

New VISIONS



The Official Newsletter of the National FFA Alumni Association

Volume 10, Issue 1 • March 2005

Volunteer Development Training Program Proposed by FFA, Alumni

By J. Frank Saldaña

Without volunteers, many educational, health, cultural, and human service programs, along with the organizations created to deliver them, would cease to exist. Volunteers who donate their time, energy, and expertise play a key role in allowing these organizations to conduct their public outreach.

The role volunteers play can be as simple as transporting youth to and from various events. Those volunteers with appropriate training might coach and mentor youth in complex educational subjects. Regardless of their roles, volunteers contribute greatly to an organization's educational mission. (See sidebar article below for the value of volunteer service.)

To tap into the valuable service of volunteers, the National FFA Organization and National FFA Alumni Association are developing an educational training program that teaches FFA advisors, Alumni leaders, and others how to more effectively

recruit and use local volunteers. This program will have a three-pronged approach with educational materials prepared for pre-service, in-service, and peer-to-peer settings. The following program elements have already been identified:

- The Importance of Volunteers in Agricultural Education Programs
- Basics of Positive Youth Development
- Volunteer Identification/Recruitment/Placement/Retention
- Orientation/Training/Evaluation
- Volunteer Recognition
- Risk Management Issues
- Financial Management Issues
- Agricultural Education Program Development
- Database for Local Volunteer Enrollment

Developers foresee distribution of program materials beginning the summer of 2005. Visit www.ffa.org/alumni/ for more information.

The Value of Volunteerism

National trends show that the number of volunteers who dedicate time and services to public and governmental agencies continues to increase annually. In 1998, 56 percent of U.S. adults age 18 years or older volunteered, which translates into an estimated 109 million people (Independent Sector, 1999). U.S. volunteers donated on average 3.5 hours of service per week, totaling 19.9 billion hours of service given to respective charities and programs annually. In all, the U.S. volunteer workforce represented the equivalent of over nine million full-time employees at a value of \$225 billion (Independent Sector, 1999).

How were these volunteers recruited? Ninety percent volunteered when they were asked. Forty-two percent discovered volunteer activities through personal contact, and 35 percent through participation in an organization (Independent Sector, 1999). Fifty-one percent of all volunteers indicated that they had been involved in some activity with a family member (Independent Sector, 2001). The volunteers who participated with other family members averaged 4.3 hours of voluntary service per week in 1998. According to Independent Sector (2001), 34.8 percent of families volunteer in education-based programs, while 40.9 percent volunteer in youth development organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Junior Achievement.

2005 CALENDAR

Dates when items must be postmarked to National

May 15 – New Date Beginning 2005 Rosters due to National to qualify for awards and delegates

Legion of Merit applications

June 15

State Leaders Conference Registration

July 1 – New Date Beginning 2005 LPS Grant applications

July 1

Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate, Outstanding/Pioneer State Association, Outstanding Achievement, and National Distinguished Contributor applications; and Scrapbooks

State-to-State Mentor Program application
Alumni Council Nominations

July 15

Auction Items to appear in Catalog

July 26-31

State Leaders Conference, Columbus, OH

October 26-28

National FFA Alumni Auctions
Louisville, KY

October 27-28

National FFA Alumni Convention
Louisville, KY

Visit our website at www.ffa.org/alumni/ for updated Alumni information or to download award applications.

Forms can be requested by sending a message via e-mail to bhaig@ffa.org or by phoning 317-802-4293. Forms will be mailed via the U.S. Postal Service.

ROUND TABLE

The Advocacy Power of the FFA Alumni

NAAE and the various members of the agricultural education family are calling on all FFA Alumni members to become involved in advocating for our programs at the local, state, and national levels. It is time to mobilize FFA Alumni nationwide to support the future of our programs.

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

For the second consecutive year, we are facing an uphill battle to obtain passage of federal legislation that authorizes the government to expend funds on career and technical education, including agricultural education and the FFA. The Bush administration is not supportive of our programs. President Bush campaigned on taking federal funds from programs such as career and technical education and using them for "No Child Left Behind" initiatives. Fortunately, we have many friends in the United States Congress who do, indeed, value career and technical education programs, including agricultural education.



