FFA-Making the Connection

Life is like a train. As passengers, we use trains for transportation. If we’re to reach our destinations, we eventually have to get off. We might stay awhile at our destination, but often we hop on another train going to a new place. It’s only when we make the connection that we’re really on the right track.

Street signs helped FFA members and advisors make their connections in Kansas City. Many of the 49,240 guests took advantage of the beautiful weather during FFA’s 71st national convention and took in the sights and sounds of the heartland.
Friendship is an important part of the FFA experience. Young leaders from across the U.S. and its territories exchanged ideas throughout the convention; a showcase of premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

As young adults, FFA members make decisions each day that can impact the rest of their lives. Their involvement in the FFA is helping them shape their futures for a brighter tomorrow. The National FFA Convention is a sea of opportunity, encouraging curious minds to dive into the pool of knowledge and bask in the rays of encouragement from advisors, presenters and career professionals. The blue corduroy jackets, worn by all members, is the first business suit many will slip over their shoulders to take a step in developing themselves as current leaders in their local chapters and communities. As the convention hall begins to overflow with FFA members, a transformation occurs. Students from all walks of life unite under the common colors of blue and gold to celebrate their pride as members and share with the world their commitment to achieving dreams.

The National FFA Convention is a sea of opportunity, encouraging curious minds to dive into the pool of knowledge and bask in the rays of encouragement from advisors, presenters and career professionals.
By Wednesday, “planes, trains, and automobiles” emptied blue and gold cargo onto the streets of Kansas City in record numbers. A glimmer of excitement shone in the eyes of members as they embarked on a convention welcoming them with open arms ready to help guide them on their path to success. Some came in hopes of meeting people stretching from towns and cities throughout the nation. A new friend could be found anywhere: squeezed into an already-full elevator, ogling at new trucks at the career show, standing in line at the shopping mall or even in the next seat.

FFA chapters were singled out as Models of Innovation for reaching out to their communities and encouraging students to get involved and make a difference.

Through workshops and other leadership training techniques at the convention, students discovered the impact they can make as individuals in their home and communities. Believing in their talents and learning how to set positive examples gave them the strength to look into the future with hope and direction for accomplishing their goals. Many members left Kansas City with a new story to tell. Whether sharing life experiences with peers at social gatherings or talking with an industry professional at the FFA National Agricultural Career Show, students gained a larger perspective of the country and the world.

A glimmer of excitement shone in the eyes of members as they embarked on a convention welcoming them with open arms ready to help guide them on their path to success.
The career show was a wonderful opportunity for students to stretch their wings and fly into new skies of technology and personal career growth. Members could connect with their friends at home by sending electronic postcards from the convention. Others discussed the future of agriculture with companies and universities spanning the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Individual students were honored for achievements in volunteerism and recognized for their service in monitoring programs. This outreach was reciprocated, as sponsors dug deep into their pockets to support FFA programs. Alumni members raised scholarship funds through their annual auction.

For some FFA members embarking on a new career opportunity paves the way for future endeavors in their industry of choice. Here a student is exploring her interests in the floriculture industry through the Career Development Events.

Members were inspired to evaluate current relationships they hold close to their hearts. Keynote speaker Les Brown encouraged members to seek out "OQP - Only Quality People." In recounting her experiences as a Holocaust survivor, Gerda Klein reminded us of the humanity that binds us together and the freedom we all share. When national officers and others offered expressions of thanks to their parents and advisors, audience members were moved to reflect on the influence of teachers and family in their own lives.
"Education is key in your field," said Robin Roberts, ESPN sportscaster, to the convention hall bursting at the seams with enthusiastic members and guests. FFA members know the importance of pursuing wisdom through experience, and those competing for top honors in proficiency awards, career development events and other programs were using their educational endeavors to lay the groundwork for career success.

Students embraced new friends and waved a sign of thanks to those who made the convention possible.
FFA members bid a fond farewell to Kansas City after 71 years. A record number of members and guests arrived to celebrate the convention, and many more are expected in Louisville, Ky, next year to kick off that city's first national FFA convention.

Every member, advisor, speaker, staff person and guest were pieces of a puzzle illustrating the possibility of dreaming a dream and watching it come to life.

On Saturday, the cheering faded away as FFA members bid a fond farewell to Kansas City. Each member packed a memory for the convention to cherish. Students embraced new friends and waved a sign of thanks to those who made the convention possible. Every member, advisor, speaker, staff person and guest were pieces of a puzzle illustrating the possibility of dreaming a dream and watching it come to life. With a newfound understanding of themselves and the world around them, FFA members made a connection: a connection to their past, a connection to the present and a connection to their future.
Stars Over America
Stars Over America Film is sponsored by the Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture and the General Fund of the National FFA Foundation. Cash awards for the national finalists and winners are sponsored by the executive sponsors of the National FFA Foundation.

The eight Stars Over America finalists waited anxiously as they were introduced on stage Thursday night. In moments, they would know the winners of FFAs most prestigious award. Each had already amassed years of valuable work experience, and had truly become a young star in his or her profession. The finalists had gone through long interviews and inspections of their record books, as well as summer filming visits to their businesses and farming operations.

As the finalists were introduced, each received $1,000 and a plaque, and the national winners received an additional $1,000. The parents of each finalist were presented with the Honorary American FFA Degree to recognize their contributions to their children's success.

American Star Farmer Charles Pierce and American Star in Agribusiness Andrew Tygrett congratulate each other on earning FFA's highest award.

Charles Pearce, 21
Walworth, Wis.
Big Foot FFA Chapter
Pearce's first farm responsibilities started 10 years ago, when his dad put him in charge of feeding the dairy calves. Today, he helps manage all facets of the family's 1,888-acre grain and 184-head dairy operation. Pearce oversees the work of six part-time employees and manages the farm's combined financial assets and investments.

Andrew Tygrett, 20
Atalissa, Iowa
Wilton FFA Chapter
Tygrett's interest in floriculture began as a 12-year-old when he began caring for flower beds at his father's business. He started raising gladiolus for show and sale, and expanded his business to local farmers' markets and catalog mail orders. He also purchased 117 acres to start farming organically.

The Stars Over America announcement creates excitement for more than just the winners!
American Star in Agribusiness Finalists

Troy Ambrose, 20
Amherst, Wis.
Amherst FFA Chapter
Ambrose and his brother launched T.N.T. Lawncare Service before they had drivers' licenses. Today they provide mowing, fertilizing, landscaping and other services to more than 100 customers. He recently signed a contract to maintain a nearby community's parks and baseball diamonds, and hopes to expand his business to provide total landscape design to his customers.

K.C. Gregg, 20
Spencer, S. D.
McCook Central FFA Chapter
 Gregg's family moved off of their ranch to town, he kept up his interest in beef cattle by working for another rancher. During the school year he worked 12-hour days on the weekends, and 14-hour days during the summers. His responsibilities included managing the herd health, nutrition and breeding programs.

Jere Stewart, 21
Nampa, Idaho
Kuna FFA Chapter
Stewart began his business after being approached about composting the stockpile of manure on the family's dairy operation. Though he knew he would eventually take over the family farm, he used the opportunity to start his own composting business.

American Star Farmer Finalists

Shane Becker, 21
Worthington, Minn.
Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster FFA Chapter
Becker rented the land to raise his first crop, but has made enough profits from his operation to purchase 160 acres of his own. He pays careful attention to machinery maintenance to reduce costs and prolong the equipment's life. His long-term goal is to expand his grain operation and to begin a feeder cattle and custom hog-feeding enterprise.

Dana Boehm, 21
Taylor, Texas
Hutto FFA Chapter
Boehm is a fourth-generation farmer who has distinguished herself with production yields of over 5,000 pounds per acre maize and 140-bushel per acre corn. In addition to high yields, she made her operation even more profitable by tracking commodity markets. By staying current on market conditions, she sold her crops for a 25-percent premium.

Lance Dobbins, 22
Thomas, Okla.
Thomas-Fay-Custer FFA Chapter
Dobbins purchased his first stocker steers as a 12-year-old, an investment which has grown into 813 head of cattle and nearly 1,200 acres of grain and hay. He plans to expand his farm to 1,500 acres of land and 1,000-head of stocker cattle. He credits detailed, accurate records as the keys to his success.
National Officer Candidates

Thousands of FFA members aspire to become what only six achieve each year - a national FFA officer. The 34 candidates below earned their American FFA Degrees, and were chosen by their associations as the state's best candidate for national office. During convention week, a written exam and numerous interviews with the nominating committee kept the candidates busy.

The intense week ended Saturday afternoon, when the national officer nominating committee issued its report to the convention session. The candidates and the organization waited anxiously, as one by one, the names of the new officer teams were announced. The convention hall roared as the new leaders were introduced. You can see their pictures and short bios on page 78.

The team will spend the coming year traveling more than 100,000 miles each, visiting every state as well as Europe and Japan. We applaud each of the members listed here who were willing to step forward to serve their organization, and congratulate them on a job well done.
AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AWARDS

Sponsored by and in partnership with the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Some of FFAs most ambitious members were rewarded for their efforts with an Agri-Entrepreneurship Award. Nine young business people who started their own enterprises were recognized during Friday afternoon’s convention session. These young entrepreneurs are rural America’s hope for the future, as talented youth create careers in their hometowns.

Dr. Marilyn Kourilsky, Vice President of the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, presented each winner with a plaque and a check for $1,000. In addition, each advisor received a check for $500 to further promote agri-entrepreneurship in their chapters. The Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program is a joint activity of the National Council for Agricultural Education, the U.S. Department of Education and the National FFA Foundation.

Grant Betterman of Parkers Prairie, Minn., owns and operates Betterman Docks and Lawns, a service business for area homeowners. His business provides lawn care and landscaping services as well as dock installation services in the spring and dock removal services in the fall.

Andy Hendrickson of Cambria, Wis., realized he could make more money milking before and after school than by working all day at typical teen-age jobs. He now owns and manages Andy’s Milking Service, a relief milking business for area dairy farmers.

Matthew McClain of Republican City, Neb., owns and operates McClain’s Mutton Busters, a business that provides livestock and entertainment services to fairs and rodeos. McClain realized the potential for such a business when a large rodeo asked his family to provide sheep to be ridden by children in a mutton busting contest.

Randy Meissen of Salisbury, Mo., owns and operates Meissen Entomology. He sells insects to agriculture and science departments in area schools. Meissen’s insects are embedded in transparent plastic blocks so that they are durable, convenient for instruction, and easily stored. The specimens are marketed to schools through catalogs, flyers, newsletters and a web page.

Jennifer Stover of Vista, Calif., owns and operates Jennie’s Flower Garden, a small-scale floral shop she operates from her home. She began making corsages and boutonnieres for her friends, but now also makes arrangements, decorations and designs events and banquet decor. Stover markets arrangements, bouquets, wreaths, wedding packages and dried flower arrangements.

Ryan Sutton of Middletown, Ind., is a stakeholder in BRW Landscapes and Design, an incorporated company that he owns with Bart Butterfield and Rich and Melody Warner. The business began as a partnership between Sutton and Butterfield. The pair provided mowing, lawn maintenance and landscape services. They increased their capital and expertise when they added the Warner family which allowed BRW Landscapes and Design to provide additional services to their customer base.

Andy Hendrickson of Cambria, Wis., explains his welding business

Annthie Kramer of Sutton, Neb., owns and manages Sutton Berry Basket, a u-pick strawberry operation she started in the spring of 1997. Kramer has plans for expanding her business next summer by adding strawberry ‘knick-knacks’ and jams to her product offering.

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To become a national finalist in prepared public speaking is to accomplish a dream for hundreds of FFA members. Across the country, stuffed animals turn into “pretend” audiences and parents become critics as students practice a speech they know by heart.

Countless hours of research are required to transform young leaders into knowledgeable speakers. After advancing through their chapter, district, region, and state, four talented individuals traveled to Kansas City as they attempted to become the next National Prepared Public Speaker Winner.

Each participant developed a speech on an agriculture-related topic of their choice. After presenting their six-to-eight minute speech, each finalist entertained five minutes of questions from the judges.

Lauri Vaughn hailed as this year’s winner. Her speech entitled “Who Will Speak for Agriculture?” earned her a $300 cash award and a $1,000 scholarship. The second, third and fourth-place speakers each received a $1,000 scholarship and a cash prize of $275, $250, and $225 respectively.

**National Winner**
Lauri Vaughn
Lubbock Cooper FFA Chapter
Lubbock, Texas

**Second Place**
Abbie Kammerzell
Colfax FFA Chapter
Colfax, Wash.

**Third Place**
Josh Tewalt
Meridian FFA Chapter
Meridian, Idaho

**Fourth Place**
Robyn Sites
Mountain View-Gotebo FFA Chapter
Mountain View, Okla.

**Who Will Speak For Agriculture?**
Lauri Vaughn, Lubbock Cooper FFA Chapter, Lubbock, Texas

They lined the streets, 30,000 strong. Yellow ribbons were everywhere: on people’s shirt pockets and blouses, on flag poles and bank buildings. Full-page color ads were run in the local newspaper, depicting huge yellow ribbons. The purpose of the yellow ribbons was to show the community’s support for an air base that was scheduled to be closed by the federal government.

That evening the mayor of the city met with a group of agricultural leaders. He remarked how heartwarming it was to see the citizens throw their support behind the air base. However, he noted that the contribution of agriculture was also very important to the economy of the city and surrounding area. That was probably an understatement because this region produces 25 percent of all the cotton grown in the United States, pens 50 percent of all the cattle fed in U.S. feedlots, and grows 90 percent of all certified grain sorghum seed in the world. It has been estimated that agricultural commodities pump over $5 billion dollars into the region’s economy each year.

Then the mayor asked an uncomfortable question. “How many people do you think would have lined the streets to support the agricultural industry?” The agricultural leaders shifted uneasily in their seats. Finally one said. “Mayor, we would be lucky to have 300.” The mayor replied, “Yes, I know. I myself have often wondered, who will stand up and speak for the agricultural industry?”

Who will speak for agriculture? The general public? Not likely. In 1988, a National Academy of Sciences committee released a study on agricultural knowledge. They found that the American public, as a whole, knew very little about agriculture. They also found that much of the information presented in schools about agriculture is erroneous or condescending in tone.

I know the committee is right because I find many people today still view agriculture with this old fashioned picture in mind: (1) fields of wheat blowing golden in the wind, (2) a plow and horse along the horizon of a setting sun, (3) and a man with leathery, tough skin in his torn, rugged overalls with his hair blowing gently in the wind. While these are pleasant pictures, they are completely inaccurate. Agriculture today involves medicine, energy, ecology, industrial products and pharmacology. It doesn’t depend upon a horse or a man with a plow. It is concerned with such
things as biosystematics, genetic engineering, computer technology, and supercritical fluid extraction.

Who, then will speak of agriculture to the general public? The news media? One would think so. However, there is evidence that those who inform the general public about agriculture do so in a faulty manner. In 1993, a professor at Texas Tech University conducted a study that measured the agricultural knowledge of TV reporters in Texas. He found that most of the reporters were severely lacking in overall agricultural knowledge, and these were individuals whose beat was agriculture!

Who will speak for agriculture? If you are within the sound of my voice, you know the answer. It is the reason the agricultural leaders felt so uncomfortable by the mayor's question. The responsibility lies not with your neighbor, or your friend—it lies with you. We all must accept our responsibility to speak up for this dynamic industry which is being severely hampered by a lack of knowledge on the part of many Americans.

You may be asking yourself, what can we do? There are three things that I would suggest. The first is that we must secure accurate agricultural statistics. One of the major problems we face in speaking for agriculture is that there is so much inaccurate information being presented. We must have statistics which are reliable and which include all segments of agriculture, not just the parts that are involved with production.

Secondly, we must actively seek out opportunities to speak. It is amazing how many civic and community organizations struggle to find speakers. A well-documented and presented program on agriculture may find its way onto the program of every civic organization in the community. By informing community leaders about agriculture, we will ensure that the opinion leaders in our area are knowledgeable about the field.

Lastly, we must reassert our leadership in community and civic organizations. In the "old days," many city and government leaders were people directly involved in agriculture. These individuals are rare to find in today's society. There is not a shortage of agricultural leaders, by any means. However, there seems to be a tendency for these leaders to concentrate on agricultural organizations and interests rather than on community and civic activities.

Yes, there are three things we must do if we want to become effective spokespersons for agriculture: (1) we must secure accurate information on agriculture, (2) we must seek out opportunities for agricultural awareness, and (3) we must reassert our role as leaders in non-agricultural organizations and activities.

Knowing these three things, I leave you with a final question: Will you speak for agriculture?
National Extemporaneous Public Speaking
Sponsored by American Farm Bureau Federation

Gifted orators from across the country showed convention attendees that they could think on their feet during the 1998 Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest. Each contestant was given 30 minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech on a randomly drawn agricultural topic. The four finalists earned a $1,000 scholarship for their outstanding efforts.

National Winner
Barrett Keene
Plant City Sr. FFA Chapter
Plant City, Florida

Second Place
Erin Morrow
Des Moines FFA Chapter
Folsom, New Mexico

Third Place
Parker Bane
Ridgeview FFA Chapter
Arrowsmith, Illinois

Fourth Place
Matt Archer
Kerman FFA Chapter
Kerman, California

Maintaining a Voice for American Agriculture in an Urban-Dominated Congress
Barrett Keene, Plant City Sr. FFA Chapter, Plant City, Fla.

Farmers all over our nation battle a number of formidable problems each and every year. For instance, insects, unpredictable market prices and even less predictable weather. But none are tougher or more persistent than the construction of new homes. Like an advancing army, endless rows of pink-roofed houses squish our farmers from all sides. It's not only decreasing agricultural lands, but slowly squeezing out a way of life that agricultural families have enjoyed and developed for several generations.

Good afternoon, my name is Barrett Keene and I am a proud member and representative of the Plant City Senior FFA Chapter and of the Florida FFA Association. Today I have been asked to speak to you about maintaining a voice for American agriculture in an urban-dominated Congress and in doing this we will focus upon three things. First will be a loss of agricultural lands. And our second point of analysis, we will focus upon exercising our agricultural voice in our democracy. And in our third and final point of analysis we will focus upon reasons for faith in the American agriculturalist.

According to Rulers magazine in Washington, D.C., we are currently losing over 4 million acres of agricultural lands each and every year. That is a large amount. But let’s break it down. That means that we are losing 10,960 acres each and every day, $56.62 acres an hour, and 7.61 acres of agricultural land each and every minute. That is scary. And another perspective, the Washington Post released that in the 1950s there was over half of a football field over to the 50 yard line and that was the equivalent of acreage and crop production. Yet today that figure has been reduced to the 27-yard line, and by the year 2020 that figure is supposed to reduce to the 20-yard line. That is scary as well. And with this loss of agricultural lands we have a loss of knowledge and appreciation about the American agriculturalist and the job that he or she does.

And that leads us into our second point of analysis, exercising our voice in our democracy. Agriculturalists by tradition are not quitters, we are fighters. He or she, whoever it may be, will take advantage of each and every opportunity to take a proactive approach to educate American consumers about the benefits and necessity of American agriculture. Because without agriculture, we don’t have food and without food we are not here today.

And our third and final point of analysis we will focus upon reasons for faith in the American agriculturalist. Today agriculturalists are taking advantage of the opportunities presented to them, whether it is niche markets such as organic farming or technological advancements such as growing plants in hydroponics, American agriculturalists are diversifying our operations. And in that we will succeed. We will encourage faith not only in an urban-dominated Congress, but an urban dominated country. Do the math. With only 2 percent of American population involved in agriculture that means that the other 98 percent is not educated about agriculture or the issues that affect our industry. And that just reaffirms the statement that we need to back up and take a proactive approach to American agriculture and to educating consumers about our industry.

In conclusion, I have faith in the farmer that wakes up at 5:30 each and every morning, rolls out of bed and shaves the stubble from his weather-beaten face to walk down to his barn or to his field and work for 12 hours not only to feed his family, but to feed ours as well. This same farmer then comes home and reads and educates his children with the Bible on the ways that they can properly live their lives. There is no doubt, at least in my mind, that technological advancements, niche markets, basically diversifying our operations and using our agricultural voice and our democracy, American agriculturalists can incorporate this with the blood, sweat and tears of tomorrow’s agriculturalists and we will maintain a strong and effective voice in an urban-dominated Congress.
Lab coats, microscopes and petri dishes are learning tools that winners of the Agriscience Student Recognition Program are quite comfortable with.

Christie Flechsenhar of Cascade, Mont., was named the national winner. Flechsenhar's study, "Control of the Noxious Range Weed Euphorbia esula by Fairy Rings," investigated biological controls of this weed and the various delivery systems to administer the control. Flechsenhar proved that the fairy ring fungus stops the growth of leafy spurge and prevents recurrence of the weed.

Flechsenhar received $5,000 in cash scholarships and a plaque for her achievements. Flechsenhar is a member of the Cascade FFA Chapter and her advisors are Duane Gebhardt and Frank LaLiberty.

The national runner-up was Chris Black of Bakersfield, Calif. He tested regional citrus groves for the presence and concentration of pesticide-resistant California red scale, an insect which damages the skin of oranges. He earned $3,000 in cash scholarships and was presented with a plaque. Black is a member of the North High-Bakersfield FFA Chapter, and his advisor is Christine Dickson.
**Agriscience Teacher of the Year**

*Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.*

**National Winner:**
Lisa Konkel, Big Foot FFA Chapter, Walworth, Wis.

**National Finalists:**
- **California:** Vera Elizabeth Gomes, Morgan Hill, Morgan Hill FFA Chapter
- **Louisiana:** Cynthia S. Toney, Ponchatoula, Covington FFA Chapter
- **Wisconsin:** Tim Buttes, Wilson, Eau Claire North FFA Chapter; Lisa Marie Konkel, Lake Geneva, Big Foot FFA Chapter

Lisa Konkel’s innovative approach to teaching quadrupled the number of students in her program. This year, she was rewarded with the honor of Agriscience Teacher of the Year at the national FFA convention. Konkel, of Big Foot Union High School in Walworth, Wis., earned a $1,500 cash award and a plaque recognizing her skills in teaching science principles and emerging technologies related to agriculture.

Konkel’s belief in applied learning allows students to benefit from a diverse agriscience curriculum. Her students gain a solid background in laboratory techniques and in understanding complex scientific principles that apply to most areas of science and agriculture. Konkel’s biotechnology class is recognized as a certified science course by the University of Wisconsin admissions system.

The Agriscience Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding agricultural education instructors who emphasize agriscience technology in their curricula through programs in biological, environmental and agribusiness technologies, and engineering sciences.

**FFA Agriscience Fair Continues to Honor Innovativeness**

This contest is sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Scholarships for participants are sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund, Asgrow Seed Company, AgrEvo Liberty Corn & Soybean Products Team and Caterpillar Agricultural Products, Inc.

The Agriscience Fair allowed students to compete in science-based projects in four divisions: division I (7-9th grade), division II (10-12th grade), division III (team, 7-9th grade) and division IV (team, 10-12th grade). Each winning participant receives either a cash award or scholarship. All division winners are presented their award on the Municipal Auditorium Stage during convention sessions. The categories in each division are: Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science, Botany, Engineering, Environmental Science and Zoology.

**Winners Include:**
- **Category: Zoology**
  - Division I: Blake Costello, Jefferson FFA, West Virginia
  - Division II: Nathan Dawson, Sarcoxie FFA, Missouri
  - Division III: Adam Weatherbee & Jeremy Lawrence, Westwood FFA, Arizona
  - Division IV: Lacey Drouet & Michelle Griffith, Sumner FFA, Washington

- **Category: Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science**
  - Division I: Trevor Hill, Jefferson FFA, West Virginia
  - Division II: Alana Jacobson, Carl Hayden FFA, Arizona
  - Division IV: Jeanna Little & Desiree Cordas, Sumner FFA, Washington

- **Category: Engineering**
  - Division I: Becky McCulloch, Galt FFA, California
  - Division II: John Altucci, Jefferson FFA, West Virginia
  - Division IV: Warren Brown & James Ballou, Judson FFA, Texas

- **Category: Environmental Sciences**
  - Division I: Josh Householder, Jefferson FFA, West Virginia
  - Division II: Austin DeCock, Lake Park Audubon FFA, Minnesota
  - Division IV: Melissa Shipman & Jim Tallis, Carthage FFA, Missouri

- **Category: Botany**
  - Division I: Jessica Geistweidt, East Central FFA, Texas
  - Division II: Paul Wilmann, Pelican Rapids FFA, Minnesota
  - Division IV: Dana Philer & Aleque Stegall, Piedmont High School FFA, North Carolina
**H.O. Sargent Awards**

Sponsored by Merial

Dr. H. O. Sargent was a pioneer in starting New Farmers of America, a sister organization to FFA for African-American students. He began his efforts in Virginia, where the New Farmers of Virginia was created in 1928. The idea spread to other southern states, and in 1931, the New Farmers of America was born, expanding opportunities in agriculture for those members. The NFA was incorporated into the National FFA Organization in 1965, and the dream of creating new opportunities in premier leadership, personal growth and career success in agriculture lives on through the H.O. Sargent award. This recognition began in 1995 to honor both members and adults across the country who work to promote diversity in agricultural education and the FFA.

**Non-Member Winners**

MARYLAND: Theresa Watson, Career and Tech Support Service Team Aid, Walkersville

NORTH CAROLINA: Gary E. Moore, Professor, Raleigh

OKLAHOMA: W.G. Parker, Treasurer/REAP, Muskogee

Adult winners, listed above, were selected from individuals who have been involved in agricultural education and have implemented new programs to promote agricultural diversity. Each winner received a plaque and national recognition during the Friday afternoon convention session.

**Member Winner**

FLORIDA: Barrett Keene, Plant City Sr.

Barrett Keene wins the first of his two national awards as his name is announced as the H.O. Sargent Award winner. He was also victorious in the National Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest. National finalist Tara Runion and Amanda Richardson share in the excitement.

**National Member Finalists:**

NORTH CAROLINA: Tara Runion, South Rowan

OREGON: Amanda Richardson, Crater

TENNESSEE: Grace Page, Dyer County

Barrett Keene, from Plant City, Fla., won the H.O. Sargent Award for his work in integrating mentally handicapped students into FFA. His involvement in the promotion of diversity began because he had three relatives who were mentally handicapped, and he wanted to show other people their positive attitudes. He established a club at his school called “Buddies In Growing,” or “B.I.G.,” which teams special-needs students with regular education students for school activities. These students have increased chapter membership and they proudly wear their FFA jackets at various activities. Keene said, “These students are without a doubt the most enthusiastic members present.”

For his efforts, Keene was presented with $500 and a plaque. This is the second year to recognize FFA members in honor of H.O. Sargent.
Years of study, training and practice paid off for the winners of the National Career Development Events. Teams from across the United States competed for top honors in event areas from forestry to agricultural mechanics. Participants evaluated, identified, analyzed, tasted, sniffed, repaired and calculated—all in hopes of achieving top honors.

The results of each event were announced at sponsor-hosted breakfasts or luncheons at the end of the week. During Saturday morning's session, the winners took the stage to receive their awards.

Agricultural Issues Forum
Sponsored by Elanco Animal Health, A Division of Eli Lilly and Company
First Place: Ritzville FFA Chapter, Ritzville, Wash.

Agricultural Mechanics
Sponsored by Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund; and Firestone Ag Tire Division
First Place: Cascade FFA Chapter, Cascade, Mont.
High Individual: Todd Byrne, Cascade, Mont.

Agricultural Sales
Sponsored by Asgrow Seed Company
First Place: Troy FFA Chapter, Troy, Mo.
High Individual: Desiree Cordas, Sumner, Wash.

Dairy
Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Incorporated and Babson Bros. Co./SURGE
First Place: Edgewood FFA Chapter, Edgewood, Iowa
High Individual: Ryan Griffen, Stewartville, Minn.

Dairy Foods
Sponsored by Dairy Management, Inc.; Patz Sales, Inc.; and Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
First Place: Hanford FFA Chapter, Hanford, Calif.
High Individual: Travis Ferreira, Hanford, Calif.

Farm Business Management
Sponsored by John Deere
First Place: Lost Springs FFA Chapter, Lost Springs, Kan.
High Individual: Natalie Noble, Vale, Ore.

Floriculture
Sponsored by American Floral Endowment; Ball Horticultural company; and The Solaris Group; Ortho Roundup®; Greensweep; and Witco Corporation Scholarships by Sun Company
First Place: Bear Creek FFA Chapter, Bear Creek, N.C.
High Individual: Jeremy Hart, Bear Creek, N.C.

Food Science and Technology
Sponsored by Kellogg Company
First Place: Junction City FFA Chapter, Junction City, Ore.
High Individual: Mary Goodrich, Houston, Texas

Forestry
Sponsored by Champion International Corporation; Schrade Cutlery; and Union Camp Corporation
First Place: Dunmore FFA Chapter, Dunmore, WV
High Individual: Nathaniel Clutter, Dunmore, WV

Horse Evaluation
Sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund—Dodge Trucks; and Manna Pro Corporation, "The Calf Manna® Company"
First Place: Queen Anne's County FFA, Centerville, Md.
High Individual: Michelle Dunham, Centerville, Md.

Livestock Evaluation
Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.
First Place: Council Grove FFA Chapter, Council Grove, Kan.

Marketing Plan
Sponsored by Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company
First Place: Philip FFA Chapter, Philip, S.D.

Meats Evaluation and Technology
Sponsored by Excel Corporation; Hormel Foods Corporation; and Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation
First Place: LaVernia FFA Chapter, LaVernia, Texas
High Individual: Eric Doerge, LaVernia, Texas

Nursery/Landscape
Sponsored by Rhône-Poulenc Ag Company; Kubota Tractor Corporation; Valant U.S.A. Corp.; and Environmental Industries Scholarships by American Nursery and Landscape Association;
First Place: Ramseur FFA Chapter, Ramseur, N.C.
High Individual: Angie McCormick, Minn.

Parliamentary Procedure
Sponsored by Novartis Crop Protection, Inc.
First Place: Bear River FFA Chapter, Grass Valley, Calif.

Poultry
Sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc. and American Proteins, Inc.
First Place: Springdale FFA Chapter, Springdale, Ark.
High Individual: Carol Spruill, Jefferson, Ga.
**National FFA Talent**  
*Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company*

This convention saw one of the largest talent troupes ever assembled: nearly 100 FFA members in 40 acts, representing 18 states. By the end of the convention, they had given 400 performances, including nearly 50 special events. Banquets, local schools, civic clubs, the American Royal, Battle Stage, main stage, Finals Stage, you name it - they were there, serving as FFA ambassadors to the community. On Thursday, members were dancing in the aisles to the musical stylings of the talent performers during the annual talent review.

Among the myriad of vocalists performing country tunes, some to their own accompaniment, there were some standout acts. Travis and Tony Wolf from Spencer, Wis., towered above stage as dancing stiltwalkers. Cousins Jose and Miguel Castro of the Gadsden, N.M., FFA chapter displayed their skills as professional Mexican rodeo ropers. They joined gospel quartets from Alabama, rock bands from Texas and a “Titanic” duet by Oklahoma FFA members.

National FFA Talent Director Gary Maricle, principal of Excelsior Springs High School in nearby Liberty, Mo., was back for his 13th year, assisted by convention talent veterans Rob Enbody and Scott Stewart.

![Jose Castro of Gadsden, N.M., awed the crowd Thursday evening at FFA Talent. Their rope mastery demonstrated a beautiful example of the Mexican Charro connecting traditions of the past with enjoyment of present generations.](Image)
National FFA Chorus
Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

Many have said that music is food for the soul. It can lift your spirits, remind you of the past, and give hope for the future. The 1998 National FFA Chorus stirred many emotions in the hearts of all FFA members and guests. Their beautiful voices rose to the rafters as they sang the national anthem, while during later performances, members laughed at the fun and witty humor in a salute to Disney’s “The Jungle Book.”

This 100-member body of talented FFA members gave 100 percent of themselves in powerful performances throughout general sessions and the National Band and Chorus Concert Friday night. Whistles and cheers rang through Municipal Auditorium as the male vocalists sang “Give a Man Enough Rope.” Tears welled in audience member’s eyes as the chorus sang a testament of hope during Friday’s morning session.

Chorus members from coast to coast dedicated many hours of rehearsal to prepare for their performances. Roger Kelley of Washington State University directed this wonderfully orchestrated group, and was assisted by Dr. Jerry Berthiaume.

Members of the National FFA Chorus open their mouths and musical spirits as they sing a catchy tune during a general session.

