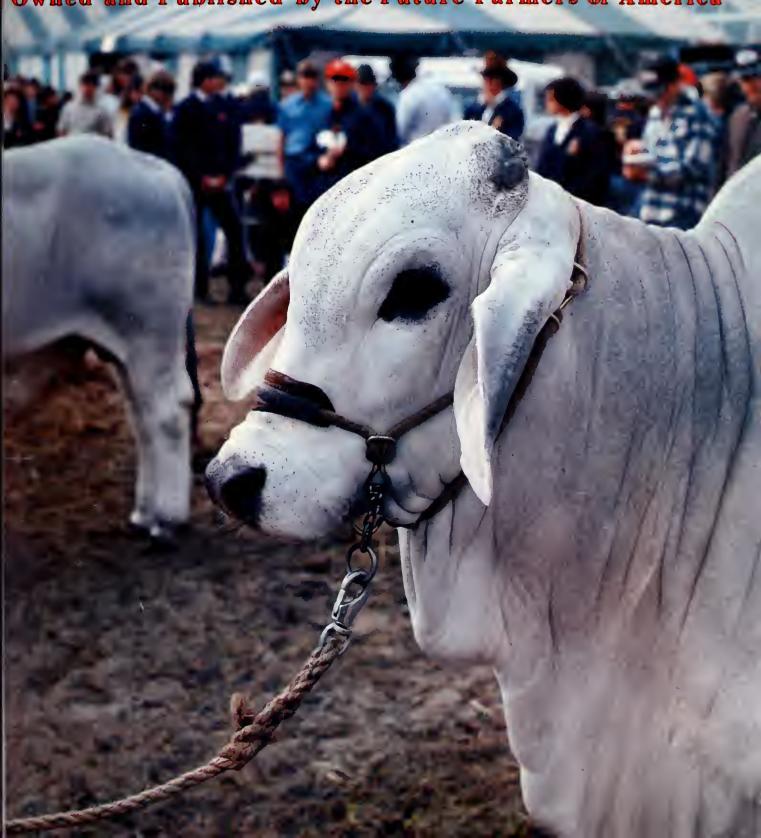
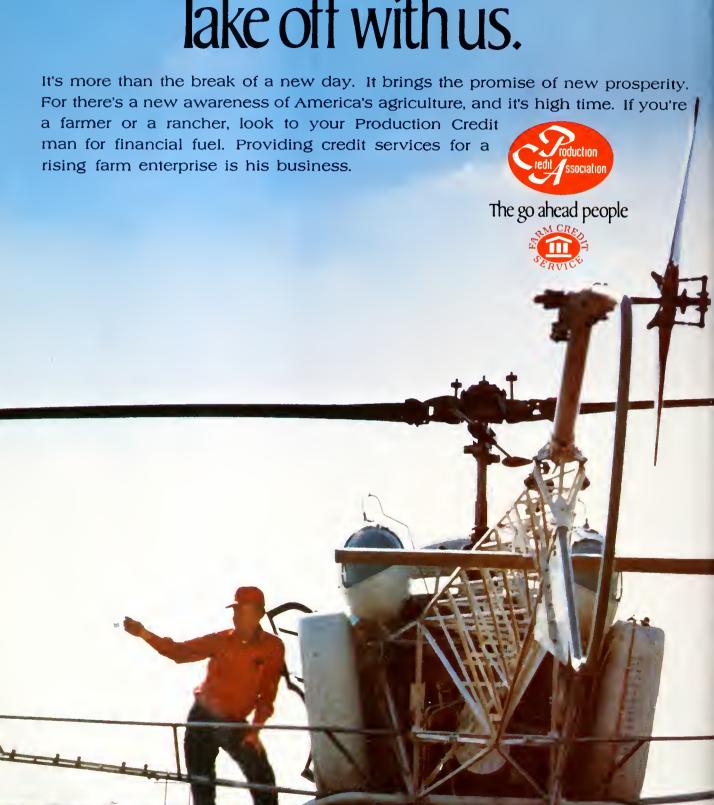


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# Look to the future. Take off with us.



# The National

Volume 24 Number 4 April-May, 1976

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If moving, list new address above.

#### A Word With The Editor-

This being an election year, the candidates and political parties are hard at work. One thing you may want to watch for is what type of program they offer, or don't offer, for agriculture.

It is a generally accepted fact that agriculture is losing (or has lost) its clout in the political arena. It is simply a case of mathematics. There are fewer farmers today, therefore fewer voters.

Yet agriculture's contribution to our nation's well-being far exceeds the number of votes that can be delivered to the polls on election day. An excerpt from the Fact Book of U.S. Agriculture published by USDA seems to describe this contribution quite well.

#### Agriculture's Efficiency Increases

American farmers today produce over 53 percent more crops on 6 percent fewer acres than did their fathers...