Wm. Jay Jackman

ACTION NEEDED

With these challenges ahead, FFA Alumni members are encouraged to contact their congressional members and ask them to

support the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. We cannot assume that congressional members will make the connection between career and technical education and agricultural education/FFA.

As you communicate with your elected federal officials:

- inform them of your involvement and support for agricultural education and the FFA,
- describe the excellent activities of your local agricultural education program and FFA chapter, and
- explain to them that they can support agricultural education/FFA by supporting career and technical education. Stress to them they can support career and technical education by helping to ensure the successful reauthorization of the career and technical education legislation.

Together, we have the power to advocate successfully! I personally would like to thank FFA Alumni members for their continuous support of agricultural education and the FFA!

Wm. Jay Jackman, Ph.D., CAE
NAAE Executive Director



NAAE Grassroots Advocacy

NAAE will be posting updates on the progress of the Perkins reauthorization on its website at www.naae.org. You can access the NAAE "Capitol Advantage" link from the website. It offers a quick-and-easy way to send messages to your elected officials. Just enter your zip code

in the "Contact Congress" icon and follow the instructions.

If you have questions or comments, or want to become personally involved in NAAE grassroots advocacy efforts, contact Wm. Jay Jackman, Ph.D., CAE at 800-509-0204 or JJackman.NAAE@uky.edu.



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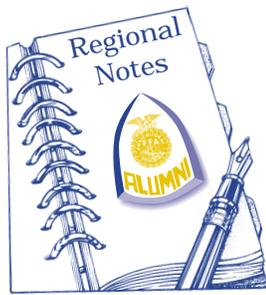
AAAE Representative, To be Announced

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“Regional Notes” is a column that highlights how local students, teachers, and Alumni from across the country are fulfilling the FFA Alumni mission to secure the promise of agricultural education and the FFA. In each issue, comments from the regional representatives to the National FFA Alumni Council will be presented.

The Power of a Collegiate Constituent

“Sure, I’m in college. No, I don’t have any money to give to your campaign...yet. But I will be your constituent longer than you will be in office,” I thought to myself.

If I live to be as old as the average U.S. citizen, I will vote in 14 more presidential elections, elect 29 more state representatives, and visit the polls at least 59 more times to vote on local issues. It seems to me, that if my generation will be electing our governmental officials for more than half of this century, and it is the future source of funds for political campaigns, its members should certainly be given a prominent voice in advocating for critical causes. The problem is that we seldom use that voice.

As college students and young adults in general, we are stereotyped for our disinterest in governmental affairs and low voter turnout. So when members of our generation walk into a congressional office as advocates for agricultural education, we are sure to turn heads. It’s the element of surprise.

My advice to my peers:

- Begin to exercise your rights as a U.S. citizen.
- Use your freedom of speech to inform your elected officials of the difference that agricultural education has made in your life.



Crystal Mathews



- Use your voting status and youthful power as a means to inform lawmakers of your concern for the passage of appropriate legislation that helps ensure the future of agricultural education and the FFA.

If you’re reading this article and you’re over the age of 25, you might be tempted to think that I’m not referring to you. However, as our parents, teachers, and mentors, you continue to have an important role to play in our lives:

- Do your part as Alumni members and advocates for agricultural education by encouraging the next generation to follow your lead.
- Invite young members of your community to accompany you in meeting or to join you in writing a letter to your elected officials.

Your example is important in setting the pace where advocacy of agricultural education is concerned. As for my younger peers and colleagues, it’s time to stand up as a generation and demand the continuation of the program that has made a difference in our lives. By doing so, we can secure the promise that it can have for our children and grandchildren. It’s time to become advocates for agricultural education!

Crystal Mathews
National FFA Representative
Missouri
crystalmathews@aol.com



Ron Nash

Knowledge Key to Alumni Advocacy

As an FFA advisor, I have asked FFA Alumni members to actively participate in advocating for national issues such as the Carl Perkins Act reauthorization. Although this piece of legislation is crucial, what is even more important is the advocacy that occurs in the local community. Many advisors feel that it is their sole responsibility to advocate for or promote the agricultural education program. However, it is unrealistic to think that one individual can do it alone. Advisors must use all the resources at their disposal and one of the most effective resources they have is the local FFA Alumni member.