ALASKA: Logan Bohlman, Palmer
CALIFORNIA: Traci Erickson, Fallbrook; Aaron Johnson, Serrano; Adrienne Shor, Santa Rosa
COLORADO: Rebecca Schmidt, Sterling
CONNECTICUT: Taylor Chambers, Lyman Hall
IOWA: Melissa Carlson, Rockwell City-Lyttom; Andrew Gray, Decorah, James Hall, West Marshall; Emily Hanksemeyer, Monticello; Robert Hughes, Murray; Jamie Kelley, Rockwell/Shelfield; Josh Kemper, Sioux Center; Angela Monteth, South Hamilton; Crystal Oyster, South Hamilton; Nathaniel Roelfs; Lacey Schmitt, Rockford; Kari Tweed, Decorah
IDAHO: Kasia Kohler, Firth
ILLINOIS: Jonathon Hampton, Chicago Ag Science; Bradley Hofbauer, Cisna Park
INDIANA: Sara Bailey, Greenfield, Justin Hill, Rossville; Joseph Martin, Lewis Cass
KANSAS: Jamie Brothers, Winfield; Keith Bryant, Arkansas City; Jessica Hanson, Ulysses; Lindsay Knouf, Holton; Naomi Read, Jayhawk Linn; Clayton Reed, Hope
KENTUCKY: Jennifer Warren, Taylor County
MARYLAND: Toby Hoffman, Clear Spring
MICHIGAN: Katie Balaam, Lowell; Rebecca Durant, Benzie Central; Shannon Finnegan, Lowell; Carrie Maust, Lakers; Michelle McPherson, Montague
MINNESOTA: Johanna Anderson, Evansville; Daniel Carlson, Murray County Central; Marshall Dornink, Fillmore Central; Andrea Halverson, Blue Earth Area; Nick Peter, Blue Earth Area; Anna Popowski, Marshall-Lincoln High; Angela Sanborn, Alexandria
MISSOURI: Bonnie Bandelier, Gallatin; Carissa Barnes, Trenton; Jeffrey Binney, Trenton; Chasen Dennis, Trenton; Jeffery Johnson, Trenton; Heather Nordwalk, North Callaway; Tessa Robertson, Ash Grove
MISSISSIPPI: Patrick Black, Weir
NORTH DAKOTA: Jessica Kenner, Leeds
NEBRASKA: Lacey Beemer, Imperial; Nicholas Clausen, Logan View; Nicholas Erdman, Bayard; James Griffin, Medicine Valley; Shaun Kracke, Wilber-Clatonia; Maggie Miller, Bayard; Melody Neims, Republican Valley; James Oltman, Wilber-Clatonia
NEW MEXICO: Samantha Dodd, Melrose
OHIO: Audrey Belleville, Bowling Green; Kylee Fent, Parkway; Lynette Kinser, Liberty Union
OKLAHOMA: Aden Butler, Reydon; Cody Chaloner, Hinton; Kayly Christensen, Thomas-Fay-Custer; Cassandra Crissup, Waynoka; Anthony Dalrymple, Sterling; Jared Deck, Thomas-Fay-Custer; Lela Faulkenberry, Savanna; Christy Foist, Thomas-Fay-Custer; Paul Geisinger, Seling; Dustin Harvey, Carnegie; Rachel Hood, Vanoss; Larry Imke, Shattuck; Nathan Mueller, Guymon; James Roller, Clinton
OREGON: Todd Tschida, Ontario
SOUTH DAKOTA: Karen Kezar, Alcester-Hudson; Doug Peterson, Clark; Kathryn Strom, Heresford
TEXAS: Christopher Ahrens, Gregory-Portland; DeShun Califier, Arp; Joseph Edwards, Chisum; Shawn Johnson, Texas City; Kymberly McCain, Snyder; Bo Petru, Gregory; Calli Pierce, Snyder; Anthony Ruiz Ill, Bryan; Laura Sanders, Arlington; Jesse Schumann, Troy; David Willeford, Dayton
WASHINGTON: Chauncey Agustin, Yelm; Trevor Haas, Cathlamet; Joseph Richardson, Yelm; Desiree Zuger, St. John/Endicott
WISCONSIN: Kelly Clark, Mayville; Eric Evensrad, Westby; Nathan Harker, Shullsburg; Ryan Senn, River Falls; Erin Vangen, Rio
WYOMING: Seth Heinert, Devil’s Tower
The National FFA Band consisted of 105 students from across the nation. Each band member sent in an audition tape to win a coveted seat on the national stage. These dedicated individuals traveled to Kansas City five days before the start of the convention to assemble as a group for the first time. They practiced for countless hours to bring convention participants the musical renditions of “The Lion King,” “Titanic,” and classic rock n’ roll.

The streets of Kansas City once again heard the triumphant beat of the National FFA Band. The band led a parade Friday morning to pay tribute to Kansas City for its hospitality over the past 71 years. Always on the move, the band gave rodeo fans a reason to stomp their feet to the down-home beat of the drums at the American Royal Friday evening. The band was once again directed by the musical artistry of Mr. Gene Englerth, and his assistant was Mr. Joe Lajoye.

ALABAMA: Judson Brady, Atalla
ARIZONA: Lauren Greenberg, Chandler; Julia Johnson; Payson
ARKANSAS: Kyle Sudmeyer, Lake Hamilton; Mitchell Ward, Lake Hamilton
CALIFORNIA: Boorus Yin, Canoga Park
COLORADO: Matthew Geu, Peetz; Amanda Hancock, Crook County; Jessica Phelps, Peetz
CONNECTICUT: Calvin Croll, Lyman Hall; Jennifer Plasky, Southington
GEORGIA: Donnie Malcom, Oconee County
IDAHO: Clint Stevenson, Meridian
ILLINOIS: Steven Ray, Tri-Point; Raye Taylor, Alexis; Chad Taylor, Midlothian
INDIANA: Chris Salkeld, Scottsburg; Todd Schworm, Angola
IOWA: Rachel Ahrens, West Branch; Jennifer Heeren, South Hamilton; Matthew Jansen, Adair-Casey; Julie Lange, Linn-Mar; Scott Lundquist, South O’Brien; Amy Pint, Wapie; Benjamin Ramsay, North Folk; Sara Rogis, DeWitt Central; Tyler Smith, Humboldt; Rhonda Young, Walnut
KANSAS: Shawna Dillon, Atwood; Lucas Warford, Newton
KENTUCKY: Jennifer O’Banion, Taylor County; Stephen Willmot, McCreary Central
MAINE: Perry Randall, Ashland
MICHIGAN: Kendra Butters, Homer; Rebecca Carr, Hastings; Noelle Dunckel, Laingsburg; Jeremiah Johnson, Hastings; Ryan Robinson, Sebewaing; Andrew Safie, Hastings; Dawn Smith, A.C.A.T.E.C.
MINNESOTA: Anita Boesen, Alexandria; Wade Fowler, Howard Lake-Waverly-Wintona; Elissa Otterness, Spring Grove; Rita Schaefer, Frazee
MISSOURI: Amanda Dyke, Moberly Area Vo-Tech; Tina Holtmeyer, Washington; Rusty Lee, Minn. Grove; Rex Smiley, Milan; Andrew Thornton, Fayette; Eric Jean Voeks, Smithville; Andy Weldon, Gallatin; Jill Wilkinson, Galatin; Kenny Youtsey, Gallatin
MONTANA: Derek Larson, Manhattan; Amanda McClure, Missoula; Michael Reichert, Huntley Project
NEBRASKA: Adrienne Auch, Blair; Darby Bishop, Battle Creek; Dustin Kreilefs, Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca; Jeremiah Richardson, Grant
NORTH DAKOTA: Shanna Gratton, J.E. Eastgate Latimore; Brad Lambrecht, Lisbon
OHIO: Adrian Marie Bauer, Teays Valley; Jesse Buxton, Warsaw; Doug Eichelberger, Crestview; Daniel Finrock, New Carlisle; Abby Gerken, Holgate; Paul Hays, Eaton; Daniel Kramer, Eaton; Michael Prasuhn, Ansonia
OREGON: Cory Davis, Wallowa; Paul Goeringer, Cordell; Brooke Hoisington, Cashion; Stacy Ingram, Caney Valley; Walrat Johnson, Tishomingo; Brian Leisher, Okeene; Kristie Sharp, Owasso; Harlan Yocham, Sapulpa
SOUTH CAROLINA: Lyndsey Hall, Abbeville
SOUTH DAKOTA: Trent Blare, Winner; Elizabeth Boos, Milbank
TENNESSEE: Gary Jenkins, Riverside
TEXAS: Alexis Balo, Calallen; Brooke Ann Brochtrup, Woodville; Samantha Cartwright, Mexia; Roger Cary, Cross Plains; Travis Ross Davis, Cushing; Roel Omar Guerra Jr., Rio Grande City; Alisha Hughes, Kirbyville; Denise Phillips, Katy; Aaron Reese, Childress; Melissa Schrader, Somerset, Matthew Stout, Rowe
WASHINGTON: Jess Langdell, Columbia; Ivan Meyer, Reardan; Matt Stillmon, Mt. View; Teresa Stocking, South Kitsap
WISCONSIN: Brandy Abegglen, Colby; Jennifer Blake, Cameron; Caryn Eberle, Monroe; Stephanie Feider, New Holstein; Kristopher Klassy, New Glarus; Lori McFarlin, Cochrane-Fountain City; Karin Miller, Marion; Karin Miller, Marion; Amalie Neumann, Colby; Mary Pockat, Marion; Denise Schwartz, Colfax; Melanie Wells, Watertown; Dana Wiegand, Darlington; Mayme Zinke, Royall
Wyoming: Sydne Clark, Devil’s Tower; Spencer Clark, Devil’s Tower
Proficiency Awards

The following 167 members have made the most of the first two lines of the FFA motto, “Learning to do, doing to learn.” National Proficiency Award finalists and winners have excelled in their supervised agricultural experience programs over their FFA careers. The awards vary widely, from traditional production agriculture to the newer food marketing, environmental science and agricultural technology areas. FFA members are making strides in every aspect of agriculture and agribusiness, and the 42 proficiency awards recognize their achievements.

Judges interviewed each finalist, and inspected their record books. The winner in each area was presented a plaque and a cash award on stage, and earned the chance to participate in an international agricultural travel experience.

Agricultural Communications
Sponsored by R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company and Farm Progress Companies, Inc.
ILLINOIS: Robin Niehaus, Hillsboro
KENTUCKY: Brandon Bussell, Nicholas Co.
TEXAS: Jeremy Derington, Plainview
VIRGINIA: William Mader, Stonewall Jackson

Agricultural Sales and/or Service
Sponsored by Case Corporation; CHEVY TRUCKS; The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company; and Vigor Ag Products
CALIFORNIA: Adam Braelz, Elk Grove
INDIANA: Brian Warren, Wawasee
OHIO: Barton Curtis Fannin, Teays Valley
UTAH: Cassie Ercanbrack, Payson

BEEF Production, Entrepreneur
Sponsored by Nasco Division/ Nasco International, Inc. and Schering-Plough Animal Health
COLORADO: Robin Schreiber, Woodlin
KANSAS: Sara Thorsell, Altoona
MINNESOTA: James Bhend, LeRoy-Ostrander
NEBRASKA: Layne Fischer, Scribner-Snyder

BEEF Production, Placement
Sponsored by Cactus Feeders, Inc.; Fort Dodge Animal Health; Evergreen Mills, Inc.; and Kent Feeds, Inc.
CALIFORNIA: Eric Hafenfeld, Kern Valley
INDIANA: Jared Nussbaum, Adams Central
NEBRASKA: Steve Coufal, Howells-Clarkson
OKLAHOMA: Misti Gleason, Thomas-Fay-Custer

Cereal Grain Production
Sponsored by CENEX Foundation
CALIFORNIA: Frank Junio, Tulare Union
KANSAS: Jason Stoffer, Chapman
MISSOURI: Jennifer Lyon, Norborne
SOUTH DAKOTA: Kara Nagel, Gettysburg

AG MECH / TECHNICAL SYSTEMS, ENTREPRENEUR
Sponsored by CARQUEST Corporation and Chrysler Corporation - Dodge Trucks
CALIFORNIA: Joshua Weaver, Ripon
IOWA: Levi Buxton, Creston
OKLAHOMA: Levi Compton, Mooreland
WISCONSIN: Joseph Lulich, Ashland

Agricultural Processing
Sponsored by Ag Processing, Inc. / Consolidated Nutrition LC, and Archer Daniels Midland Company
ALABAMA: Clint Jarrell, Beulah
CALIFORNIA: Cory Avila, Gustine
MINNESOTA: David Schueller, Wabasso
MISSOURI: Jared Flinn, Troy

Surprise and elation overtook Laura Anne Baker of Sanger, Calif., as she heard her name announced as National Diversified Livestock Production—Entrepreneur proficiency award winner.
DAIRY PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR
Sponsored by ABG Global, Inc.; Alfa Laval Agri Inc.; and Manna Pro Corporation, "The Calf Manna® Company."

WISCONSIN: Marlon Marquez, Chino
OHIO: Jason Moore, Warren Co.
TEXAS: Ernest Bailes IV, Shepherd
WISCONSIN: Paul Eisentraut, Waupaca

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT
Sponsored by National Crop Insurance Services; AgrEvo; and "Rain and Hail"—The Crop Insurance Leader
COLORADO: Justin Mertens, New Raymer
ILLINOIS: Dave Bent, Liberty
OKLAHOMA: Todd Ice, Thomas
TENNESSEE: Levin Billings II, Warren County

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK, ENTREPRENEUR
Sponsored by Continental Grain Company/Cattle Feeding Division, Pork Division and Animal Nutrition Division; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund
CALIFORNIA: Laura Anne Baker, Sanger
KANSAS: Jennifer Ryan, South Haven
SOUTH DAKOTA: Melissa Streff, McCook Central
VIRGINIA: Troy Lawson, Buffalo Gap

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK, PLACEMENT
Sponsored by Continental Grain Company/Cattle Feeding Division, Pork Division and Animal Nutrition Division; Allflex USA, Inc.; and United Soybean Board
CALIFORNIA: Chet Mebome, North High-Bakersfield
NEBRASKA: Craig Belina, Howells-Clarkson
NEW MEXICO: Kami Casbonne, Artesia
WISCONSIN: Karl Bobholz Jr., Randolph

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Sponsored by IMC Global Inc. and Carolina Biological Supply Company
CALIFORNIA: Stan Young, Fresno-Pershing
MONTANA: Christie Flechesenhar, Cascade
TENNESSEE: Melissa Hope Horzaker, McMinn Co.
WISCONSIN: Rose Riemer, Waupaca

EQUINE SCIENCE
Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.; Red Brand Non-Climb Horse Fence/Made by Keystone Steel & Wire Company; and American Paint Horse Association
CALIFORNIA: Jake Parnell, Bear River
KENTUCKY: Walter Vest Jr., Morgan County
NEVADA: Jaime Hustace, Smith Valley
WISCONSIN: Angela Mueller, New Holstein

Shane Stevens of Chickasha, OK, accepts the National Forage Proficiency Award as his advisors, who are also his parents, beam with pride.

Hector Mattys of Lakeview, Minn., is escorted to the spotlight as his name is announced as the national winner of the Diversified Crop Production—Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award.
FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR
Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

ILLINOIS: Tim McDermott, Waterloo
IOWA: Michael Blick, West Lyon
KANSAS: Steven Friess, Labette County
WISCONSIN: Joe Ostrowski, Amherst

FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT
Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

MISSOURI: Brent Fast, Liberal
OHIO: Curt Goubeaux, Versailles
SOUTH DAKOTA: Paul Roling, McCook Central
WISCONSIN: Douglas Jung, Randolph

FIBER CROP PRODUCTION
Sponsored by Griffin Corporation; Cotton Grower; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

CALIFORNIA: Josh Pitiglione, Tulare Union
LOUISIANA: Matthew Pickett, North Central
OKLAHOMA: Justin Abernathy, Altus
TENNESSEE: Kristen Beth Moore, Halls

FORAGE PRODUCTION
Sponsored by Gehl Company and Novartis Seeds, Inc.

LOUISIANA: Jeremy Fruge, Hathaway
OKLAHOMA: Shane Stephens, Chickasha
TENNESSEE: Jon Klepper, Cherokee
WISCONSIN: Jason Specht, Pulaski

FLORICULTURE
Sponsored by American Floral Endowment; The Kroger Company; Valient U.S.A. Corp.; and Greenhouse Grower

CALIFORNIA: Jaclyn McComas, Quartz Hill
FLORIDA: Jesse Sapp, Lake Placid Senior
GEORGIA: Jeremy Lee Wallace, Effingham Co.
KENTUCKY: Katie Stinnett, Jessamine Co.

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Sponsored by General Mills Foundation; Meylocks & Priebel Advertising, Inc.; and Seneca Foods Corporation

INDIANA: Christy Brancamp, Jac Cen Del
OHIO: Beth Dettly, Miami Trace
SOUTH DAKOTA: Kristen Wallenstein, Harrisburg
TEXAS: Deidra Howell, Cotton Center

FRUIT AND/OR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION
Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc.

CALIFORNIA: Brad Sporleder, Lodi
UTAH: Tori Lee Ferguson, Payson
VIRGINIA: Adam Wesley Barker, John S. Battle
WISCONSIN: Joseph Skelly, Janesville Parker

HOME AND/OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Sponsored by Carhartt, Inc.

MISSOURI: Leah Thies, Glasgow
NORTH DAKOTA: Renae Heinle, Medina
OREGON: Amanda Richardson, Crater
WISCONSIN: Zech Gotham, New Auburn

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT
Sponsored by Reiman Publications

MINNESOTA: Shawn Linder, Battle Lake
MISSOURI: Johnathan Heesemann, Owatonna
SOUTH DAKOTA: Dustin Preheim, Harrisburg
WISCONSIN: Tim Czarneski, Denmark

NURSERY OPERATIONS
Sponsored by Chrysler Corporation Fund - Dodge Trucks and Novartis Crop Protection

CALIFORNIA: Nathan Koop, Fresno-Pershing
FLORIDA: Larry Neal Jr., Williston
OHIO: Sara Schluter, Botkins
WISCONSIN: Dan Osborn, Delavan Darien

OIL CROP PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEUR
Sponsored by Novartis Seeds, Inc.; and United Soybean Board

IOWA: Tyler Farnham, Prairie Valley
KANSAS: Justin Newland, Neodesha
MINNESOTA: Grant Romberg, Sleepy Eye
WISCONSIN: Tim Daun, New Holstein

OIL CROP PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT
Sponsored by AgrEvo;Asgrow Seed Company; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

INDIANA: David Skiles, Carroll
KENTUCKY: Ryan Bivens, Spencer Co.
MISSOURI: Patrick Weisz, Norborne
SOUTH DAKOTA: Scott Peterson, McCook Central
Joshua Weaver of Ripon, Calif., rejoices after hearing his named called as the 1998 Agricultural Mechanical and Technical Systems Entrepreneur Proficiency Winner. Years of hard work finally paid off for the four national finalists in this area.
Saturday morning's convention session was dedicated entirely to honoring the 1,934 young women and men who reached the pinnacle of FFAs degree program. The American FFA Degree is earned by less than one-half of one percent of all members, and the pride beaming from the recipients' faces, as well as from their parents' and advisors', was well-deserved. The awardees each received a degree certificate and American FFA Key on stage, and were also recognized with a brunch following the session.

ALABAMA: Michael Bates, East Limestone; Selena Dume Bishop, Talladega City; Donald Carroll, Hartford; Chad Freeman Chaney, Sylvania; Peter Jacob Davis, Gason; Wesley Farrow, Lineville; Casey Hatcher, Hartfield; Jamie Shay Jones, Billingsley; Jonathan King, Russellville; Debbie Lynn Krull, Randolph-Roanoke; Michael Manning, Billingsley; Wesley Mitchell, East Lawrence; Dusten Lee Pounders, Russellville; Robby Vinzant, Falkville; Steven Wea Ziaja, Falkville

ARIZONA: Keith Cannon, Duncan; Marian Conrad, Flowing Wells; Adam Lee Daily, Yuma; Jake Dillard, Chino Valley; Michael Fitterer, Chino Valley; Dariel Foster, Flowing Wells; Marty Owens, Buckeye; Travis Rose, Safford; Andrea Roverey, Buckeye; Troy Skousen, Antelope; Eric Stevens, Payson; Brett Joseph Suma, Peoria; Marti Wade, San Simon; Lance White, Highland

ARKANSAS: Annie Kay Clifton, Farmington; Russell Dewey, Mountain Home; Benjamin Jackson, Mansfield; Denise Moore, Lincoln; Cody Morris, Mountianburg; Jennifer Reynolds, Prairie Grove; Angela Marie Walker, St. Joe; Landon Paul Watkins, Valley Springs; Lance Wright, Quitman

CALIFORNIA: Stacy Abetomitchie, Kerman; Grant Ahlem, Hilmar; Michael Thomas Ake, Quartz Hill; Adelaide Maria Alamo, Gustine; Gabrielle Alexander, Delano; Jim Alves, Calt; Rebecca Alves, Tulare Union; Jared Anthony Amaral, Orestimba; Rebecca Arrigo, Jurupa Valley; Matthew Anderson, Calt; Jonathan Andrews, Dos Palos; Sara Elise Arango, Santa Maria-Righetti; Derek Arevedo, Gustine; Jennifer Marie Arevedo, Orestimba; John Arevedo, Hilmar; Kristi Baggs, Porterville; Erica Baker, Maxwell; Bryan Barnes, Surprise Valley; Gary Batini, Atwater; Amy-Lynn Bauman, Los Plumas; Jessica Baxter, Merced Golden Valley; Spencer Beckstead, Atwater; Aaron Beene, LeGrand; Matt Beene, LeGrand; Ryan Bell, Gustine; Nikki Benedict, Yosemite; Duarte Manuel Bento, Escalon; Ryan Scott Benton, Corning; Robert Bergman, Caruthers; Heather Berry, Corcoran; Matthew Jesse Bigelow, Sierra; Jennifer Borland, White-Carson; Lynelle Kathleen Bosworth, West Valley-Cottonwood; Stephanie Christine Brannan, Highland; Christine Brasil, Tulare Western; Ryan Breneman, Quartz Hill; Jason Broezy, Del Norte; Nicole Brush, North High-Bakersfield; Jim Buckley, Clarksburg-Delta; Kate Buckley, Clarksburg-Delta; Susan Bushong, Susanville; Beth Butler, Merced Golden Valley; Eric Warren Butler, Escalon; Michael Anthony Camara, Gustine; Kelli Christian, Santa Ynez; Ryan Cody, Hanford; Robert Cole, Corcoran; Brian Colman, Hollister-San Benito; Brian Combes, Sierra; Michael Costa, Monache; Chad Crivelli, Dos Palos; Katrina Curt, Tulare Western; Christina Day, Fresno Central; Vivian Degener, Tehachapi; Becky Lynn Dentz, Petaluma; Antonio DeOchoa, Corcoran; Ryan John DePaul, Surprise Valley; Tamara DelRose, Atascadero; Dominic Diaz, White-Carson; Dominic DiGrizzi, Chico; Michael Doreen Jr., Kern Valley; Mary Ellen Doster, Little Rock; Sky Dawn Douglass, Kern Valley; Jennifer Duncan, Jurupa Valley; Rollin Duty, Lemoore; Ryan Duty, Lemoore; Jacques Ellis, Tulare Union; Scott Ellsworth, Lemoore; Brandi Engelman, Fresno Unified, Audra Ensigni, Surprise Valley; Ryan Estes, Chino; Jason Everson, Santa Maria; Lisa Jeanne Farrell, Escalon; Jose Manuel Fausto, Gonzales; Jason Feuerbach, Galt; Jacob Firner, formulas; Josh Flowers, Strathmore; Eric Fowlston, Kern Valley; Robert Fragala, Atwater; Deborah Furtado, Turlock; Jason Gaeta, Kerman; Marto Garza Jr., Fresno Central; Shane Geist, Madera; Katie Godfrey, La Sierra; Craig Gong, Selma; Kristi Lee Graham, Apple Valley; Thomas Greci, Madera; Nate Green, Arakeluck; Robert Grissom, Le Grand; Anthony Groppetti, Tranquility; Christopher Grundt, Waco; Rorynn Garrette, Jurup Valley; Mark Habib, Fowler; Jennifer Halbrook, Lemoore; Jimmy Hall, Tomales, Peter Hansen, Camarillo; Eric Hardcson, Atwater, John Harwig, Fowler; Tommy Heater, Oakhurst-Yosemite, Misy Herman, Chowchilla; Jim Heeter, Strathmore; Jim Howe, Lemoore; Sarah Huey, Jurupa Valley; Shannon Huey, Jurupa Valley; Eric Huff, Hilmar; Caleb Hunter, Fowler; Karyn Irwin, Fallbrook; Richard Irwin, Westminster; Barbara Anne Jarroges, Atascadero; Teresa Jimenez, Morgan Hill; Danielle Jones, Hanford; Rodney Jorrismas, Hilmar; Joe Kalsbeck, Williams; Kevin Kandarian, Fowler; Hilary Ann Kasperhen, Tulare Western; Rebecca Ann Kaupp, Gonzales; Ross Keith, North High-Bakersfield; Will Kelsey, Nevada Union; Sarah Killion, Denair; Nathaniel King, Selma; Kim Kleinman, North High-Bakersfield; Darrel Knight, Fowler; Amanda Koslow, Livermore; Summer Stewart Koskis, Morro Bay; Rick Kratt, Kern Valley; Brian Lawrence, Riverdale; Matthew Lawrence, Tulare Western; Jamie Lee, Merced Golden Valley; Tiffany Lerda, Tulare Union; Stephanie LeRoy, Romona; Marc Limas, Tulare Union; Matthew Limas, Tulare Union; Rosealee Livorsi, Morgan Hill-Live Oak; Leslie Ann Lopez, Selma; Michelle Lowe, Santa Rosa; Tammy Lowrey, woodland; Jennifer Lutz, Elk Grove; Talia Mata, Elk Grove; Brandon Michael Mandal, Chowchilla; Rory Andrew Marks, Redwood; Markon Markson, Chino; Danna Martin, Jurupa Valley; Candace Michelle May, Orland; Alyssa Maze, Tulare Union; Janice McClelland, Petaluma; Jackie McComas, Quanz Hill; Melissa McGrath, Santa Rosa; Lacy McNab, Chino; Justin Melton-Fonseca, Riverdale; Charlynn Angel Miller, Jurupa Valley; Sarah Miller, Petaluma; Melissa Moore, North High-Bakersfield; Heidi Monseren, Redwood; Kimberly Munger, Sutter; Kate Nelson, Hilmar; Angelo Oliveira, Le Grand; Michael Oliveira, Hilmar; Michael Oliveira, Gustine; Mystel Lee Ortiz, Merced Golden Valley; Jake Parrish, Grass Valley-River Bear; Michael Pedrono, Chowchilla; Julie Penfold, Kingsburg; Bob Pera, Turlock; Sena Peteira, Tulare Union; Joshua Pirghano, Tulare Union; William Poddakoff, Kerman; Branna Potter, November 21, 2009

American FFA Degree
Sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Global Agricultural Products; Case Corporation; Farm Credit Services; and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

American FFA Degree

Bill Cottrell, advisor of the Memphis, Mo., FFA Chapter, and his student Vance Frederick share a moment after Frederick earns the American FFA Degree Saturday morning.
Proud parents Roger and Suzanne Beck of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, enjoy brunch with their son Thad, after congratulating him on earning the American FFA Degree.

Lemoore; Troy Potts, Corcoran; Stanley Rabbitts, Chowchilla; John Randall, San Andreas-Calaveras; Sarah Elizabeth Rankin, Kern Valley; Keri Reeves, Hanford; Jennifer Renner, Fortuna; Melanie Reynolds, La Puente Valley ROP; Maggie Richardson, Salinas; Rochelle Richmond, Quartz Hill; Shannon Roberts, Jurupa Valley; Brandon Rodriguez, Madera; Reynaldo Rodriguez Jr., Delano; Roman Romero, Corcoran; Cynthia Rose, Ernest Righetti, Robert Rowlett, Shandon; Rudy Sienz Jr., Corcoran; Jay Samprucci, Las Plumas; Adam Sanchez, Kingsburg; Christopher Robert Saunders; East Union; Geoffrey Schulz, Tulare Western; Kathy Sosick, Madera; Paulette Sosick; Madera; Rudy Lee Smith, Kern Valley; Janette Snow, North High-Bakersfield; Samantha Souto, Livingston; Megan Sueh, Gal; James Stolte Jr., La Sierra, Shariene Swaim, Norco; Desiree Tabor, Jurupa Valley; Angel Tapia, Monarch; Bryan Tasse, Atwater; Geoffrey Alan Tatum, Chowchilla; Joao Albino Tavares, Lemoore; Tanya Renee Telesleon, Lincoln; Salvador Torres Jr., Delano; Natalie Tuck, Ernest Righetti, Stacie Van Dyke, East Nicolas, Omar Vasquez, Corcoran; Francisco Velazquez, Santa Maria-Righetti; Colleen Marie Walsh, Santa Maria-Righetti; Shannon Watts, Coalinga; Jeff Wegat, Gal; Melissa Williams, North High-Bakersfield; Jason Wills, Hesperia; Jeremy Wills, Hesperia; Scott Wonnell, Santa Maria; Michelle Wood, Corcoran; Jaclyn Worth, Lemoore; Cameron Wyman, Lancaster; Janine Xavier, Atwater; Heather Lynn Yeager, Kern Valley; Boorus Yim, Camoga Park; Anna Ferris Zegerschmidt, Orange Glen.

COLORADO: Jerome Benish, Otis; Christopher Joel Bledsoe Jr. Flagler; Robert Bregar, Pueblo County; Matthew Glenn Brown, Woodlin; Nicole Burns, Holly; Don Edwards, Yuma; Jeremy Franz, Burlington; Shaun Anthony Gehner, Otis; Christian Gutierrez, Peteet; Nicole Hans, Pueblo County; Laura Marie Hardesty, Otis; Heather Hays, Burlington; Jason Homm, Burlington; Allen Karsseck, Hoehn; Kyle Kessinger, Akron; J.R. Knuth, Menno; Joseph Laner, Cortez; Justin Gene Morgan, Flagler; Andrew Nash, Pueblo County; Kelley Neushold, Lamar; Tamara Norgen, Valley; George Reid II, Crowley County; Andrew Justin Skube, Pueblo County; Waylon Smith, Burlington; Jason Snyder, Cortez; Jason Stahl, Woodlin; Shane Dwight Stout, Meeker; Joe Stroh, Hotchkiss; Clint Wigiel, Burlington; Shelby Wertz, McClave.

CONNECTICUT: Meghan Bennett, Woodbury; Tammy Case, Northwestern Regional; Todd Hainan, Woodbury; Rick Hunyadi, Woodbury; John Lenart-Farrell, Woodbury; John Thomas Loffredo III, Lyman Hall, Raymond; Molnar III, Stotts Regional; Francis Perzanowski, Lyman Hall, Erin Sepe, Woodbury; Cynthia Teixeira, Suffield; Michael Thompson, Stotts Regional; Eric Whiting, Housatonic Valley.

DELWARE: James Correll Jr., Smyrna; Jennifer Edwards, Smyrna; Clifford Lawson II, Sussex Central; Brandi Marsh, Glasgow; Rebecca Ann Voorhees, Milford; Kevin Warren, Smyrna; Scott Weis, Smyrna.

FLORIDA: Jonathan Bishop, Lake Butler, Michael Butler, Lake Region; Robert Lee Cason Jr., Lake Butler; Melanie Church, Charlotte Sr.; Donald Cone, Taylor; Amy Beth DeBolt, Saratosa; Weston Holland Downs, Lake Weir; Casey Ferguson, South Lake; Matthew Frieron, Dixie County Senior; Michelle Gamble, Swannnee; Lauren Haney, Saratosa Vo Ag; Mandy Higginbotham Driggers, Dixie County Senior; Jason Hutchins,Bradford Voc Tech; Farrah Lynn Johnson, Plant City Senior; Dustin Jones, Trenton; Hubert Jones, Bunnell; Lawrence King, New Smyrna Beach; Natalie Lanmeeck, Saratosa Vo Ag; Melinda Lewis, Charlotte Sr.; Carl Lightfoot, Person Taylor; Andrew Love, Lake Weir; David Luznar, New Smyrna Beach; Freddie Moore, South Lake; Mandy Moss, South Lake; Kevin Wayne Ogden, Durant Senior; Christina Payne, Swannnee; Mike Reynolds, Kathleen Sr.; Wade Rogers, Okolochee Brahman; Eric Seroske, Kathleen Sr.; Julie Elizabeth Singleterry, Swannnee; Sharon Spann, Okolochee Brahman; Andrew Staley, DeLand; Christopher Vietti, Plant City; Brooke Wade, Dixie Sr.

