of directors.

Expansion of the Organization

Investigate the feasibility of expanding agricultural education programs into suburban and urban high schools with an emphasis on modernized agriculture and agri-science opportunities. The purpose of this investigation is development of agriculture in urban areas and FFA awareness throughout the nation.

Agribusiness Contests

Develop more leadership contests dealing with agribusiness, such as agricultural sales and job interview. National officers of Contests Update and modernize existing contests and award programs with advanced technological developments of that area of the agricultural industry.

Improvement of Agricultural Literacy

Agricultural literacy is a serious concern facing our organization. Therefore, we agree with the National Academy of Science's report stating: "Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through high school, all students should receive some systematic instruction about agriculture." We can incorporate this recommendation by emphasizing, already existing programs, such as Food for America and Agriculture in the Classroom.

These issues are only a small part of many critical issues facing our organization. However, we feel we are taking a major step towards the enhancement and improvement of our national organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Showles, CT
Tom Nugent, MI (C)
Dann Berg, NY
Jason Reinstein, RI
Robert Nettles, UT
James McLaugh, MN
Mike Tommes, UT
Julie F. Ackerman, VT
Kris Williams, MN

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
Committee Reports

National Convention Committee

As members of the National Convention Committee, we extend our warmest thanks to those who have made the 61st National Convention a milestone in the history of this organization. We would also like to thank all of the National Office Team, Kelli Evens, Kevin Ochoh, Tori Flowers, Bill Hollis, Mickey McGar, Duane Nielscn, Donald Fiedler, Coleman Harris, David Miller, Tony Hoy, and other members of the National FFA staff. The entertaining speakers and performers for our convention which included Denis Waitley, Cretchen Carlson, Dr. Bonnie Guiton, Ron Wilson, Craig Bouldin, Joe and Kay Thompson, Kevin Davis, Tom Schlesinger, John Block, The Moody Brothers, Reba McEntire, and the Patlcers. We would also like to thank all of the convention managers, convention sponsors, those conducting the leadership workshops, Gary Matric, talent buyer Ron Wilson, and race director Jim Meador conducting the FFA band, Stan Kingman in directing the chorus, the National FFA Foundation staff, Sponsors' Board Executive Council, Richard Harkreader and the National FFA Alumni officers, council and staff. And the judges and timers of the various contests, courtesy corps, George Verzage and the 198 participants in the career show, the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce for supporting the educational tours, Richard Berkley, the mayor of Kansas City, The American Royal Association, and the continuing support of the new and present sponsors of the National Convention.

The following recommendations have been developed by the National Convention Committee for the 61st National FFA Convention.

I. We recommend that the sound system on the convention floor be thoroughly checked before each convention session and also that more microphones be placed around the floor, especially during the sessions.

II. We recommend the RDF-9TV for over 17 hours of convention coverage for publication and promotion of the FFA throughout the year.

III. We suggest that consideration be given to improving accuracy and consistency in the printing of the FFA Convention Program.

IV. We feel that the use of all spotlights would enhance opening ceremonies, massing of the colors, and the grand entrance of the band.

V. We greatly appreciate the cooperation and attitude of the delegate body during the history making business sessions of the 61st National FFA Convention.

VI. We commend the national FFA Adult Leadership Board of Directors:

Larry D. Case, Chairman, National FFA Advisor, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC
C. Coleman Harris, Secretary, National FFA Executive Secretary, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC
David A. Miller, Treasurer, National FFA Advisor, Chief, Local Planning and Deployment Office, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, State Department of Education, Baltimore, MD
Terry L. Thompson, Deputy Director, Division of National Programs, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

Leslie L. Thompson, Branch Chief, State Administration Branch, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

David M. Cofy, Associate Professor, USDA (USDA Representative) Agriculture/Business Division, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY

William T. Woody, Vocational Teacher (USDA Representative), Lorena, TX

John Daneman, State Program Director, Agronomy and Natural Resources Education, State Department of Education, Tallahassee, FL

Leonard Lombard, State Specialist, Agricultural Education, Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT

Terry W. Heiman, State Director, Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Jefferson City, MO

Donald L. Michael, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, Bureau of Vocational-Technical & Adult Education, Charleston, WV

Consultants:

Carol L. Shry, President, NVATA, Woodboro, MO
Duane Watkins, President-Elect, NVATA, Woodboro, MO

John Sandell, Vice President, NVATA, Floran, LA
Douglas S. Spiess, President, NVATA Bloomfield Mills, Ml

W. Wade Miller, Associate Professor, Agricultural Education, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Starr A. Gant, Professor, Agricultural Education, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

Jeffrey W. Med, Associate Professor, Agricultural & International Education, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Colt L. Reynolds, Associate Professor, Agricultural Education, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

Foundation Board of Trustees:

Larry D. Case, Chairman, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

C. Coleman Harris, Secretary, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

David A. Miller, Treasurer, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

Terry L. Thompson, Branch Chief, State Administration Branch, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

Richard Larcher, Past Chairman, Rural Development, FFA, Past Chairman, USDA, Past Chairman, TSC Industries, Inc.

National FFA Foundation

National FFA Convention Staff

Larry D. Case, National Advisor
C. Coleman Harris, National Executive Secretary
Dave Miller, National Treasurer
Wilson W. Carries, Administrative Director, FFA

DGW Sisk, Program Specialist, Educational Technology

Robert W. Cox, Executive Director, National FFA Alumni Association
Tedd Ackermann, Program Specialist, Constituent and Membership Development

Robert Seidler, Program Specialist, Awards and State Services

Tony Hoy, Program Specialist, Leadership and Personal Development

Bill Stagg, Director of Information

Leepg Haggard, Program Specialist, International & Organizational Development

John M. Pitzer, Senior Editor, Electronic Communications, The National FUTURE FARMER

Glenn D. Luedeke, Director of Advertising, The National FUTURE FARMER

Andrew Markward, Managing Editor, The National FUTURE FARMER

Deserts Shaffer, Director, National FFA Supply Service

George Verzage, Director, Agricultural Career Show

National FFA Foundation Staff

Bennie Stewart, Executive Director

Jim Bailey, Regional Director

Corporate Support Southeast and Midwest

Jeff Brazao, Regional Director (Corporate Support Northeast)

Douglas E. Butler, Regional Director (Corporate Support Southwest)

National FFA Convention Proceedings

Volume VIII

National FFA Convention Proceedings is published by the National FFA Organization as a record of the organization's annual conven- tion held in Kansas City, Missouri, November 16-18, 1988.

Special Thanks to:

Tom Boden, Miron Meynhart, Matt Tiddwell, Kate Hoye and Jim Murray

Proceedings Staff

Sherry Sokolovski
Ellie Peck
Shelly Peyer
Associate Editor
Molly Wilson

Photo Editor

Theresa Hooker, eternal national winner, Lincoln, NE

National FFA Foundation

Sponsors' Board Executive Council

Joseph Downey, Chairman, Vice President, (Voc Chemical Company) Nicholas A. Bobson, Chairman-Elect, 1988, President & Chairman of the Board, Bobson Bros. &SUGAR

Robert J. Hennessy, Chairman-Elect, Chairman, TSC Industries, Inc.

National FFA Convention Staff

Larry D. Case, National Advisor
C. Coleman Harris, National Executive Secretary
Dave Miller, National Treasurer

DGW Sisk, Program Specialist, Educational Technology

Robert W. Cox, Executive Director, National FFA Alumni Association

Tedd Ackermann, Program Specialist, Constituent and Membership Development

Robert Seidler, Program Specialist, Awards and State Services

Tony Hoy, Program Specialist, Leadership and Personal Development

Bill Stagg, Director of Information

Leepg Haggard, Program Specialist, International & Organizational Development

John M. Pitzer, Senior Editor, Electronic Communications, The National FUTURE FARMER

Glenn D. Luedeke, Director of Advertising, The National FUTURE FARMER

Andrew Markward, Managing Editor, The National FUTURE FARMER

Deserts Shaffer, Director, National FFA Supply Service

George Verzage, Director, Agricultural Career Show

National FFA Foundation Staff

Bennie Stewart, Executive Director

Jim Bailey, Regional Director

Corporate Support Southeast and Midwest

Jeff Brazao, Regional Director (Corporate Support Northeast)

Douglas E. Butler, Regional Director (Corporate Support Southwest)

Nebraska FFA Supply Service, 50320 1st Street

Publications and printing assistance provided by Anderson Publishing, Kansas City, MO.
**Don't Forget**

to say thanks: FFA members, write a note of appreciation to the National FFA Foundation, or give your support in any way that you take part. They made an investment in you. Show them your appreciation. Don't forget to know your sponsor's address! Send your letter in care of The National FFA Foundation, 310 North Midvale Blvd., P.O. Box 5117, Madison, WI 53705.