As an agricultural educator, I know firsthand how effective Alumni members can be as advocates for agricultural education and the FFA. Their active involvement with the program gives them a unique knowledge of its tangible benefits for today’s youth. They are able to share that knowledge with key stakeholders in the community like agribusiness owners, community leaders, other parents, school administrators, and policy makers. They are also able to share firsthand knowledge of the program’s needs. Because they already have established community relationships with key stakeholders, they can have a greater influence in persuading others to support the local agricultural education program financially and otherwise.

Ron Nash
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Washington
nash_r@mail.zsd.wednet.edu

“The Buckeye State” Hosts 2005 State Leaders Conference: Advocates for Agricultural Education

The National and Ohio FFA Alumni Associations invite you to attend the 2005 State Leaders Conference (SLC), which will be held at the Holiday Inn® Worthington—north of Columbus, Ohio.

EVERY MEMBER WELCOME

Each State Association is entitled to one SLC grant (\$250) for use by its official state representative to attend the conference. Additional representatives are welcome to attend. Registration is \$400 per representative, which includes conference supplies, local transportation, five nights/six days of hotel stay, and the majority of meals. Every representative (participant) is expected to pay a registration fee of \$150 to the National FFA Alumni Association to be postmarked no later than **June 15, 2005**. The remaining \$250 balance may be paid with registration or during conference check-in on July 26 in Columbus. Additionally, spouses and families are welcome to join participants in Columbus for a special fee, which includes the hotel block, all tours, group meals, and social activities.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: JULY 26-31, 2005

Conference attendees should arrange their travel in order to arrive prior to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26 and depart anytime on Sunday, July 31. Transportation to and from

the Columbus Airport will be provided. The conference kickoff dinner and opening session is slated to begin Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. FFA Alumni members who desire to attend this year's conference should consider approaching their state FFA Alumni council or securing a state sponsor to fund their transportation needs. State FFA Alumni leaders will receive a fee schedule for state representatives, spouses, and other attendees, including one-day participants. Registration information is also available on the National FFA Alumni Association website at www.ffa.org/alumni/.

CONFERENCE SITE

The Holiday Inn® Worthington & Conference Center is conveniently located at the intersection of I-270 and U.S. Highway 23 North. This full-service atrium hotel located 10 miles north of downtown Columbus, in an upscale and safe area, offers 17,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, newly remodeled rooms, and a new business center with high-speed Internet access. The hotel's proximity to many large companies and attractions, including walking distance to 25 of Columbus' finest restaurants, make the Holiday Inn Worthington the perfect venue for both business and leisure travelers. The hotel is located within minutes of Worthington Industries, Banc One headquarters, Polaris Amphitheater,

and PPG Industries. Located nearby are the IMAX Theaters, the Columbus Zoo, Anheuser Busch Brewery and Museum, and Worthington Square Mall. Within 15 miles are Port Columbus International Airport, German Village, The Ohio State University and Cooper Stadium, City Center Mall, Muirfield Golf Course, and the Center of Science and Industry.

ADVOCACY THE FOCUS OF CONFERENCE

The State Leaders Conference is an opportunity for FFA Alumni leaders across the country to meet and discuss issues facing the FFA and FFA Alumni. It is a time to gather valuable information and ideas related to assisting local FFA chapters, volunteer efforts, fundraising, public relations, membership incentives, and much more. This year's conference will focus on how Alumni members can become involved in advocating for agricultural education on the local, state, and national levels. Useful workshops presented by professional speakers and Alumni leaders are directed to meet the needs of FFA Alumni. Various tours and social engagements add the final touch to an environment already suited to learning, friendship, relaxation, and fun.

The National FFA Alumni Association wishes to thank its partner Tractor Supply Company for its support of the 2005 National FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference.



This year's conference will focus on how Alumni members can become involved in advocating for agricultural education on the local, state, and national levels.