GEORGIA: David Blackwell, Mitchell-Baker; Kyle Corbin, Troutlen; Jonito Crumley, Winder-Barlow; Stephen Dubberly, Bacon; Andy Ramay, Jeff Davis, Dennis Scarborough, Wayne County; Jason Snipes, Jeff Davis; Robert Sprunl, Jackson; James Emory Tate Jr., Jeff Davis; Patrick Ward, Cook; William Weaver, Colquitt County; Kevin Wilcox, Jeff Davis; Kerry Lee Wilsdon, Gilmer County.

IDaho: Tristan Asay, Malad; Casey Mcckell Beck, Burley; Tom Bowman, Burley; Jeremy Randolph Brookshire, Burley; Melanie Burrie, Malad; Charlotte Chrisitensen, Fruitland; Ellen Downing, New Plymouth, Christene Deagu, Minco Co., Jeff Eldington, Firth; Sadie Firth, Richfield; Brent Dee Hillman, Firth; Mike Holland, Richfield; Junalin Larsen, Madison; Ladan Molese, Deary; Shasta Ordes-Snake River, Bryan Orthel, Filer; Elizabeth Marie Oqseml, Twin Falls; Cody Crockett Reid, Firth; Andrew Roland, Payette; Taylor Smith, West Jefferson, Amber Snyder, Declo; Jore Stewart, Kuna; Shane Williams, West Jefferson.

ILLINOIS: Jessica Lynn Acton, Armstrong; Julie Adams, Stillman Valley; Robert Albrecht, Iroquois West; Matt Benning, Vandalia; Aaron Bertolino, Nokomis; Jeffrey Betherd, Morrisonville; Loren Alan Blount, Morrisonville; David Boulton, Georgetown-Ridge Farm; Chad Broster, Mount Carmel; Elizabeth Kay Brown, Eldorado; Ryan Cantlin, Serena; Anthony Charles Conn, Iroquois West; Brian Joseph Cramsey, Liberty; Curtis Derrer, Eastland, Dianna Lynn Elliott, Liberty; Amy Marie Frenics, Liberty; Eric Friestad, Newark; Keith Funderburk, Morrisonville; Tina Hall, Indian Creek; Allen Hardy, Stillman Valley; Grant Heatherick, Peotone; Jason Roger Hubbe, Carmi; Aaron Jansen, Nokomis; Dianna Johnson, Alexis; Heather Johnson, Northwestern Jr.; Willis Kelsey, Mount Carmel; Darrell Krieseh Jr., Southwestern; Jeremy King, Serena; Stephen Leavall, Jacksonville; Bryan Marcoot, Greenville; Lori McEvers, Bluffs; Aaron McNeil, Valmeyer; Amy Meyer, Mamero Carrie Muehling, Cicna Park; Breann Nelson, Mamero; Trent Norris, Taylorville; Gary Ochs, Olney, Anthony Osich, West Richland; Pat Olson, Alexis; Jeffrey Pauldin, Blue Ridge, Jamie Reichert, Liberty; Linda Stremsterfer, A-C Central; Seth Swenson, Newark; Martin Szakadus, Peotone; William VanWassenhove, Herscher; Matthew Dale Volkman, Bluffs, Rebecca Wadlow, Jerseyville; Matthew Wells, Guse; Jessica Wernsing, Lincolnwood; Matthew Wiggins, Eldorado; Heidi Wild, Waterloo; Juhe Ann Zimmerman, Eureka.

INDIANA: Devin Bell, Clinton Prairie; David Betz, Forest Park; Erin Bluemke, Rossville; Joseph Robert Bradbury, Seeger Memorial; Matthew Alan Brinkman, Woodland; Bradley Scott Burbink; Seymour; Mike Caffee, South Adams; Stephanie Lynne Carter, Clinton Central; Jai Carve, Shenandoah, Chad Cooper, Owen Valley; Dana Marie Coty, Tri-County; Jeremy Cronn, Rossville; Sandy Dougan, North Posey; Cory Duncan Dryden, North Harrison; Tyler Fredenburg, Shenandoah, Andrew Getz, Tri-County; Michael Gochenour, Rossville; Jamie Elizabeth Grimm, West Noble; Clint Hardin, Hagerstown; Joseph Hartman, Dekalb; Amy Hastings, North Daviess; Dana Jo Hensler, Tri-County; John Hering, South Decatur; Chad Johnston, West; Krag Jones, Benton Central; Joseph Kelsay, White land; Lon Kohlhagen, Rensselaer; Gunther Kreps, Wawasee; Ryan Rofer Longyear, East Noble; Andrew James Magner, Heritage; Zeb Margison,
Sherando; Kurt Marvel, North Posey; Thomas Mellenkamp, Seymour; Joshua Merrill, Western Boone; Brent Michael, Rossville; Ryan Mills, Tri-County; James Mitchell, Western Boone; Jessica Nichols, Hagerstown; Gabe Nobbe, Connersville; Summer Noether; Rossville; Aaron Oliver, Columbus City; Celeste Patrick, Rossville; Jacob Peden, North Manchester; Benjamin Pette, Jac-Cen-Del; Ramblin' Rose, Scottsburg; Lora Sallfield, Scottsburg; Matthew Schenk, North Posey; Travis Scherer, Benton Central; Christy Shelburne, Heritage; Brad Shelton, Orleans; James Sturgeon, Hagerstown; Ryan Vaughan, Southmont; Adam Warren, Warsaw; Robert Wehner, North Posey; Nancy Williams, Fountain Central; Jeffrey Wolfer, Prairie Heights

IOWA: Leah Blackford, Linn-Mar; Luke Brown, Hawkeye; Karna Jo Burzleff, Calamus-Wheatland; Craig Andrew Christensen, Riceville; Travis Cook, Montezuma; Kevin Donovan, Cascade; Matthew Eddy, Osceola Big Chief; Jeff Ellis, West Liberty; Joshua Engelbrecht, Saratov; Troy Fischer, Central; Brett Flander, Montezuma; Luke Grant, Northeast; Mark Hayes, Saratov; Shelly Hesse, Wapsie Valley; Brent Daniel Hinz; Charles City; Jason Dennis Hoes, North Tama County; Bill Hughes, Red Oak; Nathan Johnson, Red Oak; Scott Johnson, G & G; Wade Kampen, Hawkeye; Brian Alan Krug, Laporte-Dyersett; Eli Lawrence, Monticello; Brett Leistikow, Wapsie Valley; Warren Livingston, Nodaway Valley; Clinton Loghry, Osceola Big Chief; Brandon Maas, Williamsburg; Mark Malloy, Williamsburg; Ryan Malloy, Williamsburg; Andrew Merfeld, Nashua-Plainfield; Jennifer Lorene Merrill, Anamosa; Jody Merrill, Anamosa; Nathan Nickle, Mount Ayr; Keith Preig, Carroll Area; Carla Rogis, Central; Jason Sanders, Vinton; Ryan Schmidt, Alta Aurelia; Lucian Schmitz, Charles City; Dean Scott, Oskaloosa; Alex Smith, Red Oak; Jess Te Slaa, West Lyon; Mike Ter Wee, West Lyon; Andrew Ray Tygrett, Wilson; Thomas Uhlenhopp, Summer; Nicholas Vickers, Central; Micah Weber, Rockwell-Shelfield, Luke Wells, Guthrie Center; Noah Wendl, West Delaware; Matthew Wenger, Wapsie Valley; Grant Wesson, Newton; Robin Wink, Cascade

KANSAS: Josh Abdell, Chapman; Emily Belon, Centre; Jeremiah Burbach, WaKeeney; Wendal Dawn Burch, Holcomb; Ryan Joe Carter, Altoona; Justin Dalke, Moundridge-Hesston; Timothy Deines, Wakeeney; Cory Epler, Columbus; Daniel Frohberg, Valley Heights; Suzanne Goering, Moundridge-Hesston; Kara Grimm, Sabeha; Steven Hall, Chapman; Benjamin Hopper, Riley County; Michael Kramer, Iola; Marie Pope, Blue Valley; Kerry Priest, Sabeha; Wade Reh, Ironton; Jennifer Kay Ryan, South Haven; Jill Stafford, Hill City; Ty Theurer, Wellington; Sara Thorsell, Altoona; Abra Ungeheuer, Jayhawk-Linn; Sara Young, Eric

KENTUCKY: Hillary Barker, Fleming County; Wesley Ryan Belt, Crittenden County; Donnie Berry, Fleming County; Amanda Beth Brasher, Livingston Central; William Brown, Logan County; Patrick Carlisle, Webster County; William Carter, Knox Central; Barry Keith Conley, Pendleton County; Melissa Cox, Fulton County; Derrick Craddock, Fulton County; Karen Cundiff, Lee County; Joshua Detre, LaRue County; Joshua Druen, Hart County; Patrick Durham, LaRue County; Andrew Falwell, Calloway County; Marvin Gaston, Logan County; Jessica Glass, Scott County; Charlie Hayden, Apollo; Joshua Hall, LaRue County; James Hines, LaRue County; Gene Hodskins, Apollo; Todd Holbrook, Wolfe County; Brian Jackson, Bourbon County; Kelby Jolly, Central Hardin; Robert Jordan, Jessamine County; Alissa Little, Scott County; Matthew London, Barren County; Jason Magan, Ohio County; Chris Marksburg, Spencer County; Joseph Marshall, Fleming County; Scott McIntosh, Scott County; Raven Nichole McLain, Madison Central; Nicholas Landon Murphy, Christian County; James Christopher Newkirk, Edmonson County; Anthony Brian Osterman, Lincoln County; Bradley Pettit, Fleming County; Kenneth Pollet, Anderson County; Chris Portwood, Woodford County; John Rober, Scott County; Steven Rudy Ballard Memorial; Jason Saller, Logan County; Joseph Sanders, Edmonson County; Andy Shembwell, Todd Central; James Nathaniel Simpson II, Anderson County; Eddie Tabor, Apollo; Adrian Kent Walters, Scott County; Nathan Dwight Waters, Lyon County; Michael Williams, Fulton County; Chester Wayne Wilson, Casey County; Sarah Elizabeth Younger, Scott County

LOUISIANA: Brandon Damien Bollich, Oak Grove; Louis Joseph Lutete, Central Lafourche; Samuel Lucus, Florien

MAINE: Linette Buzz, Presque Isle; Erin DeLong, Presque Isle

MARYLAND: Leah Broadwater, Oakland; Kristy Geisbert, Frederick; Eric Eugene Martin, Catonsville; Amy Mathews, Walkersville; Denny Ogg, Frederick; Brian Roy Schneyer, Clear Spring; Mark Allen Schneyer, Clear Spring

MICHIGAN: Gregory Achatz, Hillman; Renn Awanay, Webberville; Ben Baxter, St. Louis; Torey Birchmeier, New Lothrop; Andrea Boughton, Marshall; Troy Bowman, Caledonia; Aaron Brandenburg, Maple Valley; Jennifer Brown, Laingsburg; Joseph Brugger, Sand Creek; David Derrmyer, Jackson Area Career Center; Jason Eicher, Corunna; Justin Faber, Ubly; Kyle Fiebig, Unionville Sebewaing Area; Jessica Goedel, Breckenridge; Shari Grieser, Lowell; Matthew Hillard, Sand Creek; Brian Kiesling, Perry; Mary Beth Kline, Alpena; Candice Kuchar, Corunna; Amanda Kurney, Corunna; Nicholas Ladd, Waldron; Lana Lewis, Breckenridge; Jason Manke, Holmen; Jeffery Mansol; Uly; Jeremy Milarch, Benzie Central; Amanda Moore, Alma; Kerry Nugent, Lowell; Matthew Palmer, St. Louis; Christina Marie Powell, Webberville; Brian Preston, Branch Area Career Center; Tim Roggenbank, Harbor Beach; Jack Schut, Hopkins; Melissa Sue Scully, Bear City; Jeremy Sharrard, Sanilac; Tracy Sheld, Durand; Sarah Smuts, Charlotte; John Steeleck, Unionville-Sebewaing; Eric Streeter, Byron; Nick Thompson, Maple Valley; Greg VanKlompenberg, Hopkins; Joseph Walter, Byron; Kelly Wiener, Laingsburg

MINNESOTA: Amanda Aske, Hawkeye; Jason Anderson, Blue Earth; Tarrah Jo Arndtse, Madelia; Paul Arndtfer, Leroy-Ostrander; Shane Becker, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Betsy Bichni, New Ulm; Scott Bregan, St. Charles; James Burns, Watertown-Mayer; Clinton Butler, Blue Earth; Cory Christiansen, Westbrook; Jeffrey Collins, Alexandria; Brett Decker, St. Charles; Jason Dehne, Lac Qui Parle Valley; Lisa Deloff, Staples/Motley; Andrew James Forsell, MacCray-KMS; Jill Guggsberg, GFW Pioneer Express; Paul Haberman, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Bonnie Hachnel, Staples/Motley; Pat Hamann, Lac Qui Parle Valley; Kirstin Hansen, Montevideo; Kami Jo Hastard, Lac Qui Parle Valley; SueAnn Marie Hemp, Greenbush; Andrea Hesebeck Carlson, Jackson; Scott Hoberg, Benson; Stephanie Hoff, Norman County West; Bradley Johnson, Leroy-Ostrander; Laura Ann Klein, Kimball; Alan Klimp, Alexandria; Jason Koopman, Montevideo; Tony Komer, Belle Plaine; Joe Koziolek, United South Central; Brian Krohnfeldt, Alexandria; Matt Larsen, Belle Plaine; Aaron Laumann, Hayfield; Chad Lawrence, Blue Earth; Andrew Mark, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Adam McCoy, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Sara Meyer, Perham; Cindy Mullen, Owatonna; Sarah Olson, Blue Earth; Paul Overman, Fulda; Robert Parke, Forest Lake; Elizabeth Pasch, Cannon Falls; Michael Loren Patterson, Brandon Van Atta had his wife Jill's support as he received the American FFA Degree Saturday morning. The couple is from Ontario, Ore.
The Jones; Jr., Morris, Harvey, Darren Ormon, Ormon, Morgan, Hawley; Stenzel, Mazeppa; Leah Richard Alexandria; Sachariason, Blue Bassfield Simon, Earth; Rae Zumbrota-Mazeppa; Shellenbarger, South Lawrence a Markell Hickory Hickory Thome, County; Montevideo; is John Blue Lawrence from Montevideo; Central; Watertown-Mayer; Roberts, Terra Zumbrota-Leroy-Ostrander; County; Coker, she share earning MISSOURI: James Newton; Chillicothe; Davidson, Cope, Carthage; Cadle, Centralia; Brocksmith, Brackenridge, BowJes, Tonya Dobyns, Russell Richie Pond, Slater, Dawn Proctor, Willard, Jamie Suzanne Profitt, Ornic; Casey Pyle, Golden City; Susannah Rahlmann, Fredericktown, Phillip Ray, Trenton, Amber Redford, Chiliicoto, Phillip Rhodes, Putnam County R-1, Kevin Rhodes, Linn County R-1, Matthew Paul Richardson, Brunswick; John Ridder, Washington; Jay Rodenick, Halfway; Curt Rodgers, Montgomery County R-2; Nathan Rogers, Princeton, Eric Roller, Wheaton, Jeanette Rose, Marionville; Tara Rubison, South Shelby; Greg Schad, Versailles, Jeff Schneider, Warrenton; Jeremy Schneider, Warrenton; Marty Schneider, Warrenton; Tracy Schneider, Hermann, Bryan Herbert Schoenthal, Jamestown, Andrea Schweizer, Savannah; Dan Shepard, North Callaway, James Sherwood, Clark County R-1, Mark Shore, Helden, Steve Shramek, Wellsville-Middleton, Fredrich Smiley, Versailles, Leda Smith, Chiliicoto; Natalie Spencer, Holden, James Spray, Memphis, Connie Staley, King City; Wendell Stegner, Holden, Mike Stephens, McDonald County R-1; Angela Strafaci, Purdy, Nathan Strobel, Russellville; Curtis Stundbeck, Salisbury; Sheila Sukovay, Bolivar, Marshall Ray SWATford, Savannah; Matthew Don Swan, Brunswick; Justin Bryce Swindler, Braymer; Traci Marie Temmen, Belle; Kimberly Thornhill, Mountain Grove; Jason Thurman, Mound City; Justin Timney, Cole Camp; Jason Todd, Wellsville-Middleton; Travis Glen Toombs, Fair Play, Darin Tribou, Warrensburg; Matthew Lee Trussell, Tina Avalon; Barry Turner, Smithville; Jeff Vossler, Salisbury; Bryan Wagner, Sarcoxy; Russell Wagner, Sarcoxy; Travis Lee Wait, Bremad, Chad Wallace, Van-Far, Angela Webery, Ste. Genevieve; Matt Webery, Eldon; Carrie WhistANCE, Halfway; Caren Ann Whitehead, Wellsville-Middleton; Will Williams, Monroe City R-1, Elizabeth Arlene Willoughby, Sarcoxy; Kenna Wilmes, Northwest Technical School; Jeremy Wilson, Marionville; Nathan Winklepleck, Couch; Jarod Womack, Clark County R-1, Courtney Wooderson, North Central Area VoTech; Brian Yarbrough, Palmyra; Jorne Lea Zeigenhein, Richland; Ann Zimmerschied, Sweet Springs

Jennifer Wingert, Lanesboro; Joel Zimmel, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster MISSISSIPPI: Richard Buckhalls, South Jones; Adam Coker, Northeast Jones; Kevin Fortenberry, West Marion; Markell Gingrich, Seminary, Daniel Graham, West Marion; Mondy Harvey, Lawrence County; Jelfery Hedgepeth, Lawrence County; Kevin Martin, Purvis; Shane Mason, Lawrence County; Misty Maxwell, Lawrence County; Billie-Jo LaShae McDonald, Northeast Jones; Derwin Morgan, Lawrence County; Jason Morris, South Panola; Margaret Ormon, Hickory Flat, Mary Allison Ormon, Hickory Flat, Dennis Porter Jr., Bassfield Centralia; Casey Patrese Brown, East Newton; Christy Lynn Butts, Vandalia-Farber R-1; Allison Leigh Cadle, Worth County; Jason Campbell, Trenton; Andrew Cloud, Carthage; David Cooke, Galena; Glen Cooke, Galena; Brad Coppening, Cole Camp; Larry Covert, Halfway; Carrie Anne Cowgill, Columbia; Candi Landon Craig, Norborne; Joshua Crank, Malta Bend; Amy Renee Curtis, Maysville R-1; Barbara Czeczyn, Wellington-Napoleon; Scott Davidson, Wellsville-Middleton; Clint Deering, Brunswick; Amanda Decker, Greenfield, Amanda Dedrick, Chiliicoto; Craig Diebel, Hermann; Russell Dintaman, Jasper, Travis Dobyns, Aurora; Preston Dockins, East Newton; Jeremy Glenn Egan, North Shelby; Cheston Glenwood Easter, Princeton, Jessica Farris, Ashland; Kelly Findly, North Central Area Vo-Tech; Kenny Fort, Wellsville-Middleton; Emily Raegan Fox, Cabool; Brandon Frank, Eldon; Vance Henry Frederick, Memphis; John Frischke, Perryville; Chad Fuenemller, Glasgow; Amber Gill, Pierce City; Bryan Gegg, Ste. Genevieve; Ryan Gegg, Ste. Genevieve; Brent Gerling, Lathrop; Lyndsey Gibson, Ste; Megan Gideon, McDonald County; Erin Glasscock, Ashland; David Glenn, Greenfield; Leticia Goodpasture, Vandalia-Farber R-1; Matt Graham, Northwest Technical School; Nicole Gray, Cameron; Sally Ann Greene, Willard; Ethan Griffin, Trenton; Kristy Grimm, Aurora; Darren Hall, Clark County R-1, Jamiee Hancock, Bolivar, Tony Hancock, Houston; Jason Hanks, Buffalo; Kody Harper, McDonald County; Lance Andrew Heady, North Shelby; John Heiman, Russellville; Kristen Hendricks, Buffalo; Moraima Hernandez, Magna East; Brian Hearing, Kelly, Heather Hoffmeister, Hermann; Stephen Holly, McDonald County R-1; Jamie Lorraine Howard, Fatima; Eric Hunt, Worth County; Kory James, Versailles; Jeffrey Kassel, Perryville; Tracy Lee Kimbler, Union, Ryan Kramme, St. Clair; Terri Kurrelmeyer, Owensville; Loreeta Lake, Palmyra; Patrick LaShell, Buffalo; Travis Lathrop, Nevada; Matt Lauffer, Aurora; Leon Legleiter, Nevada; Jim Lepper, Eldon; Nicholas Scott Lindsay, Clifton, Brian Anthony Link, Brunswick; Laura Linville, Northwest Technical School; Ryan Lockridge, Gallatin; Christine Marie Long, Vandalia-Farber R-1; Kevin Loozen, Eldon; Joy Lysinger, Holdon; Charles Henry Manson, Brunswick; Jill McConnell, Republic, Jamie Meese, Galena; Robert Meyer, Clifton, Brent Micke, Humansville; Jared Milligan, Tipton; Jerald Minnick, Chiliicoto; Rick Moonknock, Mount Vernon; Jamie Lee Moffet, Marionville; Corey Moore, Vandalia-Farber R-1, John Mullin, Pleasant Hill R-III; Matthew Mullins, Ste. Genevieve; Justin Nelson, Mountain Grove; Mindy O'Brien, McDonald County; Daniel O'Dell, Tina Avalon, Jason Osterneyer, Holden, Jessica Pace, Milan, Philip Padget, Memphis; Derek Page, Mount Vernon, Bradley Peel, Slater, Richie
MONTANA: Ryan Allen, Denton; Wendy Bengoechea, Culbertson; Dana Berwick, Bainville; Hugh Braaten, Flathead; C. R. Eisenzimer, Cascade; Jeff Hammel, Carter; Heather Malcolm, Park; Jenny Mansur, Flathead; Jeffery Miller, Judith Gap; Jeff Morgan, Shields Valley; Giga Parsons, Cascade; John Russell Peterson, Shields Valley; Misti Pilster, Carter County; Katie Marie Rein, Big Timber; Errol Rice, Denton; Michelle Wagner, Stevensville

NEBRASKA: Rebecca Ann Alder, Ravenna; Chris Arnold, Valentine; Jennifer Lynn Auten, Blue Hill; Matt Bailey, Schuyler; Julie Barr, Ord; Adam Beel, Ainsworth; Michael Brandert, Logan View; Christina Bristol, Seward; Cameron Wade Brumbaugh, Hampton; Kyle Bruss, Palmyra; Brad Campbell, Ravenna; Rob Chatt, Tekamah-Herman; Jeffrey Ray Chrisman, Franklin; Travis Cook, Kimball; Jeffrey Alan Couler, Ravenna; Brooke Detertung, Cambridge; Ellen Diedrichsen, Scribner-Snyder; Christopher Alan Drieuer, Hampton; Luke Ediger, Henderson; Roy George Elder, Imperial; Bradley Epp, Henderson; Aaron Feltz, Holdrege; Jeremy Ferguson, Logan View; David Franzen, Leigh; Chris Friedel, West Holt; Evan Friesen, Henderson; Jeff Graham, Randolph; John Hanson, Mead; Jaci Lee Harders, Centura; Kevin Harsh, Cambridge; Joshua Heitman, Superior; Jay Dee Janzen, Henderson; Kevin Janzen, Henderson; Rodney Jedlicka, Schuyler; Jami Jellen, Franklin; Clint Johnson, Imperial; Lanette Johnson, Cambridge; Sheila Johnson, Spencer; Napper; Matt Kato, West Holt; Michaela Kibon, Hampton; Tye Kjeldgaard, Tekamah-Herman; Robbie Kolar, Ord; Sara Kopierski, Centura; Christopher Kort, Blue Hill; Laura Kriete, Logan View; Jason Kuhlmann, Superior; Jim Lambert, Sioux County; Corey Lamont, Tekamah-Herman; Rachel Larter, Wilcox; Gailen McGill, Newman Grove; Marc McGill, Newman Grove; Amy Messing, Schuyler; Chris Meyer, Scribner-Snyder; Emily Nicole Mitchell, Norris; Amy Molloh, Cambridge; Eric Montgomery, Palmyra; Jason Moudry, Ord; Chad Garrett Nickels, Hampton; Mark Nunnenkamp, Henderson; Julie Ann Nuss, Sutton; Patrick O'Neill, North; Anthony Ogorzolka, Republican Valley; Curtis Olsen, Grant; Samantha Ondracek, North Bend; Cory Osten, Lakeview; Dalycie Ott, Waunaeta; Douglas Ott, Henderson; Lee Paako, Tekamah-Herman; Joshua John Peters, Hampton; Tara Phifer, Ansley; Elizabeth Anne Rager, Ravenna; Rob Rahming, Scottsbluff; Matt Rasmussen, Mead; Sara Rasmussen, Logan View; Kristen Ratzlaff, Henderson; Crystal Lynn Ravenscroft, Valatie; Justin Ray, Superior; Kelly Reneeke, Ord; Ken Reiss, Wilcox; Reba Renn, North Bend; Scott Rickett, Hampton; Ron Rolf, Albion; Randy Rosenthal, Fairbury; Shad Schellenberg, Scribner-Snyder; Grant Schmidt, Henderson; Cam Schoneberg, Sutton; Fairbury; Lannis Zoltenko, Superior; NEVADA: Jeremy Bledsoe, Silver Sage; Kari Buzzetti, Silver Sage; Lizbeth Geary, Carson Valley; Jaime Hustace, Smith Valley; Kate Klein, Silver Sage; Melissa Phillips, Silver Sage; Sallie Sarman, Silver Sage; NEW JERSEY: Bernard Kelly, Phillipsburg, Paullette Zsofi Nyiri, Phillipsburg

NEW MEXICO: Deborah Bond, Carrizo; Damon Brown, Des Moines; Joe Buchett, Capitan; Clint Hughes, Carlsbad; Jennie James, Logan; Clinton Brett McDowell, Clayton; Janice Deason Narvaez, Clayton; Andy Smith, Artesia; Joseph Warren, Los Lunas; NEW YORK: Amy Barkley, Tri-Valley Central; Jacob Burns, Madison; Sarah Bryan, Ho

Bryan Yim of Northridge, Calif., celebrates his American FFA Degree with his brother Boorus and mother Yeung over brunch after Saturday morning.

Matthew Schram, Conestoga; Cecil Schirmer, Wilcox; Jessica Ann Shellburn, Nelson; Robert Smith, Kimball; Donald Sousek, Prague; Gaila Splatsinsuozer, Franklin; Matthew Standsage, Ravenna; Mark Steinhausen, Norris; Shane Steinhoff, Scribner-Snyder; Cindy Stockamp, Scribner-Snyder; Justin Stuard, Nebraska City; Chris Tuane, Platte Valley; Kirk Joseph Uechte, Superior; Dustin Vakiner, Scribner-Snyder; Joshua Scott Vogel, Norfolk; Marty Von Senn, Scribner-Snyder; Kari Wagner, Creighton; Jill Stephanie Walasha, Ord; Travis Mark Walker, Norfolk; Jason Weiss, Imperial; David Welke, Tekamah-Herman; Kristy Wiggins, Fairbury; Shawn Wilcox; Wintter-Pilger, Julie Wilson, Waunaeta; Trevor Wagge, Logan View; Brian Wray, Ord; Marla Zaboketsky, Burt, Madison; Heather Drape, Madison; Jonathan Gillette, South Lewis; Robert Herbet, Vernon-Verona-Sherrill, Melissa Helmke, Madison; Jeremy Kropp, Greenville; Katie Miles, Madison; Douglas Palmer Jr, Greenville; Rebecca Smith, Cobleskill-Richmondville; Lori Marie Staib, Cheadayag, Jacly Mc Stewart, Hartford; Joshua Willson, Madison; Lucy Willson, Vernon-Verona-Sherrill NORTH CAROLINA: David Barker, Eastern Randolph; Robert Blackard Jr, Bartlett Yancey; Thomas Charles Casey, Currituck; Jonathan Lee Compton, Bartlett Yancey; Andrew Corriner, South Rowan; Christopher Cox, Starmount; Franklin Fmney, South Rowan; David Greer, South Lenoir; Michael Hall, Union, William Barrett Hawkins, South Lenoir, Patrick Hege, North Davidson; Hollie Kovacs, Currituck; Corbit Lackey, Eastern Randolph; Chris Lamb, Chatham Central, Sara Jean Lan, Bartlett Yancey; Reuben Brooks Ledbetter, North Iredell, James Long, Eastern Randolph; Donnie Massey, Madison; Jennifer Reynolds, Bartlett Yancey; Cynthia Self, Madison; Paul Shute, Eastern Randolph; Nathan Sink, North Davidson; April Stuart, Currituck; Penny Threadd, Eastern Randolph; Megan Weidtung, South Rowan, Joseph Wilson, Madison NORTH DAKOTA: Jessica Anderson, Rugby; Cory Andvik, Kindred; David Boeke, Wahpeton; Craig Danielson, Rolette; Russell Deier, Garrison; Jed DeWit, Tappen, Angie Dick, Lisbon; Chad Duschuk, Rugby; Rhonda Graff, Berhold; Kirk Hartel, Watford City; Drew Haugland, Divide County; Craig Kleve, Maddock, James Lund, Enderlin; John Lund, Enderlin, Ben Mack, Rugby; Cam Marshall, Towner; Aaron Nelson, Powers Lake; Jason Odenbach, Carrington; Tim Oehlke, Wahpeton; Aaron Pelton, Watford City; Ken Lee Rensh, Garrison; Jason Ryan, Napoleon; Shaun Schroeder, Westhope; Newburg: Wendy Schroeder, Carrington; Melissa Ann Schumacher, Mandan; Charlie Sorenson, Stanley, Ryan Sundberg, Divide County; Matthew Swenson, Kindred; Judd Syverton, Wahpeton; Nicholas Weber, Lisbon; Jason Wolf, Napoleon; Tina Yanish, Minot OHIO: Jeffery Adams, Fairbanks, Susan Anthony, Madison Plains; Mike Bailey, Eastern Brown, Brady Baker, United; Michael Baker, Wellington; Robbi Ballah, Madison Plains; Karen Jean Barnes, National Trail, Thaddius Beck, Mt. Gilead; Aaron Patrick Bergman, Versailles; John David Bertschy, River View, Derf Bland, Indian Valley, Benjamin Blosser, Amanda-Clear Creek; Adam Boerger, Fairbanks, Annaek Bohannon, Hillboro; Shane Brantham, Teays Valley; Charles Bratton, Mowrytown, Traci Lee Breely, West Holmes; Kristy Brewer, Ansonia, Erin Brooks, Northwestern-Wayne; Ben Burns, Fairbanks; Eric Burns, Fairbanks, Travis Burns, Buckley Trail, Jamie Burton, Madison Plains; Kevin Castamier, Upper Sandusky, Jason Claypool, Lancaster; Adam Coblentz, Wilmington, Mindy Cocklin,
Wilmington; Sam Coil Jr, Madison Plains; Lisa Copeland, Hillsboro; Mark Corrigan, Preble Shawnee; Jason Mette Cox, Crestview; Thomas Crawford, River Valley; Gregory Dague, Northwestern-Wayne; Zachary Dutsch, Bellevue; Kurt Thomas Dean, Miami Trace; Jerry Denney, Wilmington; T. J. Dewes, Black River; Beth Ann Detty, Miami Trace; Tyler Eric Dickerhoof, Hillsdale; Matt Dietrich, New Bremen; Adam Downs, Shelby, Matt Dugan, East Knox; Zachary Swope Dunlap, Westfall; Nate Ehrman, Teays Valley; Mark Ewald, Old Fort; Todd Faust, Lynchburg-Clay; Jerrod Ferguson, River Valley; Ben Friobose, Eastwood; Brian Frombaugh, Wellington; Natalie Geer, East Clinton; Brian Good, Bellevue; Jimmy Grooms, Cardington; Simon Gundy, Otsego; Bryan Guspyt, Indian Valley; Evan Hahn, Wynford; John Hamilton, Lynchburg-Clay; Steve Harder, Oak Harbor; Jesse Hefner, Wayne Trace; Chrisy Hennicks, Evergreen; Ron Henry, Versailles; David Hisong, Greenville; Michael Holland, Rensontown; Sue Hoop, Buckeye Trail, Jack Hueskamp, Upper Valley; Jackie Hunter, Madison Plains; Jason Hurt, Bowling Green; Jennifer Jameson, Wellington; Jeremiah Johnson, Wayne Co. Schools Career Ctr; Terry Jolliff, Hardin Northern; Katelin Kale, Elmwood; Darrin Karcher, Wynford; James Kearns, Ridgemont; Ben Kelbly, Hopewell-Loudon; Josh Kelly, Wilmington; Megan Kelly, Miami Trace; Carolee King, Alexander; Joy King, Alexander, Cody Kirkpatrick, Miami Trace; Elizabeth Knapek, Talawanda; Jared Knuckey, John Glenn; Jacob Koch, Lakeland; Bob Koehler, Fairfield Union; Clint Kremer, Fort Recovery; Michael Lanz, Shelby; Brandon Lawwill, Western Brown; Dennis Ledford, Wilmington; Gregory Scott Leininger, Delta; Curtis Lingenheiser, Crestview (Convoy); Scott Linde, Hardin Northern; Michelle Long, Talawanda; Daniel Lyden, Benjamin Logan; Robert Malone Jr. Edson; Jeff Mason, Anthony Wayne; Jenny Maurice, Graham; Heather Meranda, Georgetown; Victor Meyer, Elmwood; Todd Michaels, Bellevue; Brent Miller, Eastwood; Ryan Mohley, East Clinton; Amy Mole, Northwestern-Wayne; Scott Alan Morrison, Hardin Northern; Holly Myers, Clermont Northeastern; Chris Nicol, Fairbanks; Matthew O'Dum, Twin Valley; Gregory Oliver, Twin Valley; Jason Oman, Cory-Rawson, Ehret Pahl; Carey, Brian Pettit, Miami Trace; Barry Phillips, East Knox; Krista Philipot, Versailles; Anna Pickworth, Keystone; Martha Powers, Fairbanks; Steve Priest, Licking Valley; Matt Pullins, Triad, Jay Purvis, Mowrysown, David Rank, Lincolnview; Daniel Raubenholz, Hillsdale; Nicholas Rausch, Fairbanks; Kenneth Reber, Plymouth; Dave Rentzel III, Edison, David Roush, Racine Southern, Kevin Ruhl, Northmore; Brandi Sailor, Upper Valley; Shannon Saylor, Benjamin Logan; Jessica Sayre, Racine-Southern, Aton Scammahorn, Franklin Monroe; Barry Scherer, Rwoodedge, Debra Kay Schuck, Ashland, Michael Schuhart, Tri-Valley; Chad Seaman, East Clinton; Joseph Shafer, Sheridan North; Josephine Kathryn Shafer, Hillsdale; Steve Shank, Elmwood; Kelce Sharp, Amanda-Clear Creek, Gerry Shank, Federal Hocking, Sara Sherman, Liberty Center; Kevin Shinsky, Wellington; Jeffrey Shoup, Waynedale, Nathan Shoup, Waynedale; Joseph Shultz, Indian Lake; Tim Shupan, Tri-Valley; Delia Simpson, Hillsdale; Joshua Smir, Wayne Trace; Jeffery Sloan, Oak Harbor; Ryan Andrew Smith, Canal Winchester; Tony Sparks, Ohio Valley Vocational, David Stailey, Old Fort; Amanda Staley, Mt. Gilead, Anthony Stoller, Norrwayne; Ross Stoller; Wayne Trace; Trent Stoller, Wayne Trace; Daniel Sturgill, Miami East, Mary Jane Thompson, Miami Trace; Michael Thompson, Marysville; Brad Tohe, Ansonia; Travis Tracey; Benjamin Logan, David Traxler, North Central; Andrew Turnbill, River View; Lucas Underwood, Upper Scioto Valley; Chris Vallery, Madison Plains; Rebecca Vaughan, Talawanda; Jennifer Wagner, Preble Shawnee; Melanie Wagner, Oak Harbor; Jennifer Walters, Elmwood; Joshua Walters, Elmwood, Kyle Ward, Upper Sandusky, Lisa Warne, Benjamin Logan; Kellie Warner, Margaretta; Gregory Waters, Ridgewood, Rob Webb, Cardington; Tonya Wensink, Bowling Green, Mary Wert, Sentinel Tiffin; John Westhoven, Liberty Center, Kone Wetzel, River Valley; Josh Wilmoth, Mowrysown; Ben Winans, Wayne Trace; Martin Winders, Ridgeland, Brad Woodruff, East Clinton, Chip Yochum, Hillsboro, Connie Young, Elmwood, Julie Zieher, Bellevue; Marc Zielke, Wayne Trace