---

**LeDoux**

Continued from Page 20

ordinary people like you and me, who hung in there long enough to do extraordinary things and become champions.

This auditorium is filled with champions.

But in many cases the champion is hidden. It may be a champion public speaker, a champion agriculturist, or a champion farm business manager, but all champions just want to get out of their comfort zone. Believe in yourself. You are a champion. Believe in yourself even if no one else does.

Where would we be today if Albert Einstein had listened to his teacher who told him that he had a learning disability? Where would we be today if Alexander Graham Bell or the Virginian who dreamed of flying between two feathers? We would be nowhere when no one else did! Those champions believed in themselves and their ideas. They kept on thinking.

You, too, are a champion. I've traveled across our great nation and seen thousands of champions. I see thousands now. The Lord created you to be a success—a shining success—believe in yourself. Keep on keepin' on!

This year the FFA and the FFA have taught me an appreciation of life. I can remember the first time I came to the national convention. Most people say that they remember it because of the sea of blue and gold jackets or because it was the first time they had left home. I remember it because I got homesick. I was 13 years old and I wanted to go home to see my home. I don't think I could have been any more weak-minded with a smile and the smell of breakfast and not a computer saying, "This is your little message." It was the little things I missed.

Now that we are all away from home in Kansas City—think with me—what is it that you miss most about your home? Is it your family? Is it your dog? Maybe you miss being able to go out in the afternoon and lie back on your porch and savor the silence. It is a blessing for all of us to have the opportunity to travel away from home because that is when we realize all of the little things that make it so special. This year has been wonderful. We have had the opportunity to travel to new places and see new things. We have begun to take for granted that all of our families and friends do for us. Thanks to all those in Louisiana that have made me what I am. Thanks to the five national officers who have been an inspiration and good friends. Thanks!

It is a blessing to know that the things that make us so happy are not just the way we are. I challenge you to realize the little things when you are home. We need not be in a faraway place to appreciate what we have. Every morning when you wake up, thank God for all of your blessings and those who love you.

This year I have been truly blessed. To gain a year as a national officer is a dream come true. Keep your dreams alive. You will be a shining success—just keep on keepin' on!

---

**McCall**

Continued from Page 20

parents and others that I came in contact with, and how they affected me. I came to the conclusion that a well-worn phrase applies: "Actions speak louder than words."

I found that people can have a tremendous impact simply by the way they conduct themselves. I found that the most important thing about a person isn't an office or title, but sincerity, honesty and commitment to the things they believe in. You yourself, if you go through life, many times people will look to you when you don't realize it. They will scrutinize your every move as an example of what they should do. They may be a brother or sister, a younger member, a peer, or just a passing stranger. I think we all look to certain things and people in life for simply what they represent and what they stand for.

Today, on the North Carolina coastline, stands a towering symbol that many people have looked to for decades. The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse has guided sailors and merchants through the treacherous North Carolina coastal waters ever since its original construction in 1869. It stands guard over a dangerous area of shipping lanes where two major ocean currents collide, forming extremely turbulent water and earning the name, "The Graveyard of the Atlantic." The lighthouse stands at 208 feet taller, than any other in the United States, and can be seen at night over 50 miles away.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse has witnessed many changes over the years. It has survived countless hurricanes and storms, weathering the winds and pounding waves. It was almost destroyed by both sides during the bloody Civil War and it witnessed the sinking of American ships during World War II. Most recently, the threat of erosion has jeopardized the fate of the lighthouse, and modern technology today has rendered it useless for many of its original purposes. Yet, many brave, selfless citizens have risked their lives on that dangerous stretch of beach.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse doesn't just represent a clear and safe passageway, it stood for strength, security, and steadfastness. It wasn't just a warning, but a welcome sentinel of the coastline. It stood as a symbol of courage, witness to the passing time and the elements, and yet continued to cast a gentle, comforting light, casting a beacon in the night.