Grant Offers Financial Assistance for Student SAEs

Silver Sands is an urban middle school in Port Orange, Florida. Its enrollment hovers around 1,300 with 40 percent of its students classified as coming from a low socioeconomic background. What this means is that many of the 330 students annually

Follow
the
Money

enrolled in the school's agriscience program possess limited resources to provide the materials and facilities for traditional supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEs). (See sidebar on page 5 for the value of student SAEs.) In addition, urban students typically cannot house animals or grow a garden at their homes.

“Our students have shown exemplary character by persevering and developing non-

traditional SAEs like baby-sitting, home improvement, and agriculture photography,” adds second-year instructor Brad Burbaugh.

CAPITAL INFUSION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The Local Program Support (LPS) Grant Program offered Burbaugh and the newly chartered Silver Sands FFA Alumni affiliate the

(continued on page 5)

2005 National FFA Alumni Council

Names, faces, and electronic contact information



Please contact Council members directly if you are interested in having them give a presentation or attend local and state FFA Alumni functions.

Back Row (L-R)

- Dale Beaty, WI beaty1@charter.net
- Seth Heinert, WY sethheinert@hotmail.com
- Ron Nash, WA nash_r@mail.zsd.wednet.edu
- Norman Gay, GA normangay@worldnet.att.net
- Monte Ladner, MS mladner@leakesd.k12.ms.us
- John Cash, VA john.cash@capitalone.com
- Kurt Murray, OK kmurr@okcareertech.org

Front Row (L-R)

- Casey Hogan, TX caseyhogan2004@yahoo.com
- Billy Vestal, TN vestalb@netease.net
- Crystal Mathews, MO crystalmathews@aol.com
- Amanda Cloud, MT ffaamandac@yahoo.com
- Sonny Deke, IA sonnyffaalumni@msn.com
- Ronnie Ansley, NC ansleyr@mindspring.com
- Dennis Etestad, OR dennisetestad@yahoo.com

■ Not pictured: Sam Atherton, KS saffaatherton@hotmail.com

(continued from page 4)

needed financial assistance to expand the program's facilities to house 50 traditional SAEs. (For SAE Goals, see sidebar at right.)

"By offering an opportunity for more traditional SAEs, we figure we could raise SAE participation by 50 percent," Burbaugh explains. "These students need something positive in their lives. Traditional projects can make a profound difference in their lives because they could be the thing that makes these students want to come to school each day."

Burbaugh says grant funds will be used to build a shade house for students interested in horticulture projects. Funds will also be used to purchase lumber to build animal pens, feed buckets, and water troughs.

"Students are very excited at the possibility of having animal-related SAEs," Burbaugh adds. "Of course students would purchase their own animals or seeds for SAEs, but the grant would provide the logistical support."

ONE-TIME INVESTMENT OFFERS LONG-TERM PAYOFF

Instructor Burbaugh and the Silver Sands students are not the only ones taking notice of the benefits of the LPS grant.

"The principal and Alumni members were pleased that this grant would have a lasting impact on the program," Burbaugh adds.

In addition, the Silver Sands PTSA (parent-teacher-student association) has approved a \$600 mini-grant for the purchase of a portable livestock chute for large animal SAEs.

Burbaugh humorously relates that the application almost didn't get mailed by the deadline due to an electrical outage caused by one of last year's hurricanes. However, he was able to locate a generator nearby to supply electricity to write and print the application in order to mail it in time for the deadline.

"The students are the real winners because this grant will improve their educational experience," Burbaugh says. "The grant was used to purchase equipment that not only benefits current students, but also those for years to come."

Contact Brad Burbaugh at 386-322-6175 or hjburbau@mail.volusia.k12.fl.us for more information.

Reminder: All LPS Grant applications must be postmarked by **July 1, 2005**, to be eligible for consideration this year. The application can be downloaded from the FFA Alumni website at www.ffa.org/alumni/.

The Value of SAEs

Supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEs) are a very important part of the instructional program, says Silver Sands instructor Brad Burbaugh.

"In our program, SAEs are real-life activities that support skill and competency development, career success, and the application of specific agricultural and academic skills learned through classroom instruction in agricultural education."