OKLAHOMA; Josh Allen, Burlington; Ryan Wesley Anderson, Prague; Jennifer Baker, Tahlequah, Jesse Balfour, Checotah; Daniel Ballard, Tallequah; Ashlea Jo Barby, Laverne; Anthony Barton, Harrah; Matt Barton, Drumright, Stephanie Beda, Weatherford, Eddie Bell, Cushing; Robert Berkenbile, Morrison, Jay Boston, Adar, Doug Bounds, Elk City, Roy Branch, Chickasha; Meredith Brown, Copan, Jonna Bruce, Sharon-Munital, Shaed Chalkoale, Beaver; Gina Cuffettelli, Cushing; Bryan Clift, Tishomingo, Albert Daniel Cole, Stringtown, Melissa Conway, Perry; Stacy Cordes, Arapaho; Terry Cox, Sprou, William Cuffeagle, Oologah, Lance Dobbins, Thomas-Fay-Custer, Kyle Dorton, Big Pasture, Dustin Dunton, Cameron; Matthew Elliott, Burlington; Laci Eutisler, Tallequah, Kari Evans, LeFlere; Scott Fesmire, Timberlake; Leigh Ann Fischer, Hooker, Clayton Ray Fisher, Lomega, Todd Forrest, Tallequah; Kent Gardner, Sharon-Mutual, Andrea Gris, Okemee; Mandy Lynette Hagerman, Sweetwater; Ashley Harrison, Hooker; Jamie Hayton, Billings, Nathan Howard, Mooreland, Christoph Hunt, Grandfield; Brian Jantzen, Burlington; Nicole Jarrett, Stratford, David Johnson, Tishomingo, Ethan Keiffer, Timberlake; Mandie Kight, Tahlequah; Kim Kising, Burlington; Deanna Knopp, Okeme, John Koelsel, Vinita, Chance Komeyga, Owasso, Chase Komeyga, Owasso; Susan Leierer, Burlington, Lesley Levins, Durant; Dustin Lewis, Yale, Dee Jay Lynn, Frontier, David Mann Jr., Checotah; Van Marsalis, Waynska, Kyle Martin, Kiowa, James Matousek, Hennessey, Kevin Mehler, Guthrie, Austin Meier, Okeme; Daniel Neely, Nowata, Cody Ray Nelson, Calera, Rhonda Nida, Tonkawa, CaSanada Lyn Niminne, Hardesty; Matthew Orr, Ponca City, Kristy Pederson, Burlington; D. J. Peper, Adar, Ron Daniel Perdue, Spro, Michael Pettjohn, Chickasha; Julie Ann Pickard, Blanchard, Heather Pollard, Hennessey; Stephanie Polland, Hennessey, Chad Lenoy, Quarry, Prague, Wylie Rastekw, Shattuck, Thomas Reggie Ramsey, Adar, Annie Reim, Billings, Curtis Rice, Ringwood, Jeff Ryan, Pryor, Masen Ryel, Aline Cleo; Jared Schneberger, Sentinel, Michael Stephen Schulte, Kingfisher, Curtis Sears, Nowata, Justin Sehi, Weatherford, Jason Simon, Elk City; Beth Smith, Cache; Ryan Sorrell, Durant, Keith Sorrells, Kiowa, Monte Soules, Skiatook, Rosslyn Clarke Spencer, Chickasha, Ryan Keith Steward, Tecumseh; Marissa Simnett, Tallequah, Roy Stricklin, Prague, Ryan Thomas, Fort Supply, Michele Thralls, Billings, Kyle Usler, Prague; Skye Varner, Bristow, Andrew Vos, Prague; Jimmy Ray Ward, Durant; Allison Wellser, Spro, John Welker, Adar, Richard Willhour III, Inola, Natalie Willingham, Stratford, Brian
American FFA Degree

OREGON: Casey Aschim, Yamhill-Carlton; Cari Ann Bakker, Hermiston; Rachel Bradley, Elton; Benjamin Burni III, Dayton; Jeremy Lee Chamberlain, Vale; Destinee Chapin, Gerva, Amanda Corn, Ontario; John Dimmick IV, Eagle Point; Jacinta Duyck, Hillsboro; Amber Gamel, Dayton. Dominic Giordano, Bonanza; Tyler Hansell, Hermiston; Steve Harris, Roseburg; Amber Holland, North Clackamas; Justin Husbands, Union; Megan Kleck, Union; Kristen Kyles, Weston-McEwen; Samuel Dale March, Junction City; Diane McFetridge, Enterprise; Marc McFetridge, Enterprise; Mindi Mitchell, Union; Jennifer Jean Moore, Vale; Nick Nelson, Oakland; Chris Fahl, Pendleton; Mandy Palmer, Ontario; Trent Ricks, Canby; Kurt William Romans, Vale; Justin Scharf, Amity; Jason Sherman, Ontario; DeNae Simms, Lakeview; Troy Tubbs, McLaughlin; Brandon Van Atta, Ontario; Charlie Vandehy, Forest Grove; Jeffery VanDyke, Yamhill-Carlton; Travis Waite, Junction City; Karen Williams, Dayton; Amanda Williams-Ramsay, Redmond

PENNSYLVANIA: Allen Behrer, Tyrone Area; Brad Benter, Selingsgrove; Jayme Benner, Millinburg; Laurie Berth, Chestnut Ridge; Kevin Brightbill, Greenwood; Diane Cockrill, Monteau; Michelle Cormann, Big Spring; Scott Defibaugh, Northern Bedford County; Christina Erway, Covanesque; Herb Hoffeditz, Conococheaque; Elizabeth Hollenback, West Snyder; Linda Huber, Grasscraft; Troy Robert Klinger, Selingsgrove; John Lampman III, Linesville; Cory Mellott, Conococheaque; Steven Radel, Selingsgrove; Jonathan Smiley, Brothersvalley; Kenneth Snyder Jr., Tyrone Area; Kenny Ernest Snyder, Line Mountain/Mahanango; Isaac Vorisek, Linesville; Chad Walker, West Greene; Kristina Leigh Watson, West Perry; Ryan Werner, Mohawk; Joanna Wilson, Wilmingtom

PUEBLO ROY: Victor Mendez-Del Valle, Jose Barcelo', Carlos Javier Ruiz-Vargas, Francisco Vicente; Jose Manuel Santiago-Gonzalez, Piedra Gorda

SOUTH CAROLINA: Trenton Dale Tyler, Loris

SOUTH DAKOTA: Ben Butzke, McCook Central; Christie Eichacker, McCook Central; Ryan Karl Eichler, Groton; John Erk, Newell; Tracy Fleming, Harrisburg; Chris Godfredson, Newell; Kelly Ann Grace, West Central; Doris Gregg, McCook Central; K. C. Gregg, McCook Central; Troy Haag, West Central; Andrea Huffman, Harrisburg; Barry Jacobson, McCook Central; Eric Knusten, Harrisburg; Ryan Knuston, Canton; Adam Lauck, McCook Central; Michael Leheska, Chamberlain; Shane McGregor, McCook Central; Jonathon Minor, Newell; Mark Mueller, Milbank; Jerry Osterberg, McCook Central; Lee Osterberg, McCook Central; Allyn Paulson, Groton; Cade Peterson, Chamberlain; Ben Roling, McCook Central; Kandi Lynn Shape, McCook Central; Jeff Skinner, Harrisburg; Nick Slatten, Canton, Brock Steff, McCook Central; Jennifer Titus, West Central; Marc Tuschen, McCook Central

TENNESSEE: Robert Ambern, Cumberland, Samuel Oliver Anderson, White; David Avery, Spring Hill; Kay Bailey, Spring Hill; Steve Dodson, Cumberland County; Rebecca Jill Farlow, Riverside; Mathew Fields, Volunteer; Kendra Floyd, Eagleville; Rebecca Frye, Dyer County; Brandon Fuston, Warren County; Daniel Ray Green, Cumberland County; Daryl Ray Griffith, Dresden, Jeremiah Hollingsworth, Dyersburg; Clifford Bert Hutcheson, Spring Hill; Jennie Klepper, Cherokee; Miles Ledbetter Jr., Midway; T. J. Leitch, Riverside; Allen Maples, White County; Robert Allyn McLean, Dyer County; Travis McNeely, Spring Hill; Scott Metz, Cherokee; Ben Moore, Dresden, Jamie Mundy, Powell Valley; Nicholas Nash, Dyersburg, Jay Oliver, Dresden, Kyle Pettigrew, Riverside; Christopher Pierce, Northside; John Raines, Humboldt, Mark Read, East Robertson, David Reed, Spring Hill; Daniel Renfro, Riverside; Jon Reusch, Cherokee; Justin Rhinehart, Cumberland County; Amos Rogan, Cherokee; Barry Scoby, Dyer County; Michel Scott, Riverside; Matthew Stark, East Robertson, Frankie Stiles, Cookeville; Leslie Sullivan, Eagleville; Heath Tate, Portland; Kristy Taylor, Gordonsville; Thomas Vick, Spring Hill; Kyle Watson, Dekalb County; Joshua Williams, Cumberland County; Benjamin Joshua Worley, Culleoka

No sibling rivalry here—Ben and Laura Grove (brother and sister) bask in the glory of achieving the American FFA Degree. They hail from the Turner Ashby FFA Chapter in Virginia.

Bernard, East Robertson, Adam Bowman, Cherokee; Justin Bryan, Eagleville; Shane Burchfiel, Dyer County; Aaron Cope, Cherokee; Meredith Crosby, Riverside; Melissa Crosse, Eagleville; Tommy Culwell, Warren County; George Michael Davis, Polk County; Amy Michelle Disman, Portland; Daniel Ray Wills, Gordonsville; Robert Clabrone Wilson, Cumberland County; Benjamin Joshua Worley, Culleoka

TEXAS: Andy Abramite, Golia, J. J. Akin, Henderson; James Andrae, Winter; Kimberly Ann Bailes, Shepherd; Michelle Baldwin, Leonard; Casey Bariek, Postek, Clay Bishop, Thorndale; Dana Boehm, Hutto

Wright, Mooreland

Wilson, Rock Creek; Jon Wilson, Elk City; Jed Winters, Navajo; Toby Wood, Hennesse; Yancy Elliot

Wolfe, Conococheaque; Greenwood; Chestnut Benner, McLaughlin; Oregon; Pahl, North Duyck, Wnght, Wilson, Gorda

Brothersvalley; Khngler. Spring; Karen Mitchell, Dimick

SISYLVANIA: Nick Perry; Pendleton; Weston-McEwen; Junction Hennessey; Grassland; Roseburg; Mooreland; RICO; Rock Romans, Linesville; Chad Radel, Comman, Laurie Jourdanton, Jahn, Karla DeAnn Johnson, Selinsgrove; sulphur Springs; Ryan Johnston, Sealy; Jeff Klose, Lometa; Nora Linda Krause, Florence; Kelle Krehbs, Calallen; Joshua Lackey, Midlothian; Lauren Langbein, Comfort; Mark Loeffler, Comfort; Colby Mangum, Pleasanton; Jason Marburger, Round Top-Carmine; Nitieron McBride, Brenham; Mark McClure, Cieburne; Jarrod Miller, New Deal; Russell Miller, Amherst; Matthew Mitchell, Booker; Stephen Ohnheiser, Weimar; Sara Pees, Krum; Russell Perry, Franklin; Jarret Pigg, Valley; Michael Potter, South Garland; Tanner Power, Odem; Casey Ramsey, Byers; Michelle Rutledge, McKinney; Cieric Schen, Holliday; Ray David Schmidt, Waller; Jacob Sears, Chico; Robert Shiple, Fairfield; Tye Snowden, Cotulla; Matthew Sokes, Orange Grove; Andy Strittmatter, Flet Point; Robert Swiere Jr., Falls City; Justin Szymanska, Sealy; Cliff Thomas, Teague; Kenneth Ryan Townsend, Killeen; Jill Turner, Anahua: Mark Vitazna, Nimitz; Brandon Vos, Kay; Bobby Waddell, Anson; Jarret Weinheimer, Panhandle; Jamie Wells, Madisonville, Cayce Western, Azle, Wynne Whithurst, Comfort; Amanda Wiederhold, Troy; Rachel Ann Williams, Boling; Kevin Woelkel, Round Top-Carmine; Clint Wolfe, Cotulla; Bradley Joe Wunderlich, Round Top-Carmine; Cole David.
Young, Katy; Andrea Zant, Chisum; Tiffany Zavisch, Tilden
UTAH: Dusty Bingham, Box Elder; Shad Christensen, Fremont; Jacob Ellsworth, Payson; Cassie Ercanbrack, Payson; Joshua Evans, Lone Peak;
Suzanne Evans, Weber; Jerry Fowers, Payson; Wayne Frisby, Wasatch;
Trevor Gorn, Morgan County; Kerry Ann Greenhalgh, South Sevier; Lacy Hansen, Weber; Jordhan Hansen, Emery Sr.; Hillary Liddle, Payson; Scott McFarlane Jr., Morgan County; Josh Munns, Bear River; Richard Parkinson, Clearfield; Rachael Porter, Morgan County; Jason Price, Wasatch; Shane Lewis Rhoades, Clearfield; Matt Roach, Spanish Fork; William Rose, Bear River; Minid Schofield, Manila; David Thomas, Payson; Zac Vane, Payson; Daryn Westergard, Fremont; Alain Williams, Spanish Fork; Michael Wilson, Lehi; Staci Zilles, Mountain Crest
VERMONT: Aaron Ouettel, Middlebury

VIRGINIA: Tabatha Baker, Stonewall Jackson; Gregory Buchanan, Riverheads; Scott Buchanan, Riverheads; Jason Bushong, Central; Laurel Chapman, Central; Ann Clark Cooley, Sherando; Eric Dalle, Central; Joseph Davis, Turner Ashby; Charles DeHaven, James Wood; Justin DeHaven, James Wood; Jeremy Denson, Sherando; Stefanie Everts, James Wood; Charles French Jr., Central; Benjamin Grove, Turner Ashby; Wesley Haskins, Park View Sr.; Sonja Houff, Spotswood; Shep Hudson, Park View Sr.; Russell Jennings, Carroll County; Tiffany Paige Keplinger, James Wood; Lynn (Trey) Keyser III, Page County; Michael Ray Kilber, Central; Stacey Kiser, Turner Ashby; Catherine Knight, Buffalo Gap; Tamra Lee Langford, Halifax County; Todd Legge, Sherando; Matthew Lewis, Northumberland Sr.; Jennifer Madigan, Sherando; Skylor Mohler, Rockbridge County; Carrie Monger, Turner Ashby; Elizabeth Nesselroad, James Wood; Christopher Nohlot, Carroll County; Jusin Pfen, Central; Ben Phillips, Christiansburg; Erin Pugh, James Wood; Brad Ramsey, Strasburg; Elizabeth Ramsey, Strasburg; Mark Ramsey, Strasburg; Derek Reece, Pulaski County; Jason Roller, Fort Defiance; Charlie Roy, Sherando; Jonathan Ryan, Stonewall Jackson; Jeremy Seal, Spotswood; Timothy Scott Seal, Spotswood; Clay Sellers, Broadway; George Smelley, Park View Sr.; Kevin Michael Spurlin, Grayson Co.; Susan Amanda Stiles, Strasburg; Amy Statz, Central; Mindy Switzer, Turner Ashby; Seth Taylor, Rural Retreat; Brian Tusing, Broadway; Sarah Tusing, Broadway; Courtney White, Turner Ashby

WASHINGTON: Cory Appleford, Asotin; Tanya Barnhart, Ellensburg; Kyle Bauer, Ritzville; Caleb Beach, Othello; Andrew Cockle, Nooksack Valley; Nathan Colom, Fife; Christina Cotterell, Snohomish; Kurtis Cox, Warden; Nathan Cox, Warden; LeAnne Crossland, Yelm; Jennifer Delong, Ritzville; Travis DeVore, Ritzville; Scott Dale Duffner, Ephrata; Lance Dugan, Easton; Travis Greenwalt, Liberty; Danika Gwinn, Pomeroy; Misty Hopkins, Kettle Falls; Kiecher Meacham, Pomeroy; Ryan Pope, Moses Lake; Bonnie Russell, Moses Lake; Eric Siebens, White River; Jennifer Solbrak, Othello; Jared Templin, Ritzville; Andrea Wedin, Ellensburg; Jacob Winona, Almira-Coulee-Hartline

WEST VIRGINIA: James Beatty, Mineral County; James Hays, Roane County; James Keen, Roane County; Steven Lambert, Taylor County; Timothy Malone, St. Marys; Stephanie McGee, Jefferson; Josh Mullins, Ripley; Dawn Smith, Ripley; Amy Tabb, Jefferson; Daniel Woods, Tygarts Valley

WISCONSIN: Michael Aird, Cuba City; Tony Ambrose, Amherst; Tracy Anderson, Sun Prairie; James Bayl II, Adams Friendship; Robert Beckard, Shullsburg; Tonya Bockhop, Cambridge; Jeffrey Bode, Cuba City; Nicole Brunskill, Shullsburg; Brian Burns, Black Hawk-South Wayne; Jamie Bylsma, Randolph; Nickolas Casey, Markesan; Todd Chase, Weyauwega-Fremont; Samuel Cooke, Eau Claire North; Rusty Coyle, Granton; Joshua Dambroski, Amherst; Jennifer Digan, Cuba City; Allen Dornacker, Slinger; Theron Drier, Durand; Staci Eichert, Brillon; James Evans, Randolph; Cheryl Fabry, Oconto Falls; Darby Fuller, Rio; Jeremy Furseth, Stoughton; Stacy Geurden, Oshkosh West; Zach Gotham, New Auburn; Luke Gruszinski, Denmark; Kristin Haakenson, Evansville; Nicole Haines, Kickapoo; Shawn Halvorson, Lincoln-Alma Center; Michelle Hareld, New Anburn; Rebecca Harvey, Ripon; Mike Heim, Denmark; Nick Hemling, Beaver Dam; Andrew Hendrickson, Randolph; Regina Hinchcock, Cambridge; Jamie Horsfall, River Ridge; Heidi Lynn Hughes, Oshkosh West, Cara James, Montello; Allan Jastromsky, Amherst; Michael Joas, Kiel; Ryan James Kirchberg, Fort Atkinson; Shelli Kleis, Weyauwega-Fremont; Paul Knoff, Granon; James Knott, Waupaca; Mark Krueger, Kiel; Ross Kundler, Pecatonica-Blanchardville; Kurt Lehman, Reedsburg; Jeremy Leiber, Cuba City; Kristopher Lien, Lincoln-Alma Center; William Lloyd, Elk Mound; Susan Long, Octento Falls; Jessica Looker, Weyauwega-Fremont; Emily Maier, Fennimore; Brian Marotz, Pioneer Westfield; Michael Mason, River Ridge; Deborah Meyer, Colby; Joseph Meyer, Colby; Aaron Miller, Black Hawk-South Wayne; Angela Morris, Fennimore; Jason Morrissey, Shullsburg; Melissa Mrovich, Stoughton; Theodore Mueller, Johnson Creek; Jennifer Mundt, Pittsville; Erin Anne Naprala, Montello; Bjorn Neumann, Osceola; Kristi Orchard, East Troy; Jared Pagnerkop, Bloomer; Charles Pearce, Big Foot-Walworth; Jeffrey Ponek, Paluski, Howard Pope, Waupaca; Samuel Prindle, Lincoln-Alma Center; Chris Quam, Stoughton; Jeffrey Mark Richers, Belmont; Ryan Riedesel, Tomah; Jerrid Rossing, River Valley; Bradley Alan Rowe, Granoton; Nathan Russell, Shullsburg; Carla Louise Ruzic, Lincoln-Alma Center; Brenda Ryan, Pecatonica-Blanchardville; Megan Schaefer, Marshfield; Jared Schaffner, Cochrane-Fountain City; Kris Schank, Independence; William Schaumburg, Seymour; Scott Schneider, Randolph; Steve Schroeder, Lake Mills; Jennifer Schultz, Granton; Rodney Selzler, Stanley; Eric Shrock, Pioneer Westfield; Jeffrey Spoke, Lake Mills; Leslie Renee Strauch, Augusta; Megan Stubrad, Lincoln-Alma Center; Michael Sullivan, Amherst; Michael Swanson, Granton; Pamela Thark, Mayville; Lora Timm, Weyauwega-Fremont; Jodi Tischauer, Marion; Jennifer Topel, Lake Mills; Adam Turany, Bloomer; Glen Van De Hey, Denmark; Chad Vaugt, Granoton; Amy Lynn Vine, Neillsville; Chad Weinberger, Randolph; James Wells; Sparta; Steve Wethal, Stoughton; Lacy Wieg, Darlington; Rachel Zabel, Stoughton; Geof Zanton, Milton; Rebecca Zeeam, Bonduel; Dan Ziegler, Sauk Prairie; Donald Zimmerman, Ellhart Lake

WYOMING: Kacy Atkinson, Snowy Range; Brock Burch, Casper; Megan Darnell, Newcastle; Melissa Griffith, Riverside; Diane Hamilton, Riverside; Ronda Pulse, Cheyenne East; Becki Jo Sheldon, Sheridan; Jeff Skalsky; Powell, John Tass, Buffalo; Kattlyn Wolf, Snowy Range

Dominic Diaz, Bryan Tassie, and Rosie Livorsi, all of California, celebrate after obtaining the highest degree in the FFA.
National Chapter Award
Sponsored by Cargill

The 7,503 chapters across the United States compete each year to win a National Chapter Award. Those listed here have achieved excellence in the three areas honored by the award—developing student leaders, working together to form strong chapters, and serving their communities.

The three top chapters from the Three Star area were selected as Models of Innovation in student, chapter and community development. Students from each chapter were congratulated on stage and presented with a plaque during Thursday afternoon’s session.

**NATIONAL WINNER—STUDENT DEVELOPMENT**
Bowling Green FFA Chapter, Bowling Green, Ohio

This Ohio FFA Chapter involved 100 percent of their membership by hosting such activities as a school-wide leadership day and providing recreation after meetings. Their dedication to leadership, career development and scholarship placed them in the winner’s circle for student development.

**NATIONAL WINNER—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
Creston FFA Chapter, Creston, Iowa

Progressive projects like “Earth Alert,” “Project Downtown,” and “SAFE — Stop Accidents For Ever” launched the Creston FFA Chapter into national victory. Various activities promoting safety and community spirit helped the chapter build partnerships, generating goodwill between the FFA and Creston for years to come.

**NATIONAL WINNER—CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT**
Spencer FFA Chapter, Spencer, Wis.

The implementation of a program entitled “Spreading the News About FFA” put this outstanding chapter in the spotlight. Their chapter events were highlighted in the newspaper, on the Internet, in a National FFA photo shoot, and on television and radio. The chapter also started a junior FFA chapter.

**THREE STAR**
CALIFORNIA: Norco; Ripon
COLORADO: McClave
IDAHO: Kuna
INDIANA: Shenandoah
IOWA: Creston; Harlan; Mid-Prairie; St. Ansgar; Vinton
KANSAS: Chapman
KENTUCKY: Scott County; Spencer County
MAINE: Presque Isle
MICHIGAN: Corunna
MINNESOTA: Battle Lake; Forest Lake
MISSOURI: Aurora; Carthage; El Dorado Springs; Marionville
MONTANA: Flathead, Shields Valley
NEW JERSEY: Allentown
NEW MEXICO: Alamogordo, Artesia
OHIO: Blanchester; Bowling Green, East Clinton, Hardin Northern, Indian Valley; London; Marysville; Miami Trace; National Trail, New Bremen, Preble Shawnee; Talawanda; Versailles
OKLAHOMA: Chattanooga, Drummond; Elk City; Fort Gibson, Guymon; Sapulpa; Stillwater; Tecumseh
OREGON: Perrydale
PENNSYLVANIA: West Snyder
TEXAS: Calallen, Mansfield; Nacogdoches, Rockdale
VIRGINIA: Central, Park View Sr., Stonewall Jackson, Turner Ashby
WASHINGTON: Yelm
WISCONSIN: Waupaca; Weyauwega, Fremont

**TWO STAR**
ALABAMA: Eufaula, Fort Payne
ARIZONA: Cibola; Gilbert; Peoria; Yuma
ARKANSAS: Mountain Home Jr.; Paragould
CALIFORNIA: Fallbrook; Firebaugh
COLORADO: Eaton, Flagler; Fort Lupton; Fruita Monument; Delphi; Mount Vernon; North Montgomery; North Newton; North Posey; Prairie Heights; Reitz; South Adams; Southmont, Western Boone; Whitko; Woodlan
IOWA: Agri-Power, Algona; Charles City; Estherville; G & G, Manson Northwest Webster; Maquoketa Valley; Marengo; Monticello

Dr. Larry Case, national FFA advisor, congratulates a Model of Innovation chapter, recognizing the top chapters whose programs exemplify student, chapter and community development.
MISSOURI: Kansas City; Lee's Summit; Springfield
MARYLAND: Baltimore; Annapolis; College Park
NEBRASKA: Lincoln; Omaha; Grand Island
MONTANA: Great Falls; Bozeman; Billings
MISSISSIPPI: Jackson; Gulfport; Hattiesburg
LOUISIANA: New Orleans; Baton Rouge; Shreveport

KENTUCKY: Louisville; Lexington; Frankfort

WAPSIE VALLEY
Chillicothe; Oldham County; Unionville; Providence

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Chillicothe; Oldham County; Unionville; Providence

WAPSIE VALLEY
Chillicothe; Oldham County; Unionville; Providence
Farm Boys and a Dream
Hillary Smith, National FFA President, Perry, Ga.

In this very city, a dream began. Thirty-three young men, farm boys, dreamed of an organization that would enrich, complete and add value to the agriculture courses they took in public high schools across the country. Over time millions have come to recognize the famous blue and gold corduroy jackets as a symbol of leadership, witnessed the transformation in students' lives, and watched as awards are given and young people recognized through FFA. Many of these encounters came firsthand. More than nine million young people have held an FFA membership card. What began 71 years ago as 33 farm boys and a dream, lives on today as you and I and almost 450,000 other young people are living the dream, the dream of FFA.

Our path in life is often led by our dreams. What we are living depends upon what we have dreamed and what dreams we are following. In the Book of Genesis, Joseph the son of Jacob was known as a dreamer and an interpreter of dreams. His interpretation for the King of Egypt saved Israel from famine during a seven-year period of starvation. Thomas Jefferson dreamed of an agrarian society. His dream continues as we recognize the importance of agriculture in our country's society and economy. John Kennedy dreamed America would walk on the moon and Neil Armstrong's historic first steps are forever etched in history. The reason Israel survived, agriculture continues and we reached the moon is because dreams are goals energized by passion. What began as farm boys and a dream is today's National FFA Organization. Why did it prosper? Because dreams become the basis for passionate action.

As FFA members and delegates to this 71st National FFA Convention we have reached a significant milestone. We have an illustrious history, one in which we can take pride. But the future beckons and our task is far from complete. Steer your life by the truth. Proverbs chapter 29 verse 18, says, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Who would have ever imagined that 33 young men in 1928 would become 450,000 young men and women of all races and creeds in 1998? The history of FFA and our dreams follow a well-established path. Our dreams are created, shared, and most importantly lived.

Creation is always the beginning. Dreaming is no different. Begin your dreams by creating in your mind. Ask yourself these questions: Where do I want to be in 10 years? What do I enjoy? How do I want to be described and remembered? During a quiet moment wonder in your mind what your life will look like when you are your parents' age.

So many times this year I have watched in amazement as you created your dreams. Matt in Kentucky decided he would someday hold a chapter office. The dream of winning a state proficiency award is one that Courtney Kelly of New Hampshire shared with me. As I listened to Megan from Indiana convey her regret of not seeking a state office, she created another dream of becoming a teacher. What have you created? What is your dream?