As a young child, I often wondered what it would be like to be on a ship off the coast in a thick, dense fog—unknown of the future, uncertain of where I was, and then come only to be this precious beacon, like a ray of hope. Then I would realize exactly where I was and where I was going.

Many people in the agricultural industry seem to be in a dense, thick fog. They are unsure of the future, of where they are, or where they are going. For the past year, I have met some of the bees who will lead our industry and our nation into the 21st century. I have seen brilliant flashes and towering accomplishments. I have seen young and old, men and women, experience storms and now are symbols of strength, security and steadfastness. They are the true symbols I have met. They are living beacons.

An accomplishment is rare today. Or are they? Many times this year people taught me about such courage and character. The people who, without a thought, have lived their lives with spirit, enthusiasm and energy. There were FFA members just like you, advisors, parents, businesspersons and countless others who went through their own personal lives and were influenced by many people simply by the way you conducted yourself, by the way you represented and by what you believed in.

Five of the greatest influences on my year were the five deflectors that I had the pleasure of working with. They are five of the best living examples I've ever come in contact with. I think we were paid the ultimate compliment back in July after our State Presidents' Conference in Washin-
1988-89 National FFA Officers

Dana Soucup, a 20-year-old from Spencer, Neb., was elected national FFA president. His local advisor is Russell Lichtenberg. Soucup, the son of David and Linda Soucup, is a member of the Spencer FFA Chapter.

Before being elected national president he served as state president, chapter president, secretary and treasurer. He participated in leadership, was a university agricultural economics major, and was a member of both state and national chapters.

Soucup's Supervised Agricultural Experience program includes beef, sheep, and swine production. He also worked for a market, for local farmers and as a park caretaker. He was recently employed by the Nebraska State Department of Agricultural Education as a leadership assistant.

Soucup, a sophomore majoring in agricultural business, will take a one-year leave from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln to fulfill his duties. He plans a career in agribusiness upon graduation.

Jeff Johnson, a 19-year-old from Dover, Fla., was elected national FFA secretary. His local advisors are Donald Vaughan and Jane Bender. Johnson, the son of Wayne and Lorna Johnson, is a member of the Plant City FFA Chapter.

In Florida, Johnson served as state president after serving as district president and chapter vice-president. In 1987 he was the southern region FFA Prepared Public Speaking Contest winner as well as state winner in the Nurture Operations proficiency area. He was also a member of state-winning parliamentary procedure, forestry and horticulture teams and was named Florida's Outstanding FFA Member.

Johnson's Supervised Agricultural Experience program included swine, commercial steers and nursery plant production.

Warren Boerger, a 20-year-old from Irwin, Ohio, was elected national FFA vice-president for the eastern region. His local advisor is William Conklin. Boerger, the son of Marvin and Karen Boerger, is a member of the Fairfield County FFA Chapter.

Before being elected state president, he served as state treasurer, chapter president, treasurer and assistant treasurer. He participated in extemporaneous public speaking, parliamentary procedure and a variety of judging contests.

Boerger's Supervised Agricultural Experience program includes dairy cattle, swine, corn, hay and soybean production.

In addition, Boerger has worked at Ohio's state FFA camp, state FFA center and with an agricultural business. Boerger will take a one-year leave of absence from Ohio State University where he is a junior with a major in agricultural education and agricultural economics. He plans to achieve his doctorate in agricultural education and to enter a career in agribusiness or the teaching profession.

Brad Chambliss, a 20-year-old from Hardinsburg, Ky., was elected national FFA vice-president for the central region. His local advisors are Pat Henderson and Leon Soukup. Chambliss, the son of Robert and Janet Chambliss, is a member of the Breckinridge County FFA Chapter.

Chambliss previously served as president of his chapter, region and state FFA organizations. He was runner-up in the state public speaking contest and a member of two state-winning chapter meeting teams.

Chambliss' Supervised Agricultural Experience program includes corn, hay, tobacco and soybeans as well as Hereford cattle and Suffolk sheep. He received three state proficiency awards and was named national winner in diversified livestock production.

Chambliss will take a one-year leave of absence from the University of Kentucky in Lexington where he is a junior in pre-veterinary medicine. After graduation, he hopes to establish a veterinary practice.