Concepts learned through SAEs include self-confidence, time management, record-keeping skills, responsibility, independence, pride through personal accomplishment, and decision-making skills related to career and personal choices. As a result, students will become successful contributors to society.

SAE Goals

The infusion of funds also brought with it very specific goals for Silver Sands SAEs: 1) increase student involvement in SAEs by 50 percent, 2) afford underprivileged students the opportunity to develop SAEs by utilizing school equipment purchased with the grant, 3) improve understanding of agriculture, and 4) allow students to enrich their education by focusing on the area or areas of greatest interest to them.



National Council Approves New State Programs

Programs designed to recognize and strengthen new and existing state associations

The National FFA Alumni Council recently approved two new programs designed to recognize state FFA Alumni Associations: the National Outstanding/Pioneer State Association Award and the State-to-State FFA Alumni Mentor Program. In order to be eligible for these two programs, applications to the National FFA Alumni office must be postmarked by **July 1, 2005**.



is designed to recognize existing state FFA Alumni associations for their outstanding accomplishments in support of agricultural education and FFA. Additionally, it encourages other state associations to strive to achieve

more in these areas. Eligibility is open to all nationally chartered active state FFA Alumni associations.

The Pioneer State Association Award is designed to recognize newly chartered or reactivated state FFA Alumni associations for their outstand-

ing accomplishments and to encourage growth and achievement. State Alumni associations chartered or reactivated within the past three years are encouraged to apply.

STATE-TO-STATE FFA ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAM

The goal of the State-to-State Mentor Program is to strengthen and increase membership in less active state associations. It allows one state FFA Alumni association to partner with a well-established one, whose organizational success in areas related to membership, activities, and recruitment will serve as a role model for the first state association. The program is designed for the leaders of two state associations to work together based on a plan of action and measurable goals. A limit of up to five grants in the amount of \$1,000 each will be awarded by the National FFA Alumni Association to assist these state leaders in accomplishing their plan of action. The grants can be used for travel, communication, initiating programs, workshops, speakers, materials, and other expenses. This is a pilot program, which will be evaluated after its first year of operation.



OUTSTANDING/PIONEER STATE ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The National Outstanding/Pioneer State Association Award is similar to the National Outstanding/Pioneer Affiliate Awards. The National FFA Alumni Association plans to recognize applicants as gold, silver, or bronze. The top three gold recipients in each category will receive a plaque and the following monetary award at the national convention: first place - \$100, second place - \$75, and third place - \$50.

The Outstanding State Association Award

For further information on the new programs and to obtain applications, visit www.ffa.org/alumni/ or phone 317-802-4292.

Guidelines, Costs for Inserts to *New Visions*

Rates:

- A price of \$43 will be assessed per 1,000 state newsletters folded and inserted into *New Visions* (e.g., 2,000 inserts, \$86).
- A fee of \$40 per 1,000 state newsletters for postal form processing will be assessed per issue (e.g., 2,000 inserts, \$80).
- Cost for duplication per 1,000 inserts is listed below. (If this service is needed, please notice deadlines at bottom right.) Inserts will be produced only on 20# white bond paper with black ink.

Quantity	1-sided	2-sided
1,000	\$25.00	\$40.00
2,000	\$50.00	\$80.00
3,000	\$75.00	\$120.00
4,000	\$100.00	\$160.00
5,000	\$125.00	\$200.00

Production Specifications:

- Final page size—8 1/8" x 10 1/2" (with or without bleeds).
- If duplication is needed, camera ready art will be accepted in hard copy form only (line screen is 133 to 150 lpi, 600 dpi minimum). Art submitted in any other format will require additional work and incur additional charges.
- Art containing colors other than black will also incur additional art charges.

Deadlines for 2005 editions of *New Visions*:

Send art for duplication or preprinted newsletters to Hands on Mailing, Binding and Fulfillment, 943 Woodley Road, Dayton, Ohio, 45403, c/o Mark Kuns. Ph: 937-254-9174.