Invest the thought and consideration required to create your dreams. As you return home, survey your interests, inventory your goals and create your dreams.

A current TV commercial tells us "You can accomplish anything you set your mind to, but you can't do it alone." We all need support groups, advocates and cheerleaders. Share your dreams with other people. Begin with your network of supporters. Include others in your dream. Let them give you hope and share your vision.

One of the highlights of my year has been receiving mail. In these letters you shared with me your dreams. Charlie, who is at home this week helping out with his family's business, dreams of building his newly chartered FFA chapter to greatness. Through chapter meetings and banquets, Charlie is sharing his dreams with chapter members. Tony, a New York FFA member, dreams of helping others the way his favorite elementary teachers helped him, by laughing and smiling and having a positive attitude. Sharing his dream with others will help everyone Tony meets.

All of us in this auditorium share in the dream of FFA. To put your dreams closer to completion, share them with other people. Right now choose someone in your life who would listen and be your cheerleader. Share your dreams.

For four years, I watched my younger brother Joseph diet, exercise, lift weights and practice endlessly. He dreamed of earning the title of state wrestling champion. Every day of his high school career, he lived that dream. All of us, like my brother Joseph, should live each day doing something that enables us to reach our dreams. Spend 10 minutes practicing a speech if you dream of a public speaking title. If you dream of attending college, live each day in high school studying and preparing to further your education. If you see a grand
champion ribbon on your steer when you close your eyes; then walk, brush and care for that steer the best you can every day.

Living your dreams does not ensure achieving your dreams. Joseph lived the dream of being a state champion wrestler for four years. He devoted his free time and his high school days to living his dream. At the end of his freshmen, sophomore and junior year, Joseph experienced frustrating injuries that prevented him from advancing to the state championship. Still he continued preparing until his senior year. But yet again a shoulder injury robbed Joseph of his dream. Today as a college freshmen he is a better person for the hard work and perseverance. In California I watched 59 of you live your dream of running for state FFA office. Even though only six would be elected, all of you had the courage to try—the courage to live your dreams. Living your dreams builds character; this is more important than ribbons on the wall or trophies in the case.

There are many reasons to dream of your future. Why did Jefferson advocate agriculture, Kennedy push for the moon, my brother continue to try, or Kansas City support a student convention when other cities scoffed at such a thought? Why? Because they believed in their dreams and loved what they were doing. Those who live their dreams never ask “what if?”

What if the curriculum only included production agriculture? The national FFA convention continues and all races, genders and creeds are members, and all types of agriculture are included. Why? Because what began as a dream in 1928 with 33 farm boys was followed up with passionate action. FFA members, realize that when you leave this auditorium, this city, for the last time today that you are living a dream. It is my responsibility, your responsibility to keep the dream of FFA alive and well! Never ask “what if!” Live your dreams!

FFA members, realize that when you leave this auditorium, this city, for the last time today that you are living a dream.

This year if you received a letter from me, it ended “live your dreams.” Over the last 12 months, you have let me live one of my dreams. Only in a dream could I have imagined the friends I made in New Mexico, the power of a smile even in Japan, and the people all across the country that opened their hearts and homes. Sometimes it even seemed like I was in a dream. Eating chilies—hot chilies—in front of 700 people, wearing coats in June in Wyoming, and snow skidding in Michigan were things this southerner had never done. These are things, places and people I could have only imagined if I had not lived my dream. As a high school student, I did not dream of being a national FFA officer. My goal was to run for chapter president and state office. I started college one year after serving as a state officer and I realized something was missing. I was suppressing a dream because I was afraid of failure. With some encouragement, I found the courage to try and to live my dream. Even if I had not been elected I would have known that I had lived my dream and taken my chances. Live your dreams, take your chances, dig down deep and find the courage to try.

As you keep the dream of FFA strong, dream for yourself. Create your dreams based on you, share your dreams with others to gain support and insight and live each day in pursuit of your dreams.

My year as a national officer is nearly complete. As I retire, there are people who have helped me live my dreams that deserve recognition. To my family, friends, FFA advisor, FFA chapter, 450,000 FFA members across the nation, and state staff—thank you for making my dreams come true.

I feel that I have been privileged to serve as a national officer during a very special time in the life of our organization. This is our last convention in Kansas City, where it all began. We will always cherish the memories of this place and its legacy. We have seen the completion of our new National FFA Center in Indianapolis. It was built at a cost of $6 million and is debt free. Magnificent dreams have come to fruition but the end of this convention will mark the beginning of living a new dream. Robert Kennedy, the young Attorney General of the United States in the 1960s expressed it well when he said, “Some men see things as they are and ask why, I dream things that never were and ask why not?”

We look forward to a future in Louisville crowned with unprecedented growth and service. I have every confidence that the Blue and Gold will continue to shine even brighter.

As you return home I urge you to have the courage to create, share and live your dreams. Recognize that the challenge of life is in its risks. Dare to blaze new paths, walk where others have not ventured, sail the uncharted seas of life bravely, hitch your wagon to a star and let it soar. Make those 33 farm boys proud by the life you lead. Say to the world “I believe in the future” and “I will live my dreams.”
GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD
Shannon Wilcox, National FFA Secretary, Kenton, Ohio

There is nothing as exciting as getting a gift. Birthdays, holidays and special occasions all focus on exchanging and sharing gifts. Could you ever forget the energy you felt when you caught the first glimpse of the biggest, shiniest package on Christmas morning? The anticipation and agony of waiting to discover what was inside was killing you! That's no different from our lives. The excitement is about the gift inside. That is the great thing about each of us. When we look at each other we see many different packages. Only when we take the time to unwrap the package do we see the real gift inside each person.

A simple gift of a clear voice or the right lyrics can change a mood, setting, or even a life. This world is so fortunate to have the talents of many individuals making it a more harmonious place to live. Performers who discovered their talents, worked diligently, and had the faith to succeed in their field of dreams lift our hearts each day with the sound of music. Even a little voice can light up the world …

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine
Let it shine

The gift of song. It was a gift I discovered early in life that I wanted to share. It amazes me how a song can take you back in time, remind you of someone you once were, bring back a childhood dream. When I was four years old my lifelong goal was to be the next Barbara Mandrell. Every evening I performed a concert for my two biggest, and only, fans in our living room. All I needed was my microphone and my record player—and all of a sudden the lighting was perfect, the audience was wild, and I was the star. Song after song led me to a world where all dreams became realities. I could envision myself with a band, not a record player. When the applause would thunder from the record, it was for me and I would smile and wave to the imaginary crowd. My costumes were old dance recital outfits, complete with high heels and a cowboy hat. The imagination made the dream a reality for me, even though I was really just in my playroom with a pop bottle, a lot like this one. The highlight of my childhood arrived when I was five years old and Barbara Mandrell was playing at the Allen County Fair. I had a ticket and a mission. I was going to meet my hero.

Listening to “I Was Country When Country Wasn’t Cool” and “Mountain Dew” made me more anxious to be on stage! I remember watching the sequins sparkle on her red and black pantsuit as she bent down to lift me on stage with her.

In front of thousands, Barbara hugged and greeted her small fan. I was absolutely mesmerized. She looked just like she did on television and on the album cover! Just as perfect and nice as I had imagined. I was fascinated. This famous person had discovered her gift and took time to share with the world!

Well, as you can tell, the dream of being Barbara Mandrell faded with time, and the concerts in the living room turned into performances in church and at weddings. But the gift stayed alive in high school. I attempted track, and discovered my friend Gwen was much better at it than I was. She had made it to state competition every year and she was sure to win. I was just in awe of her ability to fly through a hurdle obstacle, while I struggled to throw the discus a measly 31 yards. Track was not a talent I was blessed with. Its the gifts we discover within and the avenues we take that make the biggest difference.

Being a farm girl I was always playing outside with any bug or creature that I didn’t squash first. Every aspect of the outdoors caught my attention. I was especially fascinated with the butterfly. It spends so much time as a caterpillar, and works so hard at weaving a cocoon, does it ever realize what a beautiful reward God has in store for it? Spending half of your life as a worm can’t be fun, dodging ornery kids with big Nikes, hoping you survive long enough to find the limb sturdy enough to hold a cocoon. After waiting all winter, look at the outcome — a beautiful butterfly. So many times in our lives we forget to define what talents we possess, and are too busy wishing for the gifts of others. The butterfly has the right idea. It knows its purpose and works toward that goal with one very important virtue — patience. You must determine your talent. Trial, error, and a whole lot of patience will reveal the answer to you. Some of you will be great public speakers, lawyers, or even scientists. It may not be the most recognized gift at this moment, but you will be able to do great things with it in the future.

The caterpillar spins a cocoon, a singer rehearses a song, and a person develops a gift. A great example of working to develop a gift comes to me through my favorite movie “Titanic.” I found myself researching facts on “Titanic,” reading books, and even using the line “Never let go!” in speeches! It was more than just
Defining and developing gifts isn't enough — you have to use those gifts that God has given you. If you can imagine a cocoon dangling from a limb, then you may relate to the feeling of "the unknown." The most frightening and rewarding step you can take in life is taking a leap of faith. Whether it is stepping onto an airplane, moving to college, or giving your first speech, we must have faith in ourselves and faith in our abilities to succeed. So many times we miss opportunities and achievements because we have fear. What are we truly scared of? In many cases it is the unknown. Did fear capture the dreams of Albert Einstein, Neil Armstrong, or Thomas Edison? Don't be afraid to share your talents. Life is like a show-and-tell classroom. You have to get out of your chair, tell your story, and show the world what you are all about. In the book of James it states "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." To say you have faith in yourself and in a higher power is one thing, but to show you have faith is another. In his book "Sources of Strength," former President and past FFA member Jimmy Carter states the following: "Some of us get so proud of our works that we think that is all there is."

Defining the gifts we have and perfecting them is only complete when you have the faith to use your talents.

Just like the four-year-old girl who loved Barbara Mandrell, the beautiful caterpillar emerging from a cocoon and James Cameron developing a talent, we have one thing in common — we are sharing gifts with others. Every day you share a gift you have been blessed with. I know my life has been given a very special gift this year — that gift is you. Watching your face shine with success when you received your state degree, sharing talks with you at camps, the smiles and hugs you have given me, and most of all — your glowing heart. Your hearts have burned like a candle and made my world a brighter place to live. Just like opening a package, you have opened your hearts to me and shared your gifts with me. Ladies and gentlemen, it’s been Christmas all year long for me because of the gifts you have shared.

Some gifts come in big packages. Only you can fill this package with gifts, talents, and memories that will make you a complete person. Discover your gift, develop that gift, and simply have faith. Just like the caterpillar, you have no idea how beautiful your gift can become. Your gift can be the difference that impacts another’s life forever. Choose to make this life a brighter place. Light the world with your gift.

Choose to make this life a brighter place.
Light the world with your gift.

to never settle for average. He did all he could to be the best. Look at the result of Cameron’s diligence. Dedication. Never settling for average. We should constantly strive to build our talents. Just as a singer rehearses and a caterpillar spins a cocoon, you must continue to build your best qualities. Give one more hour to an after school practice, one more day to a leadership conference, or one more minute to listen to a friend. Be dedicated to be your best by spinning your cocoon and developing your gifts.

So, carry your candle
Run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless
Confused and torn

Carry your candle
For all to see it
Take your candle
Go light your world
Take your candle
Go light your world

the making of a movie for
director James Cameron. He
went above and beyond the call
of duty when producing this
$300 million project. Cameron
developed his gift of creativity
plus a love of history to bring
the tragedy of April 14, 1912, to
life. Countless hours of
rehearsals, scene changes, script
edits, and retakes made the film
an Oscar-winning production.
What we didn’t hear about was
the years of rewriting the script,
the concept details, and the
doubts in Cameron’s mind.
James Cameron has a gift that he
chose to use, and the willingness
Audiences young and old enjoyed the wacky antics of Cowboy Poet Baxter Black during the 1998 convention. Since 1982, Black has been rhyming his way into the national spotlight, and now stands as the best-selling cowboy poet in the world.

The 1998 Walt Disney Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Ray Chelewski, addressed the Convention session.

"My biggest dream is to be able to go to bed at night and say — no child went to bed hungry tonight. It is in your hands that I place the future of all generations."

"We have an obligation — those of us involved, and you are involved."

“My theme has been involvement, that is what I'm doing to make the connection.”
Storm chaser Warren Faidley describes his scariest moment, encountering softball-sized hailstones while following a tornado in Texas.

"You must put yourself in position for good things to happen to you."

The motivational address given by Les Brown impacted the minds of students as they started their convention experience on Thursday morning.

"Because of you, our future is bright."

Basketball great and first woman sportscaster for ESPN, Robin Roberts challenged students to try new things and step out of their comfort zone.
What's This Life For?
Mark Wilburn, National FFA Vice President—Central Region
Laddonia, Mo.

As a sophomore in the Van-Far FFA chapter I set a goal to become a chapter officer. I was scared to death when my advisor told me an interview process was the customary procedure for selecting our chapter officer team. For the first time in my life, I stood before a panel of my peers and answered question after question. Questions like: What’s your SAE? What office do you want to hold? Who is the State FFA President? Those tricky seniors even asked us questions to surprise us like: Who won the World Series? What golfer won The Masters? How many steers were born last year in the US? I still remember answering that with some astronomical figure like three million, only to realize later that no steers are born, they’re all bulls!

Beginning on November 9th of last year, across the street, on the second floor of the Marriott hotel, thirty-nine national officer candidates were asked many questions like: Is honesty ever situational? What is the importance of international trade to agriculture? How can the FFA combat the shortage of agricultural educators? What five things do you value most? Who is Mark Wilburn? Why do you want to be a national officer?

I’ve noticed throughout my FFA interview days that the questions have become more difficult. However, it’s life’s questions that are the most difficult to answer. What’s this life for? A question that faces the shy greenhorn, the confident state officer, the teenage runaway, the high school drop out, the class valedictorian, even the millionaire business person asks “What’s this life for?”

I have found three answers to this difficult question. What’s my life for? My life is for valuing the people who surround me; it’s for making the most of each day, and it’s for enjoying each day I have been blessed to live. These are the answers that provide focus and strength for my life.

Throughout my short life and especially this year I have found this life is for valuing the people who surround us; our parents, guardians, teachers, friends, relatives, and even the perfect strangers who enter and exit our lives so quickly.

It has been difficult being away from family and friends this year. However, I have been blessed to spend the past 365 days with you, the FFA members. You have accepted me into your homes and schools; you have shared your life stories with me. I’ve seen you laugh, I’ve watched you cry. You’ve let me share in your successes and disappointments. In your eyes, I’ve seen you ask yourselves, “What’s this life for?” Thank you for letting me be a part of your lives, and especially thank you for being a huge part of mine.

In the summer of 1990, I witnessed two individuals who had the wonderful ability to show appreciation and touch the lives of people around them. One was a seven year old girl and the other a country music star. The Vandalia Area Fair, our local fair, is known for landing up-and-coming country music stars for the concerts. This particular entertainer had just burst on to the country music scene, and only two or three of his songs had been released on the radio.

The singer arrived at the fairgrounds early in the afternoon; it was a hot, muggy July day in the upper 90’s, not the kind of day to be outside setting up band equipment. After goofing off and playing catch with some local youngsters, the singer was approached by a lady whose mom was ill and would be unable to attend the concert. The lady told him that her mom was his biggest fan and asked if he would autograph his CD. He quickly obliged and asked, “Where does she live?” After he personally delivered her the autographed CD, the country music star spent several hours with one of his biggest fans.

His actions truly demonstrated his value of people.

That night after the concert the entertainer stood, let me repeat that, he stood and signed autographs for over two hours, until a little girl just seven years old who just so happened to be my little sister Kayla, approached the singer and shyly asked, “Mr. Brooks, would you like to sit down?” Yes, my little sister found a seat for the one and only, Garth Brooks. Garth immediately let her jump in line, signed her shoes, and gave her free autographed pictures.

Kayla and Garth, two people who on a hot day in early July, answered one of life’s questions for me. Garth’s appreciation for his fans was obvious through his actions, and Kayla’s admiration and appreciation for Garth shine through her random act of kindness.

I was fortunate to have many special people who inspired me and encouraged my dreams. Mom, Dad, Jay, Danny, Kayla, Grandma and Grandpa, Chrissy, and so many other people who have helped me—you know who you are, thank you for your love and support over the past twenty-one years. I love you all very much. And by the way, Mom and Dad, Happy Anniversary!

A simple “thank you” and “I love you” go a long way. Each day take time to share appreciation with friends and family. Tonight call someone back home and tell them what a great time you are having in Kansas City and then say thanks for helping me get here. Before leaving convention tell a fellow FFA member or your advisor thanks for all the fun times you’ve shared. As you return home, write an encouraging note for a family member and leave it on their pillow.

What’s this life for? It’s for valuing the people around you.

This life is also for making the most of each day. We can make each new day count by having the will to try the new. It’s so easy to lay on the couch all day with the remote control watching soap—my personal favorite is Days of Our Lives and watching WCW wrestling. It’s so easy to sit in the back of the classroom where the teacher won’t call on you. It’s so easy to do the same routine day in and day out. Through new experiences and new challenges, you will be making the most of each day.

As a ten year old, I was faced with a new challenge—the pedal tractor pull at the local fair. I had never tried anything like this before. My family encouraged me to participate. I was hesitant at first but after learning the winner would take home five hundred cents, ok, a measly five dollars; I signed up! That would be five dollars I could spend in the carnival trying to win a goldfish or rabbit, you know something I really needed.

Let me tell you a little about myself as a ten year old. I stood a macho 4’, weighed a whopping eighty-five pounds, soaking wet, in a three piece suit; and believe it or not, I was the oldest and biggest competitor in the pedal tractor pull. There was no way I could lose.

As you could see, my first and only appearance in a pedal tractor pull was a major disappointment, one that I am still teased about by my loving family. The sled moved a whole eight inches. I kept looking around, hoping that someone was playing a joke on me by holding the sled, but that wasn’t the case. I watched as the smaller, but more experienced and better equipped pullers successfully pedaled out the gate for a full pull. In fact, that afternoon my little sister, Kayla, had a pull of 28 feet! At the time I was embarrassed, but after a night in the carnival on mom and dad’s money, my frustrations went away. To this day, I still blame it on the laws of physics. I was the tallest competitor in the pull. Therefore, my legs were the longest and it was the length of my legs that prevented me from applying the necessary and proper amount of force and leverage on the pedals. Ok, so you don’t buy that! Maybe, physics had nothing to do with it. Maybe, I just wasn’t meant to be a pedal tractor pulling champ.
And you know what, that's just fine with me. From the pedal tractor pull, I learned how to accept failure at a young age. By trying new things and facing new challenges, you will truly be living life, not just going through the motions. Be willing to try public speaking, run for that office, experience the fun of a leadership conference, try out for the sports team, go bungee jumping, ride a bull, try sky diving, travel overseas with FFA, enter a career development event, audition for the National FFA band or chorus. Then your life will be full of exciting challenges and experiences.

What's this life for? It's for making the most of each day.

As we value the people who surround us and make the most of each day, it becomes much easier to enjoy life.

It bothers me to hear phrases like: “This is so boring”, “What's the point?”, “I don't care”, “I'm not having any fun.” This gift of life should be treasured. I found out firsthand eight years ago how precious life really is. This year I have shared with some of you the tragedy my family endured not long ago. In the summer of 1990, my little brother and sister, two family friends, and myself traveled seven miles into Vandalia for some ice cream.

On the way home, for some reason we took the county road instead of the highway. Just several miles outside of Vandalia, a car pulled out right in front of us, and we hit them head on at 60 mph. Our car buckled and came to rest in the ditch. The impact threw me out the back window; I toppled across the trunk and landed on the top bank of the ditch beside the car.

When I awoke, I had no idea where I was or what had just happened. The driver of our car was laying next to me and told me about the wreck. He also informed me that my little brother and sister were still in the car. In the meantime, Mom and Dad arrived on the scene and were horrified by what they saw.

On July 27, 1990, my little brother, Daniel Lee Wilburn, age 11 was pronounced dead on the scene. My little sister, Kayla Marie Wilburn, age 7, who just a month earlier had found the chair for Garth and beaten me in the pedal tractor pull, was flown by helicopter to the hospital. Dad traveled with her and en route she too, lost her fight for life.

In the matter of an hour, our lives had changed forever. Danny was to be my basketball teammate and I was looking forward to teaching Kayla the fundamentals of basketball. Our futures were meant to be together. I spent the week in the hospital and couldn't even attend their funeral; no chance to say goodbye. At first I was very angered and mad at the world and God for doing this to my family. After four days of frustration, of laying on my back unable to move; I began to realize this pitty party, this negativity wasn't getting myself or my family anywhere.

That night I lay awake as my hospital roommate received painful treatments for his cystic fibrosis. I realized then that I had a chance of full recovery; his chances were much less.

On the fourth morning, I was determined to change my attitude. I woke up with a smile on my face and some strength in my soul. I knew this was the day to begin enjoying life once again. First, I wanted to see a smile on the face of my family so I began to plot my plan. I had this really cool machine that gauged my breathing. I realized as you inhale, the line moved up and as you exhale, the line moved down. I realized that you could spell words with the monitor if you timed your breaths just right. I tried my initials. M...... W...... I would tell mom and dad, “Look, my initials!” They weren't too impressed, but it did bring a smile to their faces.

On the fifth day, I stared at my legs for a while because I had been unable to move them. Two vertebrae in my back had been compressed together and the strength just wasn't there. I listened as the doctors whispered to my parents, “Your son might not walk again.” I heard every word they said, but I was determined to prove them wrong. That very afternoon I raised my right leg just six inches off the hospital bed. It took all of my energy. It was a small but great victory, and a huge step to walking again. The next day I was sitting up and actually used the bathroom for the first time, those bedpans just don't cut it!

On the seventh day, I was wheeled down to the rehabilitation room where I experienced the greatest victory, the sweetest success of my young life-learning to walk again. I took thirty tiny yet huge steps. As I returned home, this brace supported my back for the following three months. At first, it was a hindrance, a spur in my side that I didn't want nor ask for. Once again I had to deal with the challenge and remain positive. After those three months, I stepped back onto the basketball court wearing the black and gold of the Van-Far Indians and was fully ready to play. It felt so good to prove those doctors wrong.

I realize that this miracle couldn't have happened without the support of a gracious God - yeah, go ahead and give God a hand - the love and prayers of my family and friends, and the touch of my two angels, Danny and Kayla. I also believe that the smile I experienced and the positive energy I felt on that fourth day in the hospital started me toward a complete recovery. I had to make a conscious effort to enjoy life again.

It's been debated whether your childhood, your teens, college years, working years, or retirement should be called the time of your life. I think every minute of every day should be the best time you can possibly have because after all, there are no guarantees on how much time you or I have.

What's this life for? It is for enjoying the precious time we have been given.

This year has been amazing, definitely a gift from God. I will never forget my inspiring experiences with you, the FFA members. You have answered for me a question many people are asking: “What's wrong with these kids today?” I say to anyone who questions our generation, “Spend a day with an FFA chapter, attend a state FFA convention, listen to the proud words of a greenhand delivering the FFA creed, watch a state officer team serving as role models for younger members, witness a patriotic flag raising by hundreds of leaders dressed in the blue and gold, attend the funeral of a young person whose classmates pay their respects dressed in official dress, and listen during opening ceremonies of national convention as ten thousand FFA members stand and respond with purpose and conviction to the question “FFA members, why are we here?” Witness these events and your questions will be answered, your doubts removed. There's a lot right with our generation, it's present right here in the National FFA Organization!

As we leave this convention and return home, we will continue to ask ourselves many questions. Why am I here? What choices should I make? What's my life for? Tough questions to answer, but questions that need answers. You have helped me find my answers.

What's this life for? It's for valuing the people who surround you. Say thank you and I love you more often. Spend an extra hour with your friends and family.

What's this life for? It's for making the most of each day by facing new experiences, accepting new challenges.

What's this life for? It's for enjoying the time we have been given. Smile more, laugh more, hug more, have fun. You have the power to choose your attitude. Don't let life get you down.

And now I ask you, what's your life for? The answer lies within you. May the good Lord guide you to your answers. God bless you all, thank you.
A typical high school day. We’ve all done it. We sit in class and dream of what could be the greatest moments of our lives. I found myself daydreaming of playing baseball and what it would be like to hit the game-winning home run. Anyone who has played baseball or softball has dreamed about this situation: bottom of the ninth inning with two outs, and the score tied. You see yourself standing in the batter’s box as the pitcher throws the ball. You clinch the bat just a little bit tighter and swing with all of your might. You hear the crack of the bat, and watch as the ball soars over the outfield wall. You are the hero of the game. I played two years of baseball, waiting for that moment, and guess what. It never happened.

I decided to switch my focus to a different sport. I tried basketball, and just like anyone else, I saw myself slamming the ball through the rim for the final and game winning score. Unfortunately, the laws of physics were against me, and I never did quite reach the 10-foot high rim. In academics, I could see myself acing math tests, book reports, and essays. In the seventh grade, when I started in FFA, my dreams shifted to being the greatest speaker, the best agricultural salesperson, and the most excellent ag mechanic of all time. I wanted fame, fortune, and recognition nationwide. I dreamed of being the Michael Jordan of speaking, the Mark McGwire of ag sales, and the Richard Petty of ag mechanics. I wanted to be a national public speaking or proficiency winner. I believed that the moment I was recognized for one big accomplishment would be the greatest day of my life. We’ve all had that feeling.

Almost one year ago one of my dreams came true as my name was called to serve as your eastern region vice president. At that moment I felt like I was on top of the world. I thought being elected to national office was the greatest moment of my life. In the past year I have come to realize this single moment was not what really mattered. Rather it was the culmination of many moments that others never recognized that made the moment so special.

I’m not saying that we shouldn’t dream, or that we shouldn’t set high goals. But, just wanting to hit a baseball out of the park, or dreaming of being a national public speaking winner or proficiency finalist will not get you anywhere. You have to get up, get out, and get going. You have to stop simply dreaming and get up to identify and accomplish the small steps toward your goals. You have to get out and find those people around you who can help you accomplish great things, and you have to get going by creating a cycle of success, which will present opportunities that you never thought were possible.

First you must get up to identify and accomplish small steps toward your goals. Many times our dreams seem too big to handle, but if we break them down into smaller tasks, they become easier to achieve.

When I was in first grade I was definitely not the top student in my class. I would only do as much as I needed to get by. Our elementary school grading scale included “O” for outstanding, “S” for satisfactory, “N” for not satisfactory, and “U” for unusually bad! Spelling was usually the “N” category for me. I always thought it would be nice to do better, and I dreamed of getting a top grade, but I never knew how to get one, and an “O” seemed so hard to get. I never changed my routine, until one day when my teacher did something I thought was pretty strange.

I came home and told Mom, “I don’t know what my teacher was thinking, but she put my N backwards!” Mom looked at my test and said “Dana, that’s not an N, that’s a U.” Needless to say, Mom and Dad were not very happy. That night, we started studying for the next test. Every night for a week, we studied. I would write the words over and over, up to 20 or 30 times. I’d take practice tests with Mom. I would use the words in my normal conversation, and spell them out in my head. “I want a cat...k...a...t.” I wanted to improve until I got the top grade, an “O.” My parents and I kept working, week after week, until finally, my teacher handed back my paper and on top was a big round “O!” I was so excited to show Mom and Dad my grade, but just seeing that grade on my paper is not what made that moment special. The truly great moments came when I made the decision to improve, by making small steps toward my goal. I spent over an hour each night preparing for my next test. My great moments of success had not been public shows, but instead they were private events. It’s the events that others never see that allow the spectacular to happen.

During the past three days, we have seen those FFA members who have proven they are outstanding. We’re recognizing those members who dreamed of having great moments. Some are receiving the American FFA Degree; others are national Career Development Event winners. These members are some of the best that our organization has to offer; yet their greatest moments are not occurring as they receive their awards on stage. Their greatest moments have occurred throughout their FFA careers.

Get up and stop dreaming about what could happen, and start identifying and accomplishing the small steps that will make your dreams a reality.

These student leaders chose to keep working on their SAE when everyone else was having fun. They chose to stay after school to study for a Career Development Event, or they chose to invest a little more money than most people thought was wise. In making these choices, they accomplished the small steps that have led them to the stage. The awards these members are receiving are the result of their hard work on the small things.

If you want your dreams to come true, you must start with small steps. If you want to be a state winning public speaker, then start by speaking more in class, or trying the public speaking contest. If you want to be a national ag sales proficiency finalist, then get a job at a local business, or volunteer to help with school fundraisers. If you want to be a home run hitter, improve your grade in class, or just make some money, you must get up. Get up and stop dreaming about what could happen, and start identifying and accomplishing the
small steps that will make your dreams a reality.

Once you have identified the small steps that will get you where you want to go, get out and find those people around you who can help you accomplish those dreams. No matter what you want to do, or where you want to go, you will need the help of others.

Close your eyes and imagine this situation. You are at school, and there is an all-school assembly. The assembly has been called to honor you for being the most successful person in your community. You are on stage with your principal, members of your district school board, and your family. Out in the crowd you see your friends, teachers, and neighbors. There are TV reporters and photographers as well. Your principal walks up to the microphone and describes your success. The crowd erupts into a thunderous applause just for you, as you accept your award.

Now, let's see what happens if we change that situation a little bit. You're still on stage, but let's take away your principal, the members of your school board, and your teachers. No big deal, you and your family are still on stage, hearing the applause. Now remove your family from the scene, and you are up on stage alone, but still with applause. Now take away everyone but your closest friends. There are probably only a few people left in the auditorium. Finally, your friends are gone too. It's just you standing on the stage in front of an empty auditorium.

It's not a great feeling is it? All of the people who probably helped you achieve success are gone. Your principal and teachers were the first to go. They are responsible for a great deal of the knowledge that you have. Then, your family was taken from the scene. They are the ones who have given you the love, support and resources to grow as an individual. Next your community left. Your community has the power to lift your spirits by recognizing you for the things that you might not see as important. Finally, when your friends were taken from the scene, you were truly alone. There was no one there to listen to you. No one to help share in your success. No one to give you a hand.

If you want to be a great public speaker, a great salesperson, a great ball player, or a great leader, you need guidance to help you improve. You need the resources and insight that others can provide. Most importantly you simply need people to be there for support through the tough times that seem to come with success.

Your teachers, family, community and friends are vital to your accomplishments. They provide the resources, support and guidance necessary for success. If you want to accomplish great things you must get out and find the people that can help you succeed.

Once you get up and find the small steps to success, and you get out and find the people that can help you accomplish your goals, you must get going by creating a cycle of success that will present new opportunities you never thought were possible.

As you begin to get up and accomplish those small steps toward your goals, an amazing thing happens. You build confidence! This confidence then allows you to achieve other goals and reach new heights of achievement. This is a cycle of success, where each new accomplishment builds your confidence and allows you to achieve larger and greater tasks.

I started FFA as a seventh grader. At that age, I was an extremely shy person. All I wanted to do was go to our state convention and throw water balloons from the dorm windows. Thanks to a couple of watchful FFA advisors, I never realized that goal, but my early years in FFA created some other interests.

I decided that I wanted to learn more about woodworking and power tools. Make way for Dana the Tool Man! I started out with a simple wood sander, then I graduated to a belt sander, a circular saw, and finally over the course of five years I was using some of the largest equipment in the shop with ease. I built nail boxes, stools, potato bins, and bird feeders. I even helped with a few picnic tables and a hay wagon. These projects were great, but they were not much of a challenge for the experienced woodworker that I aspired to be. I set my sights on something a little more challenging. I decided to create a checkerboard. It took almost every skill that I had learned to that point, and some new ones as well. I spent hours cutting, sanding and gluing. The finished product was not nearly as large as a picnic table, but the work that went into my checkerboard far exceeded any project that I had done before. I would have to say that I accomplished my goal of being a pretty decent woodworker.

But you know, something really strange happened as I learned those woodworking skills. I didn't have much confidence in any of my abilities when I started, but as I became better and better in the shop, I became better and better in other activities as well.

As I worked in the shop I learned how to be a pretty good salesperson as well. I never had the confidence to sell anything to anyone before I stepped into that shop. I gained the confidence to try my hand at public speaking. I changed from a scared seventh grader who wouldn't talk in front of a class of 20 people to someone who can speak in front of you today.