Jaye Hamby, a 20-year-old from Benton, Tenn., was elected national FFA vice-president for the southern region. His local advisor is Clayton Swanson. Hamby, the son of Billie Hamby, is a member of the Polk FFA Chapter.

Before being elected national vice-president, he served as state president as well as president and vice president in both his district and chapter. He participated in extemporaneous public speaking at the local, state and national levels and received a national gold emblem in the livestock judging contest.

Hamby's Supervised Agricultural Experience program includes 23 head of purebred sheep and 21 acres of pasture and hay. He also worked at the U.S. Forest Service in insect and wildlife management and is employed by Conrassa River Lumber Company.

Hamby will take a one-year leave of absence from the University of Tennessee where he is majoring in agricultural education, with minors in animal science and forestry. He plans to teach high school agriculture and to farm part-time.

Jeffrey Iosom, a 19-year-old from Fruitland, Idaho, was elected national FFA vice-president for the western region. His local advisor is David Tennisholm. Iosom, the son of Walden and Patricia Iosom, is a member of the Fruitland FFA Chapter.

Before being elected national vice-president, he served as state and district president and held chapter officer duties. He was the western region winner of both prepared and extemporaneous public speaking contests and won state awards in creed speaking and parliamentary procedure. He was also on a gold award team in the National Farm Business Management contest.

Iosom's Supervised Agricultural Experience program includes Hereford cattle, alfalfa hay and pasture production.

Iosom will take a one-year leave of absence from Idaho State University where he is majoring in international relations. Upon completion of college, he plans to work as an international trade relations specialist.

National Officer Candidates

National officer candidate reception sponsored by Mobay Corporation, Agricultural Chemicals Division

Thirty-seven national officer candidates came to Kansas City to throw their hats into the ring for six available student officer positions. An intensive interview process followed, consisting of a written quiz, question and impromptu speech.

"There are no losers. We all go away with something wonderful, because of the experience we'll carry with us for a lifetime," said Ricky Warren, candidate from North Carolina. "Preparing to be a national officer candidate is a growing industry experience, because the process is more difficult than most people can imagine."

By Friday night the nominating committee had made their choices, and on Saturday afternoon, a new slate of students and adult officers were nominated, elected and installed before the convention's close.

ARIZONA: Michael David Armbruster, Tucson
ARKANSAS: Morris G. Nut, Danville
CALIFORNIA: Dennis Allen, Elk Grove
CONNECTICUT: Robin L. Burns, Andover
FLORIDA: Jeffrey Wayne Johnson, Dover
GEORGIA: Shelley Nettles, Monroe
IDaho: Jeffrey Kirk Iosom, Fruitland
ILLINOIS: Aike McCormick, Aroma
INDIANA: Matthew Allen Rekow, Woodburn
IOWA: Robert A. Hansen, Canton
KANSAS: Justin McKee, Edna
KENTUCKY: Brad Chambliss, Hardinburg
LOUISIANA: Chris Reeves, Jennings
MARYLAND: Dana Lynn Gates, Thurmont
MASSACHUSETTS: Jeffrey B. Lefleur, Taunton
MIchIGAN: Charles Edward Sovoll, Fennville
MISSISSIPPI: James Fitzgerald McDonald, Meridian
MONTANA: Brian Keith Martin, Ridgeway
NEBRASKA: Michael Miltine, Miles City
NEW JERSEY: Brian Keith Martin, Ridgeway
NEW MEXICO: Marvin Pounds, Corona
NEW YORK: Cliff Lynn Engelbrecht, Madison
NORTH CAROLINA: Ricky J. Warren, Clinton
OHIO: Warren L. Boerger, Irwin
OKLAHOMA: Sarah A. Stewart, Stillwater
OREGON: Edgar Cooper, Adams
SOUTH CAROLINA: Melissa Lynn Tyler, Loris
SOUTH DAKOTA: Joan Noel Nold, Gettysburg
TEXAS: Jody L. Hamby, Benton
TENNESSEE: Jaye L. Hamby, Benton
TEXAS: Troy Miller, Sherborn
UTAH: William Ralup Perkins, Panguitch
VERMONT: Francine Breton, Hope Bay
WASHINGTON: Charles Osterl, Stayton
WISCONSIN: Lisa Marie Muller, Rooted
WYOMING: Cody Stawick, Douglas