Issue	Preprinted	Duplication Needed
April-June	April 29	April 22
July-September	August 24	August 17
October-December	November 21	November 14



Ideas, Activities to Boost Local Support

At the 2004 National FFA Alumni Convention, the Pine Ridge FFA Alumni of Deltona, Florida, was chosen as the most successful affiliate in the nation. The National FFA Alumni Outstanding Affiliate Award recognizes affiliates for their outstanding accomplishments in support and service to agricultural education and the FFA.

The Pine Ridge affiliate has 11 annual members and 39 life members. Though fewer in number than other affiliates, Pine Ridge has a unique and large array of activities designed to support local students and the agricultural education instructional program.

Some of Pine Ridge's key activities are listed below in hopes that they might offer other Alumni members and affiliates additional ideas on how to boost local support for agricultural education and the FFA.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conducted for students and FFA members.

- Co-sponsored and donated equipment for agricultural expo
- Provided animals for FFA members' supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEs)
- Donated a bull to breed chapter beef cattle
- Provided a facility for the chapter's aquaculture project
- Donated soil for the land lab garden plot
- Sponsored grooming clinic for chapter members
- Presented beef production workshop
- Donated equipment for chapter Food for America and Agrismarts programs

- Sponsored and judged FFA record book contest for Volusia County Fair

COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

Conducted in partnership with the FFA chapter.

- Provided materials, labor, and supervision for chapter entry in area garden show
- Catered dinner for first FFA meeting of the year
- Provided meals for fair exhibitors (10 nights)
- Donated beef for FFA chapter banquet
- Served as judges for subdistrict and district FFA events
- Assisted with National FFA Week appreciation luncheon
- Transported FFA members' SAEs to county, regional, and state fairs
- Chaperoned and officiated at annual Farm Bureau field day

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Conducted to help finance FFA or Alumni activities.

- Sponsored a fishing tournament
- Sponsored jackets for state winning career development event teams
- Held a silent auction at annual awards banquet
- Conducted concessions at homecoming football game
- Hosted spring chicken dinner
- Sponsored a turkey and trap shoot
- Conducted banquet cake auction

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Conducted to create a bond of fellowship between FFA and Alumni members.

- Hosted FFA Alumni buyer's tables at fair livestock reception

- Conducted Alumni holiday party and FFA holiday dance
- Hosted an FFA Alumni table at the livestock association dance
- Provided housing (10 weeks) for high school agricultural intern from University of Florida
- Hosted and catered the end-of-year faculty party
- Hosted a reception for new middle school principal and administrator

RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES

Conducted to recruit members for the chapter or affiliate.

- Conducted FFA Alumni presentation at agriscience academy registration night
- Sent monthly e-mail, phone, and mail reminders of meetings and events
- Offered information about FFA Alumni events for school newsletter and website
- Sent dues reminders to all current annual members
- Sent FFA Alumni membership recruitment letters home with parents of new students
- Furnished FFA Alumni literature and information for chapter and Alumni functions, school curriculum fairs, and open houses
- Hosted FFA Alumni membership recruitment social for graduating seniors
- Purchased embroidered FFA Alumni shirts to increase affiliate visibility

For more information on the above activities, contact Kim McDonald at 407-688-9500.

Ideas Wanted!

New Visions staff are interested in obtaining and featuring ideas for activities used locally to build successful Alumni affiliates and agricultural education programs. Send descriptions of ideas or activities to the National FFA Alumni Association at P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960, via fax at 317-802-5292, or e-mail at fsaldana@ffa.org.

Among Friends





The Official Newsletter of the National FFA Alumni Association

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NEWSLETTER

7 Keys to Success in Agricultural Education

Program Planning

3 Components	3 Strategies
Instruction	Partnerships
SAE	Marketing
FFA	Professional Growth

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GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS



**FARMS ARE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.
 BUT DAD'S KEEPING THE RAM.**

DODGE. PROUD SPONSOR OF THE FFA. For over 50 years, our commitment to the FFA and its scholarships and educational programs has helped keep many a farm "in the family." But if Dad's keeping the Ram, don't worry, we've got a set of keys waiting for you. For more information about our vehicles, visit dodge.com or call 800-4ADODGE.