Confidence breeds confidence. I never intended to become someone who could speak on a stage, or someone who was comfortable selling what I believed in to others. I improved in those areas because as I accomplished the small steps toward becoming a good woodworker, I gained the confidence to try new things. You never know how far you can go if you just get going by creating a cycle of success.

I wish that I could re-live those high school years. There are so many things that I could have done, so many places that I could have gone, and so many people that I could have met. If I had only known what to do to achieve my dreams. Don't make the same mistake that I did. I know you have dreams that seem out of reach. If you want to make them a reality, you need to stop simply dreaming, and get up to identify and achieve the small steps that you need to accomplish success. Get out and find the people who can help you accomplish great things, and get going by creating a cycle of success that will create new opportunities.

I have a task for you to accomplish. You can do it after this session, tonight before you go to bed, on your way home, or whenever you have a moment to think. I want you to think about a dream that you have, and identify the small steps that you need to take to make that dream a reality. Then make a list of the people you know that can help you accomplish that dream. Finally, once you get home, contact the people that can help you and put those small steps into action and start your cycle of success.

FFA members it's time for you to stop simply dreaming and get up, get out, and get going!
WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW...
Amber Miller, National FFA Vice President—Southern Region
Louisville, Ala.

Moses Lake, Wash., February 2, 1996: 3 killed, 1 wounded
Bethel, Ark., February 19, 1997: 2 killed, 2 wounded
Pearl, Miss., October 1, 1997: 3 killed, 9 wounded
Paducah, Ky., December 1, 1997: 3 killed, 5 wounded
Jonesboro, Ark., March 24, 1998: 5 killed, 10 wounded
Edinboro, Pa., April 24, 1998: 1 killed, 3 wounded
Pomona, Calif., April 28, 1998: 2 killed
Fayetteville, Tenn., May 19, 1998: 1 killed
Springfield, Ore., May 21, 1998: 1 killed, 19 wounded

What is wrong with our world today when we cannot even go to school and feel safe? As a child, I remember going to school and feeling like I was in a safe place. Whether I was learning my ABCs or playing on the playground, nothing was going to harm me. As I entered high school, I learned of all the pressures facing us as teenagers such as drugs, alcohol, skipping school, or cheating on tests. In my high school of only 350, we had students who brought guns to school. Why? That was the only way they could feel important. That was the only way they felt they’d be liked. School violence and other pressures are very frightening. What does our world need to make it a better place? Well, we don’t need any more TV shows, clothes, or money. We don’t need any more CDs, cars, or movies either. What the world needs now is love! A greater love for ourselves and a greater love for others.

Why is loving yourself so important? Part of the Roman culture was taking pride in themselves. In ancient times, the Latin word dignitas meant having a positive self-esteem. They understood it to mean that when you had respect for yourself, others would respect you in return. Just as the ancient Romans believed in dignitas, it’s important that you accept yourself and develop positive self-esteem.

I think back to when I was an 8th grader just getting started in FFA. Many of you know that the Public Speaking Career Development Event was the main reason I joined. As I was preparing my speech for area competition, I was very nervous and had little confidence in myself. I would practice in front of the mirror day after day. My first line went like this:

“Imagine that you are on a spaceship, everything you need-food, clothing, and water is on that ship.”

I would practice over and over again. I knew I would be competing against those who were much older than me, and I was very scared! The day finally came when we traveled to G.W. Long High School for the competition. As I met other speakers, I became even more scared. I sat in my chair anxiously until it was finally my turn. Here I was, in front of the judges. I was scared, but I said my speech just like I had practiced it in front of the mirror. When the results came back, I had placed second, which meant I got to advance on to district competition. After the results, several of the FFA advisors in the area talked to me about how much they enjoyed the speech and encouraged me to run for a district office. Although I went on to district public speaking to place fourth out of four contestants, I was able to develop confidence in myself. It is because of that experience and many more like it that allowed me to like myself enough to be able to stand in front of you today.

What does our world need now? Our world needs people who can love themselves and share that love with others!

While all of us need to develop more positive self-esteem, it can be very challenging. We have people telling us from every direction that we are not good enough, smart enough, pretty enough, cute enough, or cool enough.

After I was at the Colorado convention this June, I received a letter from a student who attended one of the leadership workshops. She wrote...

Dear Amber, How’s it going? Well, I am just writing to tell you how fun the workshop was. I still have my goal card, and I look at it everyday. Now I know that I can be whatever I want. It helped me realize that I am important, and I can have goals that can be achieved. I hope you enjoyed your stay in Colorado. Sincerely, Renee

At the time of the workshop I had no idea that she needed confidence in herself. Her experience at the FFA workshop allowed her to feel needed and loved.

You know those times when we feel like no one likes us or needs us. It’s tough! But it’s up to you to overcome these feelings, and keep on going. For some, it may mean going to that FFA workshop to receive an extra boost. For others it may mean having someone like an advisor, parent, or guardian telling them they are important. What does our world need now? Our world needs us to love ourselves and be happy with who we are. Why? Because when we like ourselves we can be a better student, a better citizen, a better friend. In loving ourselves we gain the ability to share that love with others, and that’s what the world needs now!

We need love for others! A Greek word for love is “agape” which is defined as active goodwill. Active goodwill is going out of your way to help another. One of my favorite verses says, “Love is patient, love is kind, love does not envy...love does not behave rudely.” All of these are positive characteristics that can impact our world and make it a better place to live.

Several friends and I met a lady through church who lives in a veterans hospital that we visit once a week. Ms. Miriam has multiple
sclerosis and is confined to a bed most of the time. She always appreciates our visit and the small things we can do to help her such as watering her plant, playing cards with her, or doing her laundry. We don't tell her we love her, but rather we show her through active goodwill! After I leave the hospital, I feel good about myself. When you do good things for others, not only do you help them, you help yourself by creating positive self-esteem.

We all have opportunities to share love with others without ever saying it. It may be a smile, a good deed, a letter, an e-mail, or a kind word. What we tend to do is focus on things that make us happy, and we forget about helping people. Instead of always focusing on things such as a new shirt or new car to make us happy, why not try doing something for another person? People should make us happy, not things.

Two years ago on November 16th, I had a car accident. It was the Monday night after national convention, and I had just returned from Kansas City. Being a freshman in college can be very overwhelming, especially after missing an entire week of classes. I was very tired, but I headed out to relax and meet Daddy at Chili's for supper. It was raining and I approached a traffic light as it turned green. We probably were not going very fast at all, but I misjudged the distance of the other car. You know what happened next—Bang!! The air bags popped out, I heard the horns blow, and all I could do was scream!

After I jumped out of the car, I realized what was going on only to see the front end of my new '96 Probe totally destroyed. My first thought was how mad my stepdad was going to be at me for wrecking the car. There were no major injuries; we were just badly shaken up. But the thoughts kept running through my head: what about the car? Over and over again: what about the car? I hurried inside to call so my daddy could know what happened and come for help. He wasn't even concerned about the car—he was concerned about me. As we called Mama and my stepdad, they were not concerned about the car: they were concerned about me, too. WHAT? All this time, I had focused on the new car being damaged. They were not concerned about the car. The car could be repaired or replaced, but I could never be. I learned a lesson that evening: focus on sharing your love with people, not material things.

There may be terrible things happening in many schools across the nation, but there are many positive things taking place as well. This year, so many of you have shown me "active goodwill." In Kentucky, I was able to hang out with the Apollo Chapter and even eat at Moonlight BBQ. At the Colorado convention, the Peetz FFA Chapter adopted me as one of their own students. At the Florida convention, I was invited to dinner with Turkey Creek Middle School. At the Oklahoma camp, I was able to be a camper for a weekend. In Wisconsin, I was able to stay in the homes of state officers as we traveled for sectional leadership workshops. Traveling all over Southeast Missouri was also a treat. No matter where I have been this year, from Idaho to Puerto Rico, from Delaware to Ohio or New Mexico, from Minnesota or Nebraska to Virginia or Maryland, all of you have shown active goodwill this year. Even chapters in sweet home Alabama have welcomed me with open arms.

One example that made a lasting impression on my life was in January when Mark Wilburn and I were able to spend a week in the Miami-Dade County area. A highlight of the trip was watching the students from Turner Tech Academy as they presented a program for us. The program began with nine students carrying national flags. Each flag was from a different country and represented the nine nationalities in the academy. After they were in place, Diana recited the FFA Creed in Spanish, Alan in Thai, Elton in English, and Lynette did the creed in sign language. As I sat and watched this program, tears came into my eyes. I am thankful to be a part of an organization that unites diverse individuals. Seeing students from Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, Colombia, Argentina, and America in one school working together and sharing their active goodwill with those around them, caused me to realize that these FFA members had positive self-esteem and confidence in themselves. They chose to share this with others in their school to make theirs one of the top chapters in the state of Florida. The students at Turner Tech have found what the world needs now—positive self-esteem and active goodwill.

Another favorite verse of mine says: "...Though I understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing." We can try our best to stop school violence or fight against other pressures, but if we don't have love at the core of whatever we do, we have nothing.

What does our world need now? Our world needs people who can love themselves and share that love with others! FFA members and guests—you are what our world needs now! Our world needs love from people like you. Find a way that you can appreciate yourself more and then take that love and show it to the world. Start right here at this convention. Smile at someone as you exit this auditorium today. Compliment someone on a job well done. Introduce yourself to a new person. Hold the door open for someone passing through. As you go home, continue doing these little things. Help your family out with chores. Talk to the kid at school that always gets made fun of. It's these little things that will make a big difference.

I'm so thankful for the boosts of self-esteem and the love I've received from you this year. In fact, I've received so much that I know that there is enough love in this room to make a difference in our world. What the world needs now...is you!
A Hero In Disguise
Cody Nash, National FFA Vice President—Western Region
Inez, Texas

They were fast riders, straight-shooting saviors of the range. They were honest and fair and lived by the code of the west. They were larger than life but they sure seemed real to me. I would ride along next to my cowboy heroes in front of our TV. Each of you know what I am talking about. Growing up we idolize our heroes. Fictional or realistic, they have a larger impact on our lives than we realize.

You see, my heroes have always been cowboys. Not just the hat-wearing, horse-riding, rope-swinging kind, but the individuals who possessed qualities like bravery, adventure, discipline, dignity, pride in self and country, and a love for the creator. As we approach the future and look beyond our childhood days I wonder, “Who will be the heroes of tomorrow?” At our age we still need to look for heroes and we need to learn from them, but more importantly we need to be heroes to each other.

Webster says heroes are individuals who are admired for achievement or qualities. So who qualifies? Movie stars, athletes, entertainers—today anybody who gets on TV thinks they are a hero! But there is more! Mamas and daddies, grandparents and siblings, teachers, people in our communities, an FFA member that we just met—anyone we admire for his or her achievements or qualities can be our hero. Each of you will choose your own heroes and they will probably be different than mine. I think it is important for you to find a hero. You may ask, “Why do I need a hero?” Well, heroes bring out the best in us, they set an example, give us hope or courage, and remind us of our better and braver selves.

So how do we find these heroes? I suggest to you that we don’t always find them. Sometimes they find us. I believe that God places people in our presence so that we may learn from them. I remember not too long ago walking into an ag class the first day of my freshman year wondering who this Mr. Sullins fellow was. And now here I am six years later still wondering what he said in me. Did my ag teacher, Mr. Sullins, set an example? Yup! Did he give me courage and hope when I didn’t think I could go any further? Yup. Mr. Sullins, you’re my hero. I have others too, like my mom and dad, my friend Jack, past FFA officers. It’s okay for us to have more than one hero—we can look up to different people for different things. The key is to find a hero. Sometimes we have to look past what a person has or does to see the hero inside. This year I learned that we can’t judge people by their title or their possessions. People come in all shapes and sizes—so do heroes. I have met a lot of fancy people, elected officials, some well-respected folks, but I also took notice of the homeless and the lost; oddly enough, I was inspired by both.

If you spend enough time with a person you can find some qualities that you admire.

We need to spend time with our heroes to learn how they do the things we admire. Often times we get nervous and talk ourselves out of taking the steps to learn more about them. We tell ourselves, “I could never do that, they don’t have time for me.” I remember my first state convention. After Curtis Childers give his speech on stage I said to my chapter, “I want to meet that guy.” They all laughed, so I got up out of my chair and walked down to the back stage area and waited for him to walk by. When I saw him I said, “Hey Curtis, I am Cody,” and we struck up a conversation. Don’t be afraid to get to know your heroes. That is how you learn from them.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend a moment with one of your famous heroes? Not your parents or someone you have grown up with, but one of those fairytale heroes that you have only read about. Who would you talk to? Michael Jordan, Joe Montana, Eleanor Roosevelt, Mother Theresa, George Strait?

I have a special connection with one of my cowboy heroes. Back in the early 1900’s there was a fellow from Oklahoma that could twirl a rope better than any one else. Will Rogers was a rancher’s kid but couldn’t stand ranch life. So he packed up and traveled the world over, and spun his rope everywhere he went. Along with twirling a rope he had a knack for saying what most people thought, but couldn’t find the words for. He became such a spokesperson for agriculture during The Depression, that he was called upon by the President of the United States to deliver a radio address to boost the morale of our country. Since I have swung a rope since I was about three years old, I am fascinated with his life story. I have studied, not only his rope tricks but the way he helped other people and the image that he portrayed. I have learned that no matter where he went he was himself; on the stage in New York or talking to farmers at a county fair. Will knew that being a hero didn’t mean being perfect, it meant being real. Many times this year I have found myself searching for answers to tough questions.

Sometimes I would stand around and spin my rope and think about what Will might say if I asked him...

What is it like for all of those people to look up to you?

That is not something you should worry about, because if you treat everyone equally then you don’t have to worry about anyone looking up or down at you.

While traveling, I have been inspired most by watching you be heroes to each other. From state conventions to summer camps, you support each other; give each other hope and courage, and push each other to be the best.
Do you ever fear that you'll let them down?
Sure enough, nobody I have ever met was perfect. You just got to do the best you can every chance you get. It is more important to do right by your own heart.

Do you have to sacrifice much to be a hero?
Not as much as you do to be a politician. See, them fellers gotta ask people to look up to them and later on prove it was a good idea. Me I just be myself. You do have to make some tough choices though.

What is it like when you're all alone?
Now I been by myself a time or too, but I have never been alone completely.

Really why is that?
I know the Lord and He is right here inside my heart. I learned a long time ago that no person place or thing can make us happy—we gotta choose to do that for ourselves. Same goes for being alone. It's kind of like being your own best friend.

What motivates the hero?
I know what motivates me—guess you'd have to ask yourself that question.

It may sound weird but sometimes I feel like my heroes are right here with me! Hopefully when you face a challenge or have tough questions to answer you can ask yourself "What would my hero do?" If you have found someone that you admire and look up to, you can almost hear their answer in your mind. Sometimes the split second that it takes to ask yourself that question can mean the difference between right and wrong. Would be willing to bet that somewhere, someone looks up to you—maybe a brother or a sister, a younger FFA member or a friend at school. When they stop and ask themselves that question, you're the hero in their mind.

Being a hero shouldn't change you as a person, but knowing that someone else will be affected by your words and actions should affect the choices you make. Being a hero means loving other people enough to make the right choices. At our age we have some tough choices to make—from the people we hang out with to what we do on Friday nights. All of us here today made a really good choice to be involved in the FFA. By serving this year and making choices that affect so many people, I remember John 13:34 says, "Love one another as I have loved you."

It is kind of funny in today's world that everyone expects to get as much as they give. So I challenge you to be different when it comes to loving people and being a hero. Love others because they are human. Ask yourself this question, "If I don't, who will?" Next time you see a classmate that doesn't fit in, include them into your group, go out of your way to help someone in need or just be a true friend. God has given each of us the gift we need to be a hero to someone, somewhere.

In FFA you can find a hero, get to know that hero and learn from them, but more importantly you can be a hero. While traveling, I have been inspired most by watching you be heroes to each other. From state conventions to summer camps, you support each other, give each other hope and courage, and push each other to be the best. I was so inspired after one convention that I wrote a short poem I call "The Hero." I would like to share it with all of you.

The knight in shining armor
A hero in disguise
The one with all the answers
In someone else's eyes.

A solid man with hair cut square
And high above the collar
A bum in rags
On the street without a dime
Can make a difference to another soul
At any place and time.

See most folks need a hero
Though they may not know just whom.
Sometimes you may not see it but
The one they need is you.
100-Percent States

FFA is growing, and it is due in large part to the continued efforts of states to enroll every agricultural education student in FFA. Four states accomplished that goal, and were recognized for their efforts. In addition, 31 states increased their FFA membership, a testament to the hard work of chapter advisors, state staff and alumni who work to expand young people’s opportunities for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. A successful program is comprised of quality classroom/laboratory instruction; FFA, which provides the leadership and recognition component; and a Supervised Agricultural Experience career preparation segment. These characteristics put agricultural education at the forefront of learning-by-doing education.

100% FFA Membership
California
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Massachusetts
Maryland
Maine
Minnesota
Missouri
Rota - Marianas Islands
Montana
Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
Puerto Rico
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Virgin Islands
Washington

Increased Membership States
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
Guam
Hawaii
Iowa
Illinois
Indiana
Kansas
Louisiana

Representative from the Ohio association happily accept recognition for achieving 100-percent membership in their states.
Blue & Gold Awards

Since 1928, hundreds of thousands of FFA members have gathered in Kansas City to celebrate their achievements and grow as leaders. During this historic year, FFA saluted 71 years of generous support of the national FFA convention by the City of Kansas City. FFA recognized the exemplary service of six organizations and three individuals who have been instrumental in the success of the convention for many years. Their leadership and commitment enhanced the effectiveness of the convention in meeting its mission—positively impacting the lives of young people. For their efforts, each individual and organization received the National FFA Organization's Blue and Gold award, the highest honor FFA can bestow.

Individuals

George Eib of Kansas City, Mo., played an instrumental role in the development of the National Floriculture, Forestry and Nursery/Landscape Career Development Events. As FFA's key contact for the Kansas City Parks and Recreation system, his influence and involvement with these events has spanned three decades.

Harry Cleberg of Kansas City, Mo., was instrumental in the development of the Kansas City Coalition in 1994. Since then, this group of key Kansas City businesses has invested over $1.3 million in support of the FFA convention. Cleberg also served as the 1996 Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman, achieving a record-breaking level of support to support FFA's youth.

Jim Leathers of Overland Park, Kan., has invested 31 years of his personal and professional career supporting the convention as chair of the Kansas City Advisory Committee. Under his leadership, this committee has provided key resources and guidance needed to ensure the success of the convention.

Swope Park has supported the national convention by serving as the host location for the National Floriculture, Forestry and Nursery Landscape Career Development Events. This jewel of Kansas City has provided an excellent facility for students to compete in these national events.

Organizations

The Kansas City Police Department has annually provided a safe convention atmosphere for FFA members. The watchful eye of the Kansas City police officers has been a valuable assurance to teachers and staff in this big city environment.

The American Red Cross, Greater Kansas City Chapter has been the first line of emergency health service to the convention attendees for many years. From bandaging scrapes and curing headaches to assisting with emergency situations, the staff of the American Red Cross has helped many FFA members and guests in need.

The American Royal Livestock and Horse Show and Rodeo has played many important roles vital to the success of the convention. From serving as the location for the National FFA Dairy, Horse and Livestock Career Development Events to providing an entertainment venue in which students and teachers from around the U.S. can interact, the American Royal has been a valued Kansas City partner in developing future agricultural leaders.

The Kansas City Chamber of Commerce has for more than 35 years assisted the convention staff in establishing tour sites that add to the convention's educational value. The Chamber was also instrumental in helping FFA establish key links within the community through their part in preparing invitations for the "Welcome to Kansas City Luncheon." FFA salutes the Chamber for helping build bridges between the convention attendees and the businesses of Kansas City.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Kansas City has served as FFA's link to and advocate within the Kansas City hospitality community. From coordinating the housing process to sponsoring the Career Show Exhibitor reception, the Convention and Visitors Bureau has used its network and influence to enhance each convention attendee's experience.
VIP Citation

FFA has a host of very important people whose actions speak volumes about their dedication to young people. Some have made FFA their life’s work; others have demonstrated a history of volunteering time and effort toward the organization. These people have made a positive impact in young people’s lives through their commitment to service. FFA showed its gratitude by recognizing this special group on stage Thursday afternoon, and presented each individual with a plaque.

James Ash of Alma, W Va., has assisted with numerous regional and national FFA activities, often providing travel and supervision for our officers and teams. Since his retirement in 1989, he continues to be actively involved in agricultural education and FFA on all levels.

Wayne L. Beck of Johnston, Iowa, served as a member of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors’ Board from 1993-1998, and as chairman in 1997. Beck is vice president of supply management at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Al Benz of Raytown, Mo., has helped conduct the National Floriculture Career Development Event for the past 18 years. Benz currently works for Inspiration Floral and Gift Company.

Terry Bucker of Jefferson City, Mo., has been involved with the National FFA Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event since 1969. Bucker is the public relations director for the Missouri Farm Bureau.

Denise Dejulio of Kansas City, Mo., has supported the convention for a number of years by assisting with hotel and transportation arrangements for advisors and convention guests. Dejulio is a sales representative for the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Dr. Terry Dockerty of Chicago, III., has been involved as either a judge or a superintendent in the National Meats Career Development Event for more than five years. Dr. Dockerty is a faculty member of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

Joe Farrell of Hill City, Kan., served on the Reinventing Ag Education 2020 Committee and played a key role in developing curriculum for agriscience nationwide. Farrell is an agricultural education and agricultural science teacher at Hill City High School.

Carl Hubbell, Jim Hutchinson and Sheila Pannell of Kansas City, Mo., of Hubbell Tyner have decorated the convention for years, and have annually gone above and beyond the required level of service during convention.

Alan R. Johnson of Carol Stream, Ill., president of Farm Progress Companies, Inc., joined the National FFA Sponsors Board in 1994. He served as chairman of the National FFA Foundation in 1996 during which the Foundation raised a record level of funds.

Bob Jorgensen of Omaha, Neb., has been an official with the National Livestock Career Development Event for over 20 years. Jorgensen is the officer in charge of grading and reporting at the Livestock Exchange Building.

Dr. James Key of Stillwater, Okla., has been a professor of agricultural education at Oklahoma State University for 29 years. His role in helping coordinate activities for the State FFA Interscholastics, and cooperation in working with state staff will be greatly missed as he retires from the profession this year.

Andrew Klapis of Raytown, Mo., has been a key member of the National FFA Organization’s Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event Committee since its inception. Prior to that, he was a member of the Horticulture Contest Committee. Klapis is now retired.

Henry Kupfer of Kansas City, Mo., has been involved with the National Floriculture Career Development Event for more than five years.

Larry Lackamp of Blue Springs, Mo., has been involved as either a judge or a superintendent in the National Forestry Career Development Event since its beginning. Lackamp is on staff at the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Dale Lightfoot of Kansas City, Mo., has been the national FFA convention photographer for 27 years. Lightfoot is the owner of Lightfoot Photography.

Dr. Richard Lindhardt of Columbia, Mo., has been involved as a judge and committee member for the National Agricultural Mechanics Contest Committee. Lindhardt is an associate professor of agricultural education at the University of Missouri.
Dr. Bill Long of Nacogdoches, Texas, served as a member of the National Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event from 1979 through 1997. He also judged regional and national FFA proficiency awards and taught agricultural education for over 20 years.

Phil McFall of St. Joseph, Mo., has judged the National FFA Career Development Event in livestock for 10 years. McFall is the officer in charge of grading and reporting livestock and crops at the Livestock Exchange Building.

Jerry Monterastelli of Blue Springs, Mo., has been involved as either a judge or a superintendent in the National Forestry Career Development Event since it began. He is currently working as an urban forester.

Bob Nash of Kansas City, Mo., is the event coordinator at the Kansas City Convention Center, and has provided time and influence toward the success of the national FFA convention by allowing the organization maximum use of the Kansas City Convention Center.

Paulette Orth of Kansas City, Mo., has been FFAs key contact for the Career Development Events for the past several years, and has provided many services to the contestants and judges. Orth is the administrative support for the American Royal.

Dr. David E. Schafer of Manhattan, Kan., has been a primary supporter of the Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event. Dr. Schafer is an extension meat specialist at Kansas State University.

Dr. Richard Stinson of University Park, Pa., authored the high school horticulture textbook series that has been a dominate national teacher resource. Even though he retired in 1990, he remains active with national FFA programs.

John E. Shirley of Manhattan, Kan., has served as co-official judge for the National Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event since 1989. He also serves as a member on the Dairy Cattle Career Development Event Advisory Committee. Shirley is a professor of animal science at Kansas State University.

Dick Snedden of Gladstone, Mo., has served as a core member of the Kansas City Advisory Committee for many years. In that role he has provided support and guidance and was directly responsible for the commemorative medallions.

Jim Taylor of Kansas City, Mo., has helped foster the relationship between FFA and the American Royal. From Career Development Event assistance to providing a venue to highlight the talent of the FFA Band and Chorus, Taylor believes in and supports the mission of the national FFA convention.

Earl and Mary Lee Wineinger of Marion, Mo., have managed the backstage activities at the national FFA convention for over 12 years.

In appreciation of their overwhelming generosity, the FFA honored these 22 individuals with VIP Citations. Many of the recipients were long-time Kansas City supporters. (above photo picture #1) Front Row: Larry Lackamp; James Taylor; Dick Snedden; John E. Shirley; Jerry Monterastelli. Back Row: Richard Linhardt; Wayne Beck; Dr. James P. Key; Allan R. Johnson; Henry Kupfer; Delmer L. Dalton.

(above photo picture #2) Front Row: Mary Lee Wineinger; Sheila Pannell; Denise Dejulio; Dean L. Byerly; James Ash. Back Row: Earl Wineinger; Jim Hutchinson; Joe Farrell; Dr. Terry Dockerty; Bob Nash; John E. Cooper.
Honorary FFA Degrees

FFA’s strength comes not only from its nearly 450,000 members, but from its countless supporters across the country. Agriculture teachers who put in evenings, weekends and holidays to benefit their students; business owners who contribute funds and services to FFA; school and government officials who support agricultural education programming; college educators, and state and national FFA staff who work directly with the organization—these are people who contribute to FFAs deep, rich soil of programs necessary to grow young leaders in agriculture.

The Honorary American FFA Degree is bestowed upon such individuals, to thank them for their continued support of FFA and agricultural education. Each honoree was congratulated on stage Friday morning as they received their plaque from the national officers.

FFA Supporters

ALABAMA: Ed Dickinson, Birmingham
ALASKA: Merrit Karlsson, Fairbanks
ARKANSAS: David Andrews, Fayetteville
CALIFORNIA: Chuck Buck, El Cajon; Jeffery Tassev, Merced; James Van Maren, Citrus Heights; Harold Clinton Whaley, Modesto
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Honorary American FFA Degree
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OHIO: Beverly Wilcox, Kenton; Thomas Wilcox, Kenton
TENNESSEE: Kim Mueller, Inez;

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OKLAHOMA: Larry Dobbins, Thomas; Linda Dobbins, Thomas
SOUTH DAKOTA: Charles Gregg, Spencer
TEXAS: Marilyn Boehm, Taylor; Emzy Boehm, Taylor
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WEST VIRGINIA: Keith Burdette, Ravenswood
WISCONSIN: Diane Fischl, Denmark; Paul Larson, Freedom
WYOMING: Jack Sorensen, Wheatland
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The National FFA Organization has accommodated thousands of FFA members on international programs for over 50 years. Since the 1940s, FFA members have had life-changing experiences in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, Australia and the former Soviet Union, all made available through the National FFA.

International experiences through FFA often lead to increased self-confidence and an enhanced sense of career direction. Many past international participants have added a foreign language to their university studies or an international component to their college major as a result of overseas travel. Others have incorporated procedures they learned overseas into their agricultural operations back home. Every student returns home with an expanded knowledge of career possibilities and a renewed sense of direction.

National FFA offers a wide variety of international experiences suited to diverse interests and needs. Highly structured programs for high school members age 16 and up are offered through the Introduction to European Agriculture Seminar, Mexican Agriculture Work/Study Program, or the Australia Homestay Program. For members 18-24 years old, FFA offers longer-term internship experiences on farms in other countries, or even working at U.S. Embassies for the Foreign Agricultural Service of USDA. FFA also offers a one-month experience at Earth College in Costa Rica, with an intensive Spanish-language school component. Earth College provides FFA members a distinct opportunity to learn about tropical agriculture and environmental issues, as well as gain college credit in Spanish.

This year, the FFA was pleased to expand the international presence at convention. Some of the activities offered to FFA members were:

International Dinner—Anyone who participated in an international program or had an interest in participating was welcome to attend.

International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) Luncheon—Participants of this year’s high school exchange program were invited to attend. A record number of 120 students, advisors and host families “made the connection” at the luncheon.

Career Success Workshop—The workshop titled “Go Beyond Your Borders—An FFA International Experience” was presented by Brad Montgomery and ShanRae Hook.

Career Show Booth—Thousands of FFA members, advisors and guests visited the National FFA section of booths at the career show in Bartle Hall. Information on international opportunities was available, and hundreds of prizes were given away, including free international airfare to be used on an international program.
**National FFA Alumni**

The National FFA Alumni Association is a vital link between FFA members and their futures. At this year’s alumni convention, supporters reaffirmed their dedication to “Connecting the Pieces” that make FFA whole.

An important piece of the puzzle is the encouragement of alumni and states with successful programs, that they may continue their progress and inspire others. Several states were recognized for membership growth. The Delaware FFA Alumni had the year’s highest percentage of membership growth, a staggering 591 percent, while Virginia saw the largest increase in members; its ranks swelling by 470 members.

Wisconsin Alumni celebrated several first-place rankings, for having the most life members at both the state and affiliate level, the most life affiliates, and the most members. Six states were honored for making life alumni members of their entire state officer teams. Friday the 13th turned out to be fortunate for the 13 states presented with the Blue Blazer award, which honors states which increased their rosters by at least 100 members.

Special recognition went to individuals whose tireless efforts exemplify the FFA Alumni’s commitment to youth and agricultural education. Ninety-six alumni were presented with the Legion of Merit Citation, and three were distinguished with Outstanding Achievement Awards: Marie Salzsieder of Denmark, Wis., James Shiflet of Turner Ashby, Va., and Jim Spath of the University of Nebraska FFA Alumni Affiliate.

Delegates got down to business Friday afternoon. Members voted to raise annual dues from $7 to $10, and gave more authority to the alumni council executive committee to appoint replacements to the council.

The integral piece of any organization is its executive council, and alumni delegates had an opportunity to select their leaders for the coming year. President-elect Barry Anderson of Nebraska ran unopposed, but was honored to accept the membership’s approval. North Carolina’s Mac Hodges assumed the duties of vice president. Larry Swetnam of Kentucky and Jim Allsup of Texas will serve as representatives for the central and western regions, respectively.

The highlight of this year’s gathering was the annual auction. The lightning-quick calls of the auctioneers filled the room as bidders raised a total of $72,500 for scholarship funds by purchasing a variety of goods and collectibles, some pieces of FFA history. Among the items on the block: a Schrade Bowie knife which fetched $2,350, a Gibson guitar autographed by Reba McEntire which sold for $500 and items from the National FFA Archives. The prize of the night was a brand-new Chevy Silverado pickup, which was picked up by Jana Register of Florida’s Register Farms for $27,500. Others interested in the no-pressure approach to bidding opted for the silent auction which ran through the week. The items donated for sale included art, state specialties, and autographed celebrity photos, including one donated by actor Jim Carrey.

Despite all of the elements of the FFA alumni working together toward continued success, new president Anderson concedes there will always be more pieces to fit, something he looks forward to: “As long as there are FFA members and youth to serve, our work won’t be finished.”

"Going once, going twice, SOLD!" The FFA Alumni's auction raised $72,500 for a scholarship fund to help FFA members advance their education. The YOAP's of Wisconsin provided auctioneer services.
National FFA Foundation Sponsors

1998 marked the 32nd straight year of record-breaking fundraising by the National FFA Foundation to support annual projects and programs for FFA and agricultural education—an all-time record of $7.2 million. The announcement was made Thursday night during the sponsor recognition program by 1998 FFA Foundation Sponsors’ Board Chairman Charles Fischer.

In addition to the annual funds raised for FFA, Fischer also announced that $5.2 million has been pledged to the “I Believe in the Future” Capital Campaign to relocate the FFA Center to Indianapolis, Ind.