One farmworker now supplies enough food and fiber for 56 people. Only 10 years ago, he was producing enough for 29 ...

Farmers produce not only enough for us, but enough to make large quantities of farm products available for international trade.

We export more farm products than anyone else in the world. The production from 1 cropland acre out of every 4 goes overseas.

In recent years farm exports have set records, \$22 billion in 1974 alone. And of that, \$21 billion was in cash.

Farm exports contributed a net of \$12 billion to our balance of trade in 1974, which is another way of saying we got more than twice as much for our food and fiber exports than we paid out for food and fiber imports.

Will the next president understand and have an appreciation for agriculture? What will each of the two major party platforms say about agriculture? Will the next administration yield to special interest pressure groups that do not understand agriculture (however well meaning they may be) and kill the goose that laid the golden egg by placing inereased restrictions on the American farmer? Will we end up with short supplies and higher prices, and these same groups asking why?

These and other questions should be considered in the months ahead as you choose your party and your candidate. Many of you will be 18 or older and voting for the first time. A wonderful way to celebrate our Bicentennial—casting your first vote in a national election.

Wilson Carnes

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The Cover

FFA livestock judges take the "closer look" necessary to make a winning final placing. Our friendly Brahman bull is the focal point in a judging class at the February-held Florida State Fair. As spring progresses, more and more

FFA members will find themselves in a similar scene. This livestock-emphasis issue offers tips for those judges, information for livestock producers and interesting reading for everyone. Go ahead, take a "closer look."

Cover photo by Gary Bye

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Most hunters know that three evenly-spaced shots are a call for help from another hunter. But what you may not know is that this signal calls for an answer. Firing two shots immediately after you have heard the distress signal means that you have heard it, and that help is coming. By answering his call, you can snap a lost or injured hunter out of the panic he may feel, and encourage him to stay where he is until help arrives.



H. G. TAPPLY, Editor - Field & Stream

SPECIAL OFFER. A 32-page book on "Upland Game Birds" and a 24page book on "Big Game Animals". Loaded with facts and full color photographs. Send 50¢ for each, plus your name and address to: Federal Book Offer, Box 625, Maple Plain, Minnesota 55359.

For everything from plinking to big game hunting, clay targets to wild turkeys, Federal concentrates on producing the finest ammunition available to sportsmen.



# **News in Brief**

#### The FFA



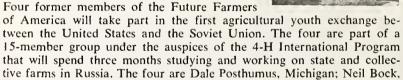
NEW TO OUR STAFF-Mr. L. J. Emerson has been named to the position of Regional Advertising Manager of The National FU-TURE FARMER magazine. Operating out of the magazine offices in Alexandria, Virginia. he will be handling accounts in the Midwest area. Emerson is a native of Washington State. He was raised on a cattle and wheat ranch and was active in FFA throughout high school, Emerson taught vocational agriculture for three years upon graduation from Washington State University. The past year he served as an administrative intern with the agriculture edu-

cation supervisor's office in Washington State. While serving in this position, he completed requirements for his degree in Vocational Education. A NATIONAL SEMINAR—March 22-25 were the dates for a national seminar in agriculture/agribusiness. The seminar focused on "Updating Standards and Criteria for Identifying High Quality Programs in Vocational Education in Agriculture and Agribusiness Occupations." The seminar was headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. Approximately 200 state leaders attended.

CONFERENCE ROOM TAKES SHAPE— Completion date for the new multipurpose meeting room being added to the National FFA Center has been set for June 1, 1976. The meeting room will provide space for conferences, workshops and other FFA activities. The June 1 date will allow use for the Bicentennial Washington Conference Programs.

OFFICER TOUR A SUCCESS—The 1976 National Officer Tour to 25 cities in 15 states is now successfully completed. According to the National Officers, many new contacts were made with potential sponsors for the FFA Foundation as well as continuing the close relationship with long-time sponsors.





Iowa; Joseph Ortner, Colorado, and Alan Zeithamer, North Dakota. ANGUS OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS—College scholarships totaling \$2,600 will be awarded this summer to three girls and three boys who have an active interest in Angus cattle. The awards are made to outstanding FFA members on competitive basis. Any FFA member who is a graduating high school senior is eligible to apply. Application may be made through Angus Auxiliaries. Contact the National Angus Scholarship Chairman, Mrs. Sam Wagner, Harlan, Kansas 67641.



ALUMNI HAS NEW ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-Robert Cox, a native of Kentucky has been employed as Administrative Secretary of the National FFA Alumni Association. Cox left the position of Executive Secretary of the Kentucky FFA Association to assume his new duties. Prior to serving as executive secretary he had served as vocational agriculture instructor for Madison Central and Bourbon County High Schools in Kentucky. A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Cox holds an MS degree in Vocational Education.