The challenge has now been put to the 1999 FFA Foundation Sponsors’ Board Chairman-Elect William T. Boehm, Vice President, Logistics, The Kroger Company. Using the 1999 Foundation theme, “FFA—Making the Connection” as a rallying cry, the effort is on to continue FFA’s legacy of success through widespread support.

50-Year Sponsors
Agway Foundation, Syracuse, N.Y.
Alfa Laval Agri Inc., Kansas City, Mo.
Butler Manufacturing Company Foundation, Kansas City, Mo.
DuPont Agricultural Enterprise, Wilmington, Del.
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National FFA Foundation Sponsors

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The National FFA Foundation Sponsor’s Board chairman, Charles Fischer, is introduced by Hillary Smith, national FFA president.
Distinguished Service Citations

The FFA is proud to have the support of so many fine businesses and organizations. Each year, the Distinguished Service Citation is awarded to those supporters who have provided extraordinary amounts of time, effort or funding to expand opportunities for FFA members. Many of this year’s awardees have been of particular service as hosts for various national FFA convention activities. FFA tips its hat to these generous organizations.

Fort Osage Vocational Technical School of Independence, Mo., has provided facilities for the Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event for several years.

Kansas City Marriott Downtown of Kansas City, Mo., has provided facilities to house FFA headquarters staff and to host many committee meetings.

Kansas State University of Manhattan, Kan., has provided facilities and staff for the Meats Technology Career Development Event for the past five years at the Kansas State Meats Facility.

Missouri Department of Conservation has provided facilities and personnel at Burr Oak Woods of Blue Springs, Mo. They have supported the Forest Career Development Event on a rotational basis with Swope Park since the event began.

Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group of West Bend, Wis., has provided assistance on the Internet, phone calls and coordinating the distribution of the exam portion of the Commodity Marketing Activity.

University of Missouri at Columbia of Columbia, Mo., has provided facilities and equipment support for a number of years.

ZENECA Ag Products Group of Wilmington, Del., has been a four Star sponsor, supporting FFA programs including the Career Success Workshop on precision farming. They also exclusively sponsor the IMPACT Leadership Training Video Series, a vital part of FFA state officer training.

The FFA recognized eight sponsors for their unwavering support of the national organization with the Distinguished Service Citation. Front Row: Myrna Nonaka, Fort Osage Vo-Tech School; Kathy Muth, Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group; Carol Pecoraro, Kansas City Marriott Downtown; Larry Lackamp, Missouri Department of Conservation; Back Row: Paul Wootten, Fort Osage Vo-Tech School; Dick Foell, ZENECA Ag Products Group; Leon Schumacher, University of Missouri at Columbia; Richard Edie, Kansas City Hyatt.
Blue jackets poured into the 1998 Agricultural Career Show in search of their futures. Thousands of FFA members and guests visited over 970 booths representing 331 colleges, agribusiness firms, government and military agencies, agricultural corporations and other organizations from across the nation. Students talked to university representatives, surfed the Internet and sat in the driver's seat of new Chevy pickup trucks. Participants tickled the ivories of computer keyboards as they sent electronic postcards to friends and family.

Agricultural instructors learned the latest technology in classroom presentation methods using computer programs. State associations lined the isles with pictures and paraphernalia, sharing stories with onlookers. FFA members received a first-hand look at the latest in tractor and equipment advancement produced by such companies as John Deere and Case. For those who wanted to “get physical,” the Marine Corps display allowed members to test their strength at the chin-up bar, while others tested their throwing arm by pitching a ball through a car filter at the Carquest booth. Many FFA members walked away from the career show with arms full of “freebies” such as pens, bumper stickers, magnets and a smiles of their faces.

**Hall of States**

- Alaska Association
- Arizona Association
- Arkansas Association
- Colorado Association
- Connecticut Association
- Hawaii Association
- Idaho Association
- Illinois Association
- Indiana Association
- Iowa Association
- Kentucky Association
- Louisiana Association
- Maryland Association
- Michigan FFA Association
- Mississippi Association
- Missouri Association
- Montana Association
- Nebraska Association
- New Hampshire Association
- New Jersey Association
- New Mexico Association
- New York Association
- North Carolina Association
- Ohio Association
- Pennsylvania Association
- Puerto Rico Association
- South Carolina Association
- South Dakota Association
- Tennessee Association
- Texas Association
- Utah Association
- Virginia Association
- Washington Association
- Wisconsin Association
- Wyoming Association

**Exhibitors**

1-800-COLLECT
Abraham Baldwin Ag College
Acco Printing and Publishing
AGCO
AgEd Network/Stewart-Peterson Group
Agri-Education, Inc.
Agri-Entrepreneurship Finalists
Agribusiness Career and Leadership Academy
Agricultural Consortium of Texas
Agricultural Resources & Communications
Agricultural Youth Safety Education
Agrotours Inc.
Alexandria Technical College
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
American Angus Association
American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials
American Belgian Blue Breeders
American Blonde d'Aquitaine Association
American Cyanamid Company
American Dairy Goat Association
American Farm Bureau Federation, Young Farmer & Rancher Activities
American Firearms Council/American Shooting Sports Council
American Fisheries Society-Missouri Chapter
American Gelbvieh Association
American International Charolais Association
American Maine-Airjun Association
American Morgan Horse Institute, Inc
American Murray Grey Association
American National Cattlemen, Inc
American Paint Horse Association
American Pinzgauer Association
American Quarter Horse Association
American Salers Association
American Shorthorn Association
American Simmental Association
American Tarentaise Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Anmoco Lubricants
Animal Industry Foundation
Applied Technologies
Aquacenter, Inc.
Aquatic Eco Systems
Arcer Daniels Midland Co.
Arizona National Stock Show
Asgrow Seed Co.
Auburn University
Bayer Corporation, Agricultural Division
Breaking New Ground Resource Center
Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Back Knives, Inc.
California State University—Chico
Career Development Systems
Carhartt, Inc.
Carolina Biological Supply Company
CARQUEST Corporation
Case IH
CENEXLand O'Lakes
Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Inc. at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Ceres International Women's Fraternity
CEV Multimedia
Chevrolet Motor Division
Chicago Board of Trade
Chicago Mercantile Exchange
Christian Kropf, Inc.
Clemson University
Colorado State University
Communicating for Agriculture Exchange Program
Community Calendars
Cornell University
Croxton Airplanes
Dairy Farmers of America
DATA MATCH, Inc.
Delaware State University
Delaware Valley College
Delmar Publishers, Inc.
DePaco Inc
DeWALT High Performance Industrial Tools
Diversified Fund Raisers, Inc.
Dodge Trucks—Chrysler Corporation
Dow AgriSciences
Duke University Agricultural Law Society
DTN (Data Transmission Network)
Dundee Citrus
DuPont Agricultural Products
Durango Products Co.
EDS-Net Biotechnology Initiative
Environmental Care, Inc.
Equipment Manufacturers Institute
Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education
Farm Works Software
FarmHouse Fraternity
Farmland Industries and Ag-Chem Equipment Co., Inc.
Fashlane Publications
Fellowship of Christian Farmers International
Firestone Agricultural Tire Division
Fisco Farm and Home Stores
Florida Fruit Association, Inc.
Florida Indian River Groves, Inc.
Food & Drug Administration, Center for Veterinary Medicine
Ford Division—Ford Motor Company
Georgia Boot/Durango Boot
GROWMARK Inc.—FS
Hamilton - Locke, Inc.
Hawkeye Community College
Hillsdale College
Hohar Publications/Finney Company
Homestead Rodeo School
Hortocopia Inc.
Humenn International
Illinois State University
IMC Salt Co.
FFA members step into a world of opportunity awaiting them at the 1998 career show. Universities, agriculture companies, and service organizations set up booths to promote their products and career opportunities for FFA members.

Institute of Food Technologists
Instructional Materials Lab—University of Missouri
Instructional Materials Service—Texas A&M University
International Agricultural Exchange Association
International Arabian Horse Association
Interstate Publishers, Inc.
Iowa FFA Foundation, Inc.
Iowa Select Farms
Iowa State University
Iowa State University—Horticulture Dept.
Iowa Western Livestock Judging Contest
Jeffers Vet Supply
John Deere
John Deere Credit
Johnson & Wales University
Justin Boot Company
Kansas State University
Kirkwood Community College
L. C. Produce Fund Raising, Inc.
Lake Land Community College
Langdon Barber Groves, Inc.
Lincoln Electric Company
Livestock Conservation Institute
Louisiana State University
Maple Grove Distributing, Inc.
Maple Ridge Supply
Michelin Agricultural Tires
Michigan State University
MidAmerica Nazarene University
Middle Tennessee State University
Midwest Trophy Co., Inc.
Mississippi State University
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Valley College
Modesto Junior College
Monsanto Crop Protection
MoorMan’s, Inc.
Murray State University
NAPA Auto Parts
Nashville Auto-Diesel College
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
National Antique Tractor Pullers Association
National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE)
National Association of Clovia
National Bison Association
National Council for Agricultural Education
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National FFA Alumni Association
National FFA Online
National FFA Programs and Activities (Partners)
National FFA Programs and Activities (Students)
National FFA Programs and Activities (Teachers)
National FFA—Agriscience Student Award Program Displays
National High School Rodeo Association
National Little Britches Rodeo Association
National Livestock Ethics Council
National Pork Producers Council
National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization
National Rifle Association of America
National Wild Turkey Federation
Nature’s Technology, Inc.
NE BRANCH/ KC BRANCH AALAS
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
New Holland Credit Corp.
New Mexico State University
North American AgriScience Association
North American Elk Breeders Association
North American Limousin Foundation
North Carolina State University
Northeastern Junior College
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
Northwest Missouri State University
Northwestern College
Northwestern Ohio Tractor Pullers
Ohio Agricultural Education Curriculum Materials Service
Ohio State University
Oklahoma Panhandle State University
Oklahoma State University
Oklahoma Steel and Wire
Oregon State University
Oregon Trail Jerky
Park College
Patricia Stevens College
Peace Corps
Pennsylvania State University
Pfizer Animal Health—Dectomax Next Generation Program
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Power Technology, Inc.
Presto Products Company
Purdue University
Purina Mills, Inc.
RARE Resources
Rose Acre Farms
Schrade Cutlery
Shelton Industries—Lock-A-Link
Sigma Alpha Sorority
Silver State International Rodeo, Inc.
Snap On Tools
Society of American Florists
Society of American Foresters
Snow Trailer
Southeast Community College—Beatrice
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Southwest Missouri State University—Collegiate FFA
Spec Cast
Stone Manufacturing & Supply Company
Stuppy Greenhouse Manufacturing Company
Sunlight Growers, Inc.
SUNY Cobleskill
Superior Growers Supply
Swine Genetics International, Ltd.
Terra Industries
The Enl Co., Inc.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
The Humane Society of the United States
The Ohio State University
The University of Arizona
The University of Georgia
Titan Tire Corporation
Top Ten Music, Inc.
Toyota Technical Education Network
Tractor Supply Company
Tulsa Welding School
U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service
U.S. Army Recruiting Command
U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.
U.S. Department of Education—NAFCE
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. Navy Recruiting Command
University of Alaska Fairbanks—SAFRL
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture
University of California—Davis
University of Florida
University of Idaho
University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Kentucky—College of Agriculture Distance Learning Programs
University of Maryland, Institute of Applied Agriculture
University of Minnesota—Crookston
University of Minnesota—St. Paul
University of Missouri—Columbia
University of Nebraska—Lincoln
University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez
University of Wisconsin—Platteville
University of Wisconsin—Madison
University of Wisconsin—River Falls
University of Wyoming
Urban Laboratories
USDA ARS—National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research
USDA ARS Grain Marketing and Production Research Center
USDA Economic Research Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Foreign Agriculture Service
USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs
USDA National Agricultural Library
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service/CENSUS
USDA National Animal Disease Center
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Office of Inspector General
USDA Risk Management Agency—Topeka Regional Service Office
USDA Rural Development
Virginia Tech, College of Agriculture & Agricultural Education
Vita-Key Supplements
Washington State University
Western Illinois University, Agriculture Department
Western Kentucky University
Winchester Ammunition-Olin Corporation
WIX Filters Products Division of Data Corporation
Woman’s Christian Temperance Union
Wood-Mizer Products, Inc.
World Aquaculture Society
Zeecraft Tech.
Courtesy Corps

The spirit of volunteerism was alive and well at the 71st National FFA Convention as hundreds of members donated valuable time to help others make the connection during convention week. Courtesy Corps members mailed news releases, escorted guests, assisted backstage, and performed a myriad of behind-the-scenes tasks. Their pay was the sincere gratitude of national FFA staff, and the more than 49,000 members and guests they served during the week.

The Courtesy Corps is a time-honored tradition at the convention, and FFA thanks those dedicated members and advisors who made the 71st national convention a memorable event.

ALABAMA: Billingsley; McAdory; Montevallo, Slocomb; Wetumpka
ALASKA: Palmer
ARIZONA: Aguia Fria; Canyon DeChelly; Highland, Mesa; Mesquite
ARKANSAS: DeValls Bluff, Lewisville
CALIFORNIA: Delano
CONNECTICUT: Northwestern Regional, Stamford
FLORIDA: Baker County Jr.; Bunnell Sr.; Columbia Sr.; Coral Reef, Dale City Sr., Deland Sr.; Dunnellon Sr.; Ft. Pierce Westwood; J.M. Tate; Lake Placid; Miami Sr.; North Marion Sr.; Northview; Orlando-Colonial; Pierson Taylor; Plant City; Sebring Sr.; South Fork; Suwannee; Taylor Sr.
IDAHO: Parma
ILLINOIS: Hillsboro; Metamora; Tri-Point
INDIANA: Carroll; Clinton Prairie; Indian Creek; Jac-Cen-Del; Liberty; North Harrison; North Newton; Prairie Heights; Scottsburg; South Adams; Star Academy; Triton Central; Western Boone; Tri-County
IOWA: Akron-Westfield; Anamosa; Centerville; East Union; Iowa State University; Laurens - Marathon; Linn-Mar; Maquoketa
KANSAS: Concordia; Holton
KENTUCKY: Lyon County; Madison Southern; Woodford County
LOUISIANA: Pearl River
MAINE: Ashland; Washburn
MICHIGAN: New Lothrop
MINNESOTA: Alexandria; Blue Earth; Lanesboro; Sibley County East; Stillwater
MISSOURI: Aurora; Couch; Crane; DeKalb; Linn County R-1; Nevada; Norborne; Northwestern; Palmyra; South Holt; Union; Walnut Grove; Washington; Willard
NEBRASKA: Battle Creek; Hartington; Leigh; Newman Grove; Scribner-Snyder; Sutton; Wauneta Palisade
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Alvirne; Seacoast School of Technology
NORTH CAROLINA: Clayton
NORTH DAKOTA: Kenmare; Northwood; South Heart
OHIO: A.B. Graham; Benjamin Logan; New Lexington; Pickaway-Ross; Vantage; Warren
OKLAHOMA: Alex; Altus; Alva; Calvin; Chisholm; Elk City; Fort Gibson; Grandfield; Guthrie; Medford; Mooreland; Pawnee; Reydon; Sand Springs; Sapulpa; Sayre; Sentinel; Silo; Snyder; Spioro; Verden
OREGON: Perrydale
SOUTH CAROLINA: Belton-Honea Path
SOUTH DAKOTA: Akeley-Hudson; Highmore; Lennox Sundstrom; McCook Central; Webster; Woonsneck
TENNESSEE: Parsons
TEXAS: A&M Consolidated; Academy; Agua Dulce; Aledo; Alvin; Anderson; Arlington-Martin; Athens; Banquete; Beeville; Bellevue; Bland; Bowie; Bremond; Bryan; Campbell; Caney Creek; Channelview; Chico; Clear Creek; Clear Lake; Clyde; College Station; Columbus; Crowley; Cypress Creek; Dayton; DeSoto; Deweyville; Dodd City; Franklin; Glen Rose; Gregory Portland; Groesbeck; Gunter; Harrold; Hartley; Honey Grove; Huntsville; Idalou; Llano; Llano Park; Kaufman; Killearn/Elison; Kirbyville; Lake Worth; Madisonville; Marcus; McKinney; Mexia; Miami; Mission; Montgomery; Morton; Palestine; Pasadena; Pilot Point; Plano East; Raymondville; Riesel; Rockdale; Salado; San Rayburn; Sealy; Snyder; Spring Branch; Springlake - Earth; Texline; Tolar; Tom Bean; West Brook; Willis; Wilson; Woodlands-McCullough; Yoakum
VIRGINIA: Dinwiddie; Fauquier County; Louisa; Park View
WISCONSIN: Alma Center; Lincoln; Gillett; Green Bay Preble; New Glarus; Oconto Falls; Pulaski; Reedsville; Weyauwega - Fremont; Elk Mound

A certain breed of FFA member went beyond the call of duty to serve convention-goers as part of the Courtesy Corps. From stuffing envelopes to playing “gopher,” the folks in the yellow arm bands were a vivid example of “living to serve.”
**Business**

FFA members from across the nation gathered in the Municipal Auditorium to address pending issues concerning the future of FFA. This group of 468 committed members started their work two days before the convention’s opening session. They met for hours in committee gatherings Monday and Tuesday to draft proposals for consideration by the National FFA Board of Directors.

It was time to share their work during the next day’s delegate sessions. Blue jackets arose from the delegate body proudly displaying their state associations during roll call Wednesday morning. The delegates approved the *Proceedings* from the 1997 convention and passed the Treasurer’s report. Committee reports followed as members used their parliamentary procedure skills to debate proposed issues.

The Communications and Public Relations Committee recommended developing a national strategic plan to educate the media about the mission and goals of FFA. In the area of communication technology, delegates proposed creating a full-time internship to maintain the National FFA Homepage. The Agricultural Education Trends Committee also suggested the National FFA Homepage develop links to sponsors’ websites, with the possibility of virtual tours of the companies. The Chapter Activities committee attempted to broaden the scope of FFA talent by suggesting the creation of an FFA member art exhibit at the national FFA convention.

The delegation debated a proposed amendment to the national constitution allowing sixth graders to join the FFA. Delegates gave heartfelt testimonies addressing this issue. After extensive discussion, the delegation voted to fail the amendment.

As the gavel tapped closing the last business session Saturday, delegates left the meeting knowing they had made a difference in the future of FFA.
**Official Delegates**

ALABAMA: Kevin Galloway, Felicia Coe, Nathan Dewberry, Josh Dozier, Jeanie Edwards, Jennifer Edwards, Ryan Galloway, Noel Goneke, Lonny Jackson, Dustin Kittle, Vanessa Kretschmar, Adam McGee, Matt Parnell, Kenneth Smith, Bryce Ulrich, Eric Williams, Tremayne Wilson

ALASKA: Amy Kenley, Lem Wheeles

ARIZONA: Brian Fuller, Jeff Maynard, Marmee Mitchell, Jamie Rovey, Shauna Dawn Smith

ARKANSAS: David Brightwell, Nikki Cooper, Morris Crill, Claude Dabbs, Amanda Drake, Samantha Easley, Ryan Maloch, Jordan May, Angela Poole, Amanda Sands, Misty Smith, Wendie Wally, Sheri Youngblood

CALIFORNIA: Christina Abe, Andrea Adams, Matt Archer, Debi Batini, Courtney Borrelli, Chandra Borrelli, Craig Bosworth, Lynelle Bosworth, Angela Browning, Lindsey Bughee, Kristen Callens, Kristen Chaney, Julie Cope, Andrew Copen, Josh Davy, Nicholas Diaz, Frances Echeverria, Mandy Foreman, Melissa Gomes, Lauren Green, Nate Green, Scott Grumbles, Tracy Haas, Summer Hackett, Pamela Heuvel, Leigh Love, Jessica Lovett, Kevin Luiz, Chris Madsen, Kevin Mathy, Sophia Meyer, Rafael Mozqueda, Douglas Paasch, John Paasch, Jake Parnell, Luke Parnell, Jeffrey Sanders, Sharlene Swaim, Erin Thompson, Greg Van Dyke, Trevor Weaver, Dane White

COLORADO: Molly Brown, DaShanda Gillespie, Juli Rogers, Kasey Jo Walker, Clint Wedel

CONNECTICUT: Heather Attardo, Elyse Giles, Erin Sepe, Stacey Stearns

DELAWARE: Kara Kochis, Rosemarie Parag, Terri Lynn Warren

FLORIDA: Ben Butler, Casey Ferguson, Dusty Holley, Kyle Hudson, Barrett Keene, Jeremy Lee, Jimmy Lefls, Amanda Perry, Abby Sameck, Ronnie Simmons, Amanda Smith, Chris Vitelli, Amy Wacaser

GEORGIA: Jonathan Ayers, Mary Ann Davis, Amy Day, Nicole Doster, Clint Hubbard, Jennifer Hughes, Krista Jowers, Sally Mason, Philip Mckie, Terry McNair, Carl Stalvey, Adam Verner

HAWAII: Dawn Ah Hee, Mahina Johnson

IDAHO: Jake Brackett, Missy Johnson, Wendy Schweitzer, Jessica Skinner, Josh Tewalt

ILLINOIS: Parker Bane, Elisabeth Carroll, Jay Harris, Stephani Hess, Jake Hughes, Tim McDermott, Shane McNeil, Nate Olson, Nate Puleo, Jenny Schaeler, Genny Schutz, Bridget Stremsterfer, Beth Wilson, Abel Wurmest

INDIANA: Dustin Boler, Kyle Bymaster, Stacia Cash, Chris Geswein, Robert Johnson, Matt McDowell, Jonathan Taylor, Misty Wegman, Craig Weismann

IOWA: Jayna Appleby, Debra Dennison, Randy Drcher, Nathan Gibson, Thomas Goodhue, Jay Jung, Nick McKenna, Cathy Stiegel, Jacqueline Verner, Matthew Welp, Brad Weston, Mike Witt

KANSAS: Jill Casten, Devin Schiebling, Leslie Small, Lance Stafford, Matt Wolters, Becky Zenger

KENTUCKY: Jonathan Adams, Jimmy Allen, Tara Cockrell, Rachel Hall, Anthony Koch, Hannah Lovell, Aaron Miller, Jonathan Oaks, Brandon Reed, Sarah Sallee, Justin Taylor, Clay Wells, Sara Williamson

LOUISIANA: Joseph Badeaux, Shelly Fontenot, Tim Hall, Barrett Hargrave, Lori Beth Hayes, Josh Hicks, Erica Loupe, Mindy Pierson, Kristi Redlich, Lyle Sible, Christien Weeks

MAINE: Joseph Ramos, Kristy Soucy

MARYLAND: Christopher Burch, Diane Ogg, Dora Smith

MASSACHUSETTS: Cortine Blum, Aaron Caswell, Jennie Nelson

MICHIGAN: Nathan Clark, Jenny Daniels, Jennifer Leininger, Dennis Peterson, Lisa Poshumus, Jackie Swihart

MINNESOTA: Betsy Bianchi, Jeremy Dauber, Ben Jager, Nadia Lalee, Darin Madson, Hector Mattys, Robert Parke, Dusty Schilling, Kelly Schmidt, Kelly Tanghe

MISSISSIPPI: Patrick Colley, Brandon Davis, Justin Downs, John Kelly, Shannon Mayo, Paula Runge


NEBRASKA: Julie Brester, Sally Bush, Monte Else, Jodi Evans, Brady Fritz, Adam Pavelka, Lisa Schaneman

NEVADA: Jay Dalton, Chap Pratt, Flint Wright

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Elizabeth Kaiser, Dennis Perkins, Linnae Selina


NEW MEXICO: Marshall Baker, Chris Daughey, Azori Dodd, Jake Hill, Christine Hopkins, Kelly Jones

NEW YORK: Matt Hobart, Britney O'Conner, Lorel Price, Aaron Vaughan, Zack Wilcox

NORTH CAROLINA: Tiffany Bautcom, Matthew Bowman, Amber Drees, Mark Elliott, Becky Hines, Sabrina Kimrey, Misty Lambert, Devon Lewis, Aaron Maye, Aaron Messer, Lyndie Mairhead, John Peterson

Tremayne Wilson of Alabama listens attentively during a business session. Official delegates strengthened their parliamentary procedure skills while discussing the future of the national organization.
NORTH DAKOTA: Nicole Gullickson, Kristy Jorde, Missy Montgomery, Gregory Mostad, KarriAnn Seeger, Jon Solberg
OHIO: Elizabeth Alstaetter, David Andre, Emily Bisdorf, Julie Chance, Gregory Dague, Lisa-Marie Ehlerding, Chad Endslay, Randy Fisher, Sue Hoop, Lea Kaufman, Lesley King, Meredith Massy, Jason Oman, Carriete Rhoades, Jason Sharp, Joe Shultz, Matt Smith, Kellie Warner, Kim Woodard
OKLAHOMA: Joey Adamek, Mel Albright, Leslie Ballou, Joshua Brecheen, Ginger Bright, Nick Brown, David Deskin, Chad Dimmick, Whitney Ferris, Bart Fischer, Tembrak Gatlin, Amber Harless, Jordana Harrison, Trapper Heglin, Josh King, David Miller, Robyn Ott, Steve Sanders, Casey Sharber, Adam Tibbets, Carrie Trenew>/nOREGON: Tracey Baune, Benjamin Harris, Brett Jeter, Jared Kerr, Ben Van Dyke
PA: Laurie Bish, Allyson Cole, Danielle Cowden, Travis Donough, Herbert Hoffeditz, Dan Kreider, Karen Reed, Britina Robinson, Jennifer Witmer, Luke Zerby
PUERTO RICO: Jose DeJesus, Marisel San Miguel, Zoila Rodriguez, Lynnette Sorrentini
RHODE ISLAND: Dennis Eichells, Adam Hebert
SOUTH CAROLINA: Jason Creamer, Scott Ellis, Johnathan Foxworth, Ben Hutto, Iris Peeler, Zac Terry
SOUTH DAKOTA: Tiffany Anderson, Rachel Melhaf, Kathy Mickel, Shane Reis, Nathan Sanderson
TENNESSEE: Karen Adams, Matt Barnes, Melissa Honaker, Stephanie Johnson, Jarrod Jordan, Glenn LaFollette, Michael Lamb, Kristen Moore, Karen Newsom, Grace Page, Shannon Rebun, Julie Shew
UTAH: Jerry Fowers, Haley Hunting, Justen Selman, Rodney Spencer, Kasee Sweat
VERMONT: Kylie Quesnel, Carrie Telgen
WEST VIRGINIA: David Aberegg, Tyrell Childers, Roger Hanshaw, Michael Shambalan, Julie Wilkins
WISCONSIN: Chris Brewer, Kathi Brown, Arlana Gonske, Tolea Kamm, Jennifer Mundt, Kristan Noeldner, Marie Preuss, David Rolli, Joshua Rusk, Nathan Russell, Jill Schaffner, Derin Tangwall, Jeannie Winkelma, Eric Zellmer, Sara Zimmerman
WYOMING: Melisa Griffith, Cody Smith, Traci Walton, Corey Whitlock

Official delegates review committee reports before discussion opens for recommendations to the National Board of Directors.
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION TRENDS

We recommend:

Technology
1. Create a video and or packet/pamphlet promoting technology in agriculture targeting existing and potential sponsors and supporters of the FFA.
2. Include more articles and pictures involving technology in FFA publications such as New Horizons, Making A Difference, Leadership Connection, and the National FFA Homepage.
3. Make available interactive TV or distance learning to temporarily fill the need for more agriculture teachers.
4. Expand and improve the National FFA Homepage and recruitment videos, as well as create posters highlighting technology in FFA.
5. Add links from the National FFA Homepage to the homepage of our national sponsors in order to highlight technology in their companies through virtual Internet tours of their companies.

Teacher Recruitment/Retention
1. Follow through with informative mailings to those students who mark agricultural education interests on the national roster.
2. Establish a teacher recognition program through the New Horizons magazine, which highlights several agricultural educators per month.
3. Develop a proficiency award which highlights agricultural education as a career.
4. Develop an insert in the Alumni Newsletter which focuses on ways alumni can volunteer to provide assistance to instructors and support local chapters.

Components of Agricultural Education
1. Make available the regional guide upon request for teachers needing laboratory materials, resource contacts, and lesson plan ideas.
2. Develop a core curriculum to be available from the National Council of Agricultural Educators highlighting the main areas of agriculture.
3. Support the SAE by providing a new, more concise definition of the SAE as well as incorporating it as a larger part of the FFA materials (Official Manual, Student Handbook, etc.) and previously recommended curriculum.
4. Sponsor in-service programs with state vocational agriculture teacher organizations to better educate agriculture teachers about programs and issues available in agriculture and the FFA.
5. Make incentives available to teachers of chapters who meet certain criteria, for example: 100% membership and participation in state degree programs, CDEs, proficiency programs, and National Superior Chapter award programs.

Student Involvement and Enrollment
1. Establish a celebrity spokesman for agricultural education and FFA to provide more media coverage to inform the public about the changes in agricultural education and FFA.
2. Revise the current agricultural education and FFA pamphlets that are provided. Develop one geared toward administration showing academics and life training skills, and another geared toward students showcasing fun and rewarding opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amanda Smith, FL (Chair)  
Jake Yancey, WA (Vice Chair)  
Joshua Hicks, LA  
Iris Peeler, SC  
Tim McDermott, IL  
Amanda Hofmann, MO  
Brad Weston, IA  
Betsy Bianchi, MN  
Clay Wells, KY  
Lindsey Bugbee, CA  
Jordan C. Freeman, TX  
Adam Verner, GA  
Amanda Sands, AR  
David Miller, OK  
Randy Fisher, OH  
Jodi Evans, NE  
Karen Reed, PA  
Genny Schultz, IL  
Deidra Liggert, TX  
Adam Byrd, TX  
Lauren Green, CA  
Lisa-Marie Ehlerding, OH  
Kevin Calloway, AL  

Thomas Goodhue, IA  
Adam Hebert, RI  
Jacquelyn Kuykendall, TX  
Adam Tibbetts, OK  
Amber Drees, NC  
Beau Anderson, MT  
Koby D. Reed, TX  
Chris Biehler, VA  
Garrett Hawkins, MO  
Kevin Lutz, CA  
Clint Hubbard, GA  
Eric Zellmer, WI  
Roo Parag, DE  
Marnee Mitchell, AZ  
Dustin Kittle, AL  
David Brightwell, AR  
Christina Abe, CA  
Stacey Stearns, CT  
Ben Butler, FL  
Chris Geswein, IN  
Jill Casen, KS  
Dusty Moore, TX  
Arlaina Gonske, WI

* Indicates priority recommendation
Chapter Activities

We recommend:

Program Development
1.* Design a recruitment packet available on disk through the supply service to include the following: recruitment workshop lesson plans, visual aids, videos, sample letters to parents, activities for younger members, and educational workshops to inform the community and school administration about FFA.
2.* Offer students internships with major agriculture companies through the National FFA Organization.
3. Expand the content of recruitment training at NLCSO and BLAST OFF.
4. Promote CDEs designed for different age groups.
6. Develop a motivational retention packet.
7. Use the National FFA Homepage as an informational source on career options, college partnerships, and scholarship options. Expand the interest assessment to include more career options and possible CDEs.

Program Evaluation
1.* Develop a standardized form to collect innovative fundraising activities and funding sources (grants, etc.). Compile ideas into a publication available to chapters.
2.* Offer interactive videos and workshop presentations ready for state associations and local chapters to promote the following areas: Project PALS, Agri-Science Fair/Student Recognition, Food for America, International Opportunities, National Chapter Award, H.O. Sargent Award, and Entrepreneurship.
3. Establish a recognition program at the state level for Project PALS modeled after the National Chapter Award Program.
4. Continue to recognize award program winners in FFA New Horizons.
5. Improve accessibility of award applications by making them available on the National FFA Homepage.
6. Support the efforts of rewording award applications to improve students’ understanding.

Diversity and Inclusion
1.* Create a recruitment video targeted at the chapter level with the intent to promote diversity to include information about the following: H.O. Sargent Award, Agriscience Fair, National FFA Band and Chorus, non-traditional Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs/Proficiency Awards, and other diverse FFA activities.
2.* Create an art exhibit at the national FFA convention that showcases FFA members’ artistic talent.
3. Incorporate diversity and include training in state officer leadership programs (i.e. BLAST OFF, State Presidents’ Conference, National Leadership Conference for State Officers, and national FFA convention.).
4. Create web pages targeted at all chapters with links to FFA applications (i.e. H.O. Sargent, Agriscience Fair), financial opportunities (scholarships, awards, grants, etc.), and traditional and non-traditional Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs.
5. Feature FFA members’ art work in the FFA New Horizons magazine.
6. Encourage advisors and members to create or participate in local, state, and national exchange programs in order to increase diversity.

Chapter Relations
1.* Create curriculum information that helps integrate agriculture into classes such as science, math, and communications (i.e. biological or physical science applied to agriculture).
2.* Secure funding to send administrators to national FFA convention.
3. Educate non-agricultural oriented administrators and teachers by inviting them to FFA functions. Accomplish this by gaining endorsements from teacher groups and organizations, and sending information to the aforementioned teacher organizations about our programs (i.e. Agriscience Fair, contests, etc.).
4. Contact national non-agriculture media for coverage in all areas of media (i.e. Newsweek, The Today Show, Oprah, etc.).
5. Create an information packet explaining step-by-step community service programs (i.e. Project PALS, Habitat for Humanity).
6. Create an academic challenge program dealing with agriculture, similar to Odyssey of the Mind to include: agriculture engineering, science, and business/financial aspects.
7. Create a forum at national FFA convention of non-agricultural students and teachers to give their view on issues pertinent to FFA.
8. Create a national award for administrators based on their support of and involvement in the FFA.
9. Create a national publication for administrators and counselors with agriculture education programs to focus on career success and student involvement similar to Leadership Connections and FFA Advisors Making a Difference.
10. Develop a program for chapter officers to present to teachers and administrators about the FFA.
11. Create a booklet of letters of satisfaction and approval of the FFA by public officials, universities, and influential people.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ben Grove, VA (Chair)  
Jay Harris, IL (Vice Chairman)  
Josh Dozler, AL  
Matt Parnell, AL  
Angela N. Poole, AR  
Brian Fuller, AZ  
Matt Archer, CA  
April Chaney, CA  
Tracy Haas, CA  
Kevin Mathy, CA  
Heather Azard, CT  
Casey Ferguson, FL  
Mary Ann Davis, GA  
Nate Gibson, IA  
Nate Olson, IL  
Stacia J. Cash, IN  
Tara Cockrell, KY  
Devin Schieving, KS  
Shelly C. Fontenoe, LA  
Corrine Blum, MA  
Kristy Soucier, ME  
Lisa Posthumus, MI  
Darin Madson, MN  
Justin Dowens, MS  
Kelley Rohlhfing, MO  
Aaron Messer, NC  
Jon Solberg, ND  
Brady M. Fritz, NE  
Nichole Steward, NJ  
Flint Wright, NV  
Julie Chance, OH  
Ginger Bright, OK  
Mel Ray Albright, OR  
Allyson Cole, PA  
Lynnette Sorrentini, PR  
Jason Creamer, SC  
Tiffany Anderson, SD  
Matt Barnes, TN  
Meredith Cook, TX  
Trent McKnight, TX  
Cade Morris, TX  
Erin Schroeder, TX  
Justin Selman, UT  
Nathan Hahtner, WA  
Sara Zimmerman, WI  
Traci Walton, WY

* Indicates priority recommendation
**Career Success Activities**

We recommend:

**American FFA Degree**
1. Keep the present requirements the same for the American FFA Degree.
2. Ask the National Task Force on Agricultural Proficiencies to more clearly define the terms used in the American FFA Degree application.
3. Present recipients with a wallet-sized card that identifies them as an American FFA Degree recipient.
4. Commend the National Task Force on Agricultural Proficiencies for their service to the organization and encourage them to continue their hard work.
5. Seek a sponsor for a scholarship for recipients of the American FFA Degree.
6. Recognize American FFA Degree recipients through a “parade of recipients” allowing them to walk through during a session other than the award session.
7. Add a statement about candidates’ integrity to the American FFA Degree application in addition to current signature statements.
8. Encourage the National Task Force on Agricultural Proficiencies to no longer pursue FFA degrees for junior high members, but instead seek to increase retention by promoting achievement in the FFA.

**Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE)**
1. Develop a marketing plan that promotes the simplicity, rewards and benefits, and the importance of SAE programs.
2. Provide informative workshops and other materials for advisors that would encourage involvement of SAE in the classroom curriculum.
3. Set guidelines to what an acceptable SAE is, as applied to a national award or recognition.
4. Promote SAE to middle school programs.
5. Increase awareness of how SAE can compare to work-based training.

**Career Development Events**
1. Review all current and proposed Career Development Events for possible clustering and combining of all CDEs that are related to the same career.
2. Produce a Spanish version of the *Official FFA Manual*, including CDE material, supplied by the National FFA Organization.
3. Develop a Spanish division of all Career Development Events (i.e., public speaking, parliamentary procedure)
4. Review all current CDEs, looking specifically at the integration of technology as new innovations arise.
5. Maintain a non-restricted number of career development events so as not to hinder growth, and maintain the current systems of minimum participation standards for career development events.

**Proficiency Awards**
1. Follow the recommendations of the National Task Force on Agricultural Proficiencies.
2. Award as many proficiency areas as funding allows, separating entrepreneurship and placement categories. Awards should be relevant to the current agricultural industry, and should change as the industry evolves.

3. Revise the application by adding three references (name, title, address, phone number) to the resume and add the following questions.
   a. How has your FFA experience benefited your project?
   b. If given the time and resources, what is one improvement you would make to your project?
4. Require at least one proficiency judge to have experience or involvement in that area of the industry.

**Respectfully Submitted:**

Barret Hargrav, LA (Chair)
Lisa Schaneman, NE (Co-Chair)
Felicia Coe, AL
Adam McGee, AL
Lem Wheeles, AK
Sheri Youngblood, AR
Jamie Rovey, AZ
Kristen Callens, CA
Scott Grumbles, CA
Chris Madsen, CA
Molly Brown, CO
Erin Sepe, FL
Jonathan Ayers, GA
Kyle Bymaster, IN
Jayma Appleby, IA
Jenny Schaefer, IL
Matt Walters, KS
Anthony Koch, KY
Christin Weeks, LA
Jeremy Daberkov, MN
Dennis Peterson, MI
Joshlin Yoder, Mo
Chrsisy Hopkins, NM
Dennis Perkins, NM
Sabrina Kimrey, NC
Greg Mostad, ND
David Andre, OH
Jason Oman, OH
David Deskir, OK
Brett Jeter, OR
Laurie Bish, PA
Zoila Rodriguez, PR
Nathan Sandersen, SD
Jarrod Jordan, TN
Karen Newman, TN
Jimmy Birkhead, TX
Wendy Palmore, TX
Tommy Seay, TX
Merdith Schacht, TX
Kasee Sweat, UT
Taranda Shawman, VA
Becky Isenhart, WA
Tolea Kamen, WI
Derin Tangwall, WI

FFA members “learn by doing” in the National Career Development Events during the convention. This member is choosing the perfect blossoms to create a flower arrangement during the Floriculture contest.
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

We recommend:

Media Relations
1. Develop a national strategic plan in order to educate the media about the FFA mission and goals.
2. Identify a national spokesperson to promote FFA and agricultural education.
3. Create a series of Public Service Announcements to promote public awareness of FFA and agricultural education funded as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.
4. Develop media education materials to create partnerships with the media, and provide training to state officers on how to use the materials.

Communication Strategies
1. Redesign focus of recruitment videos to use as visual aids in workshops.
2. Produce television commercials.
3. Create a section on community outreach to be included at Maie For Excellence and Washington Leadership Conferences.
4. Present key messages that reinforce the FFA story.
5. Invite people not involved in education or agricultural industry to judge various FFA awards to expose them to the FFA.

Communication Technology
1. Create an internship to work full time on the National FFA Homepage.
2. Develop links to all state websites from the National FFA Homepage.
3. Explore the addition of new features to the National FFA Homepage (i.e. educational media, applications, CDE study guides, registration forms).
4. Develop a national listserve of e-mail addresses (national, state, and local).
5. Develop marketing plan for National FFA Homepage.
6. Utilize broadcasting systems to promote and publicize the FFA.
7. Standardize software program for creating newsletters.

Current FFA Transitions
1. Inform FFA members, advisors, and residents about Louisville by distributing information such as maps, posters, and brochures; include a countdown theme utilizing newspapers, magazines, internet; New Horizons, television, radio, billboards, sports arenas, and booths at the National Farm Machinery show in Louisville.
2. Provide tours in and around Louisville for advisors and state FFA officers in the summer months prior to the 1999 National FFA Convention.
3. Provide shuttles during the 1999 National FFA Convention traveling from Louisville to the National FFA Center in Indianapolis.
4. Provide an incentive package for students to visit the National FFA Center throughout the year.
5. Explore possibilities of promoting FFA through the use of the Speedway in Indianapolis.
6. Book notable speakers to attract FFA members to the 1999 National FFA Convention (i.e. George Strait, Paul Harvey, Elizabeth Dole, the President or major political figure, Andy Rooney, or famous comedian).

Respectfully Submitted:

Dusty Holley, FL (Chair)  Becky Hines, NC
Mandy Foreman, CA (Vice Chair)  Kari Ann Seeger, ND
Amy Kenley, AK  Kelly Jones, NM
Jeanie Edwards, AL  Lesley King, OH
Kenneth Smith, AL  Kim Woodard, OH
Morris Grile, AR  Trapper Heglin, OK
Debi Batini, CA  Steve Sanders, OK
Andrew Copen, CA  Tracy Baune, OR
Sophia Meyer, CA  Herb Hoffeditz, PA
Kyle Hudson, FL  Jose V. De Jesus, PR
Jennifer Hughes, GA  Zac Terry, SC
Nich Mckenna, IA  Michael Lamb, TN
Catherine Striegel, IA  Mary Kay Carter, TX
Jake Hughes, IL  Will Dickson, TX
Matt McDowell, IN  Brandon Hill, TX
Lance Stafford, KS  Brigette Jones, TX
Becky Zenger, KS  Paul Strawther, TX
Jonathan Adams, KY  R.J. Spencer, UT
Mindy Pierson, LA  Warren McLellan, VA
Jackie Swihart, MI  Kylie Queensel, VT
Kelly Schmidt, MN  Elizabeth Abbey, WA
Nicholas Rausch, MO  Joshua Rusk, WI
Brandon L. Davis, MS  Roger Hanshaw, WV
Chap Pratz, NV  Corey Whistlock, WY

* Indicates priority recommendation
**FFA Publications**

We recommend:

**FFA New Horizons**
1. * Further investigate having personalized inserts.
2. Increase the number of traditional agricultural articles.
3. Incorporate other learning styles, add a statistical/informational page with facts about agriculture and the FFA.
4. Place more emphasis on CDEs.
5. Customize the first issue new members receive.
7. Highlight one Star Advisor per issue.
8. Create a packet of state inserts and a letter to be sent to all state staff educating them about state inserts.
9. Incorporate “10 Hot Ag Careers” in facts page.
10. Allow more interaction with members by holding photo and essay contests.
11. Create puzzles, games or crosswords dealing with articles from that issue.

**Handbook and Manual**
1. * Utilize page space by eliminating large outer margins.
3. Relate pictures on page to page topics. (ex: pg 50, 13 & 23)
4. Add interactive team building activities for chapter officers to the FFA Student Handbook.
5. Add a reference page to the FFA Student Handbook containing addresses. (Ex: USDA, National Center, etc.)
7. Develop a way to code topics of the Official FFA Manual (ex: colors or tabs).
8. Include middle school opportunities in the FFA Student Handbook.

**New Ideas**
1. * Simplify the front page of the National FFA Homepage by eliminating text and adding pictures and graphic elements.
2. Make access to local chapters on the internet more user friendly by adding a site map or search engine on the homepage.
3. Add links on the National FFA Homepage to our sponsor's page and vice versa.
4. Add “FFA Facts” to National FFA Homepage and update monthly.
5. Create an e-mail service that will provide monthly updates on upcoming events, deadlines, etc., to FFA members and chapters who wish to subscribe.
6. Initiate a national advertising campaign in publications not produced by FFA.
7. Develop national FFA scholarship and American FFA Degree applications online.

**Teacher/Advisor Publications**
1. * Develop a reminders page in FFA Advisors Making a Difference concerning national deadlines and events.
2. Revise cover page of FFA Advisors Making a Difference by changing color, font, adding pictures, and arranging the placement of words to add reader appeal.
4. Encourage advisors to submit lessons or labs to be featured in FFA Advisors Making a Difference.

**Respectfully submitted:**

Leslie Small, KS (Chair)  
Jordan May, AR (Vice Chair)  
Vanessa K. Kretzschmar, AL  
Ryan Maloch, AR  
Shauna Dawn Smith, AZ  
Jake Parnell, CA  
Jeffery Sanders, CA  
Trevor Weaver, CA  
Abby Sameck, FL  
Sally Mason, GA  
Matthew Wells, IA  
Jessica Skinner, ID  
Gina Puleo, IL  
Jonathan Taylor, IN  
Jimmy Allen, KY  
Kristi Redlich, LA  
Brian Joyer, MN  
Melody Higgensonboom, MO  
Tiffany Rouse, MO  
John Kelly, MS  
Levi Keyes, MT  
Aaron Maye, NC  
Linaae Selings, NH  
Jake Hill, NM  
Lorelly Price, NY  
Leila Haufman, OH  
Carrie Rhodees, OH  
Tembra Gatlin, OK  
Jordana Harrison, OK  
Ben Van Dyke, OR  
Travis Danough, PA  
Dennis Echells, RI  
Ben Hutto, SC  
Glenn LaFollette, TN  
Nathan Daniels, TX  
Becky Grover, TX  
Ty Hamm, TX  
Sara Johnson, TX  
Ross Schultz, TX  
Lindsey Shumaker, TX  
Rebecca Begoan, VA  
Carrie M. Telgen, VT  
Jodi Frederick, WA  
Jeanne Winkelman, WI  
Cody Smith, WY

* Indicates priority recommendation

FFA members consult a newspaper in search of a fun way to spend the afternoon. Opportunities to explore Kansas City and its surrounding areas abounded, including historical sites and museums devoted to jazz, African-American culture and toys and miniatures.
Leadership and Personal Development

We recommend:

International Experience
1. Create an international tool kit which includes bulletin board decorating ideas, a promotional video, existing information and material on international experience programs to be made available to all FFA chapters by the National FFA Organization.
2. Produce an interactive CD-ROM game with information on foreign countries and the international experience programs that is similar to the "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" series. Lesson plan and instructional material should be created for the benefit of advisors.
3. Feature a country in the FFA New Horizons and on the National FFA Homepage to promote international experience programs. The website should include a sample of the interactive CD-ROM game.
4. Encourage national FFA staff to work closely with the National FFA Alumni Association to promote and obtain support for the international experience programs.

Leadership Continuum
1. Utilize all high school FFA members as mentors or high advisors to create a "PALS" type program targeting a diverse group of middle school students and focusing on personal development. Use counselors and administrators for program promotion.
2. Develop a scholarship to be awarded for collegiate FFA involvement to be given at national FFA convention.
3. Create a workshop series for collegiate FFA members to be offered at national FFA convention on mentoring chapter members.
4. Publicize information and activities of collegiate FFA on the internet, in FFA New Horizons, and through other means of communication (including Advanced Leadership Conference).
5. Introduce a regional camp emphasizing chapter team building offered to grades 9-12 and incorporating collegiate FFA as program directors.

Program Involvement/Diversity
The Program Involvement/Diversity Committee considered diversity in a cultural, age, urban vs. rural, geographic, race, gender, etc. sense.
1. Develop a diversity-based program and make it available for educators such as counselors, state officers, and teachers to aid in student education.
2. Educate state staff about diversity.
3. Reinstate the task force on diversity and begin constant follow-up of progress.
4. Establish web pages for chapter-to-chapter, and state-to-state exchange programs with a focus on, but not limited to, urban, rural and geographic diversity.
5. Continue to include background diversity in publications and promotional materials.

Program Awareness
1. Expand the National FFA Homepage by developing interactive links on the specific programs offered by the National FFA Organization.
2. Develop a program that encourages FFA members to invite non-FFA members to MFE and/or create a new program for this purpose.
3. Create a return postcard to be included in FFA New Horizons that advertises and evaluates National FFA programs and events (postage paid by National FFA Organization).
4. Develop a system of scholarship awards based on essay contests or other contests, to benefit first-time participants who would like to attend National Leadership Conferences (i.e. WLC and MFE).

Respectfully submitted:

Adam Pavelka, NE (Chair)  Hector Matthes, MN
David Rolli, WI (Vice Chair)  Christine Long, MO
Jennifer Edwards, AL  Ben Martin, MO
Claude Dabbs, AR  Paula Jean Runge, MS
Samantha Easley, AR  LeRoy Schallenberger, MT
Jeff Maynard, AZ  Tiffany Baucum, NC
Chandra Borrelli, CA  Craig Lockwood, NM
Josh Davy, CA  Gregory Dague, OH
Pamela Heuvel, CA  Meredith Massy, OH
Rafael Mozqueda, CA  Chad Dinnick, OK
Ronnie, Simmons, FL  Josh King, OK
Krista Jowers, GA  Jared Kerr, OR
Carl Stalvey, GA  Dan Kreider, PA
Mike Witt, IA  Karen Adams, TN
Missy Johnson, ID  Shannon Reburn, TN
Shane McNeil, IL  Amanda Custy, TX
Beth Wilton, IL  Heather Lethow, TX
Robert Johnson, IN  Debbie Lee, TX
Misty Wegman, IN  Jarrod Smith, TX
Sarah Sallee, KY  Brandon Williamson, TX
Sara Williamson, KY  Eliza Baldwin, VA
Lori Beth Hayes, LA  David Aberegg, WV
Jennie Nelson, MA  Melissa Griffith, WV
Christopher Birch, MD  * Indicates priority recommendation

FFA members gained valuable skills in team management as they shared ideas concerning the future of the national organization during delegate committee meetings.
MARKETING AND MERCHANDISING

We recommend:

**Customer Relations**
1. Place catalog order forms on the National FFA Homepage.
2. Include official student catalog on the National FFA Homepage.
3. Target FFA parents and alumni with merchandise through alumni newsletters, direct mail, and FFA New Horizons.
4. Advertise a document for national FFA convention pre-registration.
5. Include a suggestion box on the National FFA Homepage.
6. Include evaluation postcard with the shipment.
7. Create an advisory team of FFA members that would interact with merchandising representatives.
8. Implement a touch tone phone service for ordering assistance.
9. Include an evaluation at teacher's conference on rotational basis.
11. Recommend follow up call by advisors on fax orders.
12. Create a separate line for customer service inquiries.
13. Place a representative in each time zone (due to time zone conflicts) to receive orders and forward to National FFA Center.

**Product Development**
1. Incorporate more subtle emblems used on all products.
2. Supply FFA swimwear; one piece for females, long trunks for males; with the insignia emblem.
3. Supply more styles of polo-type shirts.
4. Supply official men's black dress shoes. There could possibly be more than one price range/quality level/design for different needs.
5. Supply officer team shirts with officer labels on the shirts. Offer both polo and t-shirt styles.
6. Supply several styles of dress and casual belts.
7. Supply more narrow, or professional-looking suspenders that match the official tie or are black.
8. Supply sleeveless white shirts for girls.
9. Supply official white dress shirt that is:
   - 100% cotton
   - Long Sleeve
   - Wrinkle free
   - Variety of collar styles (button-down, tab collar)
10. Provide more stylish caps, such as letters D and J on page #12 in the 1998-99 Chapter Catalog.
11. Offer a judging team parka with a drawstring around the middle.
12. Offer mock turtleneck with emblem on the neck.
13. Offer a custom-fit blazer for male and female advisors, with emblem on the pocket or lapel.
14. Offer a gold, single-stud appreciation pin similar to state-sized pins to recognize local sponsors/partners.
15. Offer a simple money clip without knives.
17. Offer FFA receiver hitch insert.
18. Offer more license plated and window sticker designs.
19. Offer FFA car air-fresheners.
20. Offer a charm bracelet with different FFA emblems in both gold and silver.
21. Offer CD-ROM disk with clip-art, creed, motto, sample banquet programs, etc.

22. Offer a picture review of FFA activities on CD-ROM.
23. Offer a simple inexpensive, bi-fold, general purpose card, without mural.
24. Offer change fundraiser calendar to a lower price, more room for advertising, remove mural, and add generic pictures of FFA members.
25. Offer a shirt for advisors' children and future FFA members.
26. Offer Successor style posters with inspirational messages.
27. Design a state star Greenhand pin.
28. Offer engraved name plates for planners, briefcases, etc.
29. Offer an expanded line of button-up shirts.
30. Decrease lot size
31. Offer small earrings (size of small charm on chain) offered in both silver and gold.
32. Offer white pants for chorus members.
33. Remove items E and F on page #29 of the FFA Chapter Catalog; male and female light blue tie and scarf and replace style F with a different design to make colors uniform.
34. Increase the awareness about the availability of embroidery services.
35. Offer a complement of plaque and pin styles.
36. Modernize letterhead.

**Product Evaluation**
1. The predominant logo featured on the upper right hand corner of the 1998-99 FFA Chapter Catalog needs to be updated on all merchandise displaying this logo.
2. The following items be modified:
   - screen print on the back of t-shirts be made smaller;
   - pocket on the right side of jacket be sewn in a way that the degree chain elastics not interfere with the pocket function;
   - appearance of men's animal ties be more conservative;
   - officer station emblems return to a more traditional/carved appearance, i.e. Bust of Washington, Ear of Corn;
   - appearance and selection of Christmas cards be updated and increased;
   - software packages should include the screen saver;
   - emblem on the front of the official FFA jacket be made clearer/more accurate;
   - font/style of FFA merchandise be updated (i.e. place mats, shirts);
   - knife found in the 1998-99 FFA Chapter Catalog, page #25, item A be featured in a less prominent manner, but do not discontinue it.
3. The Ventures team offer a larger variety of these products:
   - options on how caps fit (a tighter fitting baseball cap-style);
   - options in prices of all products (i.e. jewelry and mom/dad shirts, etc.);
   - suspenders (add black, classic, button suspenders);
   - official polo;
   - windbreakers for team jackets;
   - trophy toppers (Quality of detail);
   - plaque design (conservative);
   - banquet products (i.e. Larger plastic cups and more re-useable items);
• official dress shirt be long sleeve and have a smaller emblem.
4. The following products be improved by increasing quality of product in the following areas:
• briefcases be made sturdier and improve the overall quality and professional appearance;
• state degree charms have uniform size/shape links, be more durable, and of a consistent length;
• plaques should be offered in a larger variety, including a more professional line of trophies (stained wood, etc.);
• trophies should be offered in a variety of sturdy plaques by offering a classic, more professional line of trophies (stained wood, etc.).
5. Offer the opportunity to order merchandise over the Internet.
6. Create a product evaluation survey (Ventures Team) to be distributed at state and national conventions, WLC, and in the FFA New Horizons to be used in combination with an incentive program as a means of evaluation current and potential products.

Marketing Strategies
1. Provide an online catalog service (download order form).
2. Incorporate advertisements in FFA New Horizons through the use of inserts or reply cards.
3. Hold an annual contest to design the cover of the Venture's catalog to be judged at the national FFA convention (refer to the layout design of the 1997-98 FFA Chapter Catalog).
4. Improve overall quality through implementation of new photos and a wider variety of product shots.
5. Advertise open discounts on bulk purchases.
6. Provide incentives for customers to purchase products.
7. Make products available at official FFA functions including MFE, state FFA conventions, and WLC.
8. Send the catalog biannually due to block scheduling.
10. Include copies of the FFA Chapter Catalog with orders.

Programming of Activities

We recommend:

1. Hold a workshop for chairs, vice-chairs and sub-committee chairs on the Monday of national FFA convention to discuss facilitation and techniques to run a committee. Have national FFA staff on hand to discuss committee meetings.
2. Ensure that a national staff person be on hand as much as possible in committee meetings. Furthermore, have a state staff person on each subcommittee.
3. Provide background materials for each committee and subcommittee. (i.e. American FFA Degree application, proficiency award application, H.O. Sargent)
4. Place delegates on committees they are familiar with.
5. Hold a meeting at State Presidents' Conference (SPC) with the Delegate Operation Coordinator.
6. Inform delegate coordinators with the actual process of conducting a committee meeting. Also, provide a delegate coordinator workshop at SPC.
7. Create a tool box that contains past committee reports and other documents to be passed down from year to year.
8. Mail all delegate orientation materials in one packet, bound together in some form.

Respectfully Submitted:

Barret Hargrave, LA (Chair)
Leslie Small, KS (Secretary)
Dusty Holley, FL
Amanda Smith, FL
Hannah Lovell, KY
Nathan Clark, MI
Jennifer Leininger, MI
Adam Pavelka, NE
Ben Grove, VA
Nathan Russell, WI

Respectfully Submitted:

Nathan Clark, MI (Chair)
Clint Wedel, CO (Vice Chair)
Misty Lambert, NC (Secretary)
Ryan Galloway, AL
Craig Bosworth, CA
Julie Cope, CA
Nikki Cooper, AR
Nick Diaz, CA
Doug Paasch, CA
Amy Wacaser, FL
Philip McKie, GA
Jake Brackett, ID
Parker Bane, IL
Elizabeth Carroll, IL
Dustin Boler, IN
Jonathan Oaks, KY
Justin Taylor, KY
Erica Loupe, LA
Diane Ogg, MD
Bob Parke, MN
Patrick Colley, MS
Eric Roller, MO
Amy Sullivan, MO
Julie Brester, NE

Elizabeth Kaiser, NH
Luke Ottinger Jr, NJ
Britney O'Conner, NY
Mark Elliott, NC
Emily Bisdorf, OH
Whitney Ferris, OK
Robyn Ott, OK
Jonathan Foxworth, SC
Shane Reid, SD
Kristen Moore, TN
Marcia Brzozowski, TX
Victor Guerra, TX
H. D. Laurence, TX
Jake Prince, TX
Danny Stiller, TX
Johnny Davis, VA
Jennifer Mundt, WI
Jill Schaffner, WI
Tyrell Childers, WV

* Indicates priority recommendation
Membership Recruitment and Participation

We recommend:

Agriculture Instructors
1. Create a leadership conference for agricultural instructors using the principles of BLAST Off and Made For Excellence with emphasis on SAE and opportunity workshops.
2. Develop a National Agriculture Teaching Award to promote teacher involvement (i.e. Rookie of the Year, 0-3 years, Veteran of the Year, 6+ years).
3. * Develop and distribute a survey concerning the problems with today’s agricultural education profession.
4. Furnish a toolbox for agriculture instructors similar to those used by the state officers.
5. Encourage states to implement a teacher-mentoring program.
6. Include a page in the FFA New Horizons magazine to recognize “star” agriculture instructors.
7. Organize an expense paid International Experience Abroad for instructors as a means for promoting excellence in the classroom, chapter.

Marketing
1. * Revise the “Why Not?” Campaign to increase membership.
2. Work with the Advisory Council to develop advertisements and public service announcements.
3. Supply state officers with materials and directions on making a State Recruitment Video – designed for each state’s specific needs.
4. Supply chapter advisors and officers with recruitment materials including: Outlined workshops, pamphlets, brochures, free materials (pens, bumper stickers, etc.), and posters.
5. Redesign and catch posters for the “Why Not?” campaign advertisements.
6. Display the National FFA Homepage address on all advertisement materials.
7. Make all “Why Not?” materials accessible from the Internet.
8. Partner with and get sponsorship from major industries such as: Beef Council, Pork Council, Dairy Council, etc., when designing advertisements.
9. Use well-known public figures that both inner city and rural members can identify with for new advertisements.
10. Organize regional recruitment teams, for example: state staff, state officers, and regional sponsors.
11. Have national trained staff visit and teach state officers how to market the FFA through business and industry tours.
12. Display adds, billboards, etc. that will target groups such as: parents, community leaders, school faculty, and members.

Partners
1. * Develop a Partner Development Program Packet for chapter presidents (See 70th National Convention #227) that would include any necessary partner development materials: 1.) Letter included that shows that this program is designed to help recruit members by better informing the partners of the opportunities of the FFA; 2.) Partner development brochures; 3.) Posters for display in chapter to track progress and serve as a checklist (i.e. Administration – Take along to an official event, Counselors-Help judge CDEs); and 4.) Partner development videos.
2. * Complement the Partner Development Program by developing an incentive program that will be offered to chapters based on the following criteria: raising chapter membership by 10% and completing the partner development checklist.

Recruitment/Retention of Members
1. Develop short-term SAE recognition/award programs
2. Develop Career Development Events specifically for sophomores and juniors.
3. * Develop a national survey for current FFA members to determine their program interests.
4. Provide resources for internships for junior and seniors with FFA partners.
5. Create a national program to develop local School-to-Work programs.
6. Create an award for recruitment efforts.
7. Continue and expand already existing agriculture campaigns with focus on skills that students can obtain.
8. Suggestions for Campaign Slogans: Future for America; Food for Thought; Creating Success Through Diversity; FFA: Your Key to Success; Ignite Your Ambition.
9. Develop a national survey for non-FFA members to determine how we can get them to join the FFA.
10. Create a national non-agriculture student workshop to show the advantage of FFA.
11. Provide more recruitment resources in the state officers’ toolbox.
12. Enhance the public relations aspect at NLCSO.
13. * Create national, non-agriculture major scholarships
14. Create a separate technology-based CDE.
15. Begin to integrate technology into all CDEs
17. Lay a foundation for national informative newsletters to administration and faculty.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nathan Russell, WI (Chair)  Terry Shepherd, MO
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Eric Williams, AL  Devon Lewis, NC
Wendie Wallis, AR  Missy Montgomery, ND
Lynelle Bosworth, CA  Chris Daughtery, NM
Frances Echeverria, CA  Zack Wilcox, NY
Leigh Love, CA  Elizabeth Altstaetter, OH
John Paasch, CA  Jason Sharp, OH
Kasey Jo Walker, CO  Joey Adamek, OK
Elyse Giles, CT  Bart Fischer, OK
Kara Kochis, DE  Luke Zerby, PA
Jeremy Lee, FL  Kathy McKelie, SD
Terry McNair, GA  Grace Page, TN
Mahina Johnson, HI  Ross Dobbs, TX
Wendy Schweitzer, ID  Louis Oriz, TX
Bridget Stremserfer, IL  Ali Palousek, TX
Craig Weisman, IN  Eric Pesek, TX
Jay Jung, IA  Lesley Rakowitz, TX
Rachel Hall, KY  John Slaughter, TX
Lyle Seibille, LA  Michael Taylor, TX
Tara Tanghe, MN  Brian Long, WA
Sally Greene, MO  Michael Shamin, WV
Shaundra Schaff, MT  Kashi Brown, WI

* Indicates priority recommendation
PARTNER DEVELOPMENT

We recommend:

Awareness Development
1. * Create a website authored by the Partner Development Team and a "how to" packet that will be sent to chapter officers which will include an outline for newsletters, information sheets, thank-you letters, example brochures, and other forms.
2. Present workshops at state Ag Teachers Association meetings on partner development.
3. Train state officers to present partner development workshops.
4. Include information on partner development at the local level in the alumni newsletters.
5. Send information and statistics about the success of FFA to partners.

Educational Development
1. * Investigate the need/interest for Ag Education/FFA in non-traditional systems such as home, private, and charter schools.
2. Identify and establish partnerships with national associations concerning home school systems.
3. Place Ag Education curriculum sources on the National FFA Homepage so that home school and/or private school associations may have access.
4. Create a reference index of possible Ag Education curriculum sources for all forms of education systems.

Governmental Development
1. Implement a government official recognition banquet at national FFA convention.
2. Create a government leader to FFA leader program at the national FFA convention.
3. * Create a "Tool Kit" for chapters to promote government partnerships.
4. Send FFA New Horizons to targeted groups of elected officials.
5. Investigate Internet links from government sites to the National FFA Homepage.
6. Develop curriculum/lesson plans for Ag Educators about the government's role in agriculture and the FFA.

Support Development
1. Create a survey to identify the best practices being used to gain support of partners at state and local levels.
2. Create a national recognition program for outstanding partnership development at state and/or local levels.
3. Review the partner development page of the website for accessibility, clarity, and creativity.
4. Develop specialized training in partner development for state officers taught through the Leadership Continuum.
5. Add a partner development division to the national chapter award.

Respectfully submitted:

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* Indicates priority recommendations

An FFA member in the Project PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support) mentoring program treats his friend to a paper-bag puppet show. PALS provides an opportunity for members to make the connection with at-risk youth in their communities.
The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff. The Proceedings was prepared and published by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The Agricultural Education Mission

The mission of Agricultural Education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource systems.

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