# Marine Regular

You'll start with tough training. Because nobody likes to fight, but somebody has to know how. As a Marine Regular, you'll know how.

After boot camp, depending on your occupational specialty, you'll go to school or to on-the-job training to learn anything from air traffic control to telecommunications maintenance to food services. Or combat arms, the "cutting edge" of the Corps.

Stick with it, and you'll travel the United States and the world. You could even be part of an embassy detachment or serve as a sea-going Marine aboard command ships of the U.S. Navy. Ships like missile cruisers and aircraft carriers.

The Marine Corps offers a challenging, goodpaying occupation. With free medical and dental care. And thirty days paid vacation every year.

And something else...the pride that comes only with earning the title: United States Marine.

Mail the card, or call 800-423-2600, toll free. In California 800-252-0241.

**The Marines** We're looking for a few good men.

# **Marine Reserve**

You'll start with tough training. Because nobody likes to fight. but somebody has to know how. As a Marine Reservist, you'll know how.

After boot camp, you'll continue your 130 days of active duty with more training. In fields like electronics, communica-

tions and combat arms. All the same opportunities that Regular Marines have.

After school, you'll return home to pursue a civilian career. You'll attend drill meetings one weekend a month and two weeks of training each summer so you can keep your Marine Corps skills sharp, your body in shape.

As a Marine Reservist, you've got a challenging, good-paying, part-time job. A job that offers travel, skills training and community involvement. And an inner confidence that has to help you in you civilian career.

And something else...the pride that comes only with earning the title: United States Marine.

> Mail the card, or call 800-423-2600, toll free. In California 800-252-0241. The Marines





AGGRESS

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That's right, Tatally owned by FFA members and aperated for them. Cantralled by the National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers.

All income above the cost of operation is used by the organization for the benefit of FFA members—not as profit to any Individual

Don't be mislead by companies trying to commercialize on the name and emblem of FFA, if it is not from the National FFA Supply Service located at Alexandria, Virginia, it is not afficial.

Your advisor is mailed a catalog each summer See him to order your FFA items.

Support FFA! Order from the: National FFA Supply Service P. O Box 15159 Alexandria, Virginia 22309

# From the Mailbag

#### **Readers Report**

Blackwater, Virginia

I have taken the time to read the article on Johnny Bench, "Country Boy Catcher." The article doesn't have enough information on the Future Farmers of America. Almost everything in the article deals with baseball and this makes the magazine sound like a sports column. I think the article would have been much better if there were not as much about baseball and more about FFA.

William Edwards

We agree that it did not have a great deal about FFA but thought it would add variety to the issue. Also many FFA members seemed to admire Johnny Bench very much because of his playing with the World's Champions Cincinnati Reds .- Ed.

#### Belvidere, New Jersey

Please be advised that my son Robert is now in the U.S. Army and is stationed in Korea, I know he would appreciate getting The National FUTURE FARMER at his new address which is enclosed. I'm sending the address label from his last magazine. Maybe some of the FFA members who are in the military could report on farming in other countries for a new section in the magazine.

Leonard R. Duane

#### Belmont, Wisconsin

In answer to your letter saying the ad for selling guns was in bad taste, I disagree.

Besides being a top-notch program promoting farming and helping young farmers to get going, the FFA is a conservation group. Guns play a major part in wildlife conservation and I'm surprised you haven't placed more ads in your magazine. Owning guns is fun.

Anyway, I get a lot from your magazine and I thank you for it.

Roy Krueger

#### Delight, Arkansas

I am writing in response to a letter in the February-March issue of this magazine. The letter stated that it is a disgrace to the national FFA organization. It says that boys and girls should not own guns.

I think this is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. Guns are not used to massacre animals and birds as the letter states. Most young people who own firearms know how and do use them properly.

I think that once a "kid" reaches the age to join the FFA, he or she can have responsibilities like that of owning a gun.

I would appreciate it if you would continue to publish ads about guns in the Future Farmer magazine. I do not know of one FFA member in our chapter who does not own at least one firearm of some

Rance Hood

#### Batesville, Mississippi

My son receives your fine magazine and I read it as often as possible. I was a farmer all my life until I was not able to work. Also I was and still am a big game hunter, having hunted in many different states, several Canadian provinces and Alaska

In "Mailbag" of your February-March, 1976, issue you have a very nasty item about guns and advertising them.

This area here has had many bad farm accidents within the past year with tractors, cotton pickers, cars, pickups, boats, etc. The writer should look at the statistics on road kills just in the state of New York which is my home state where I was born and brought up, I could go on and on.

I think people like him should have their subscription cancelled. How about that?

My hair is still standing on end,

Jack Hollenbeck

#### Colton, California

I thought your article entitled "I Don't Want To Join FFA!" was an excellent feature on how to answer eight typical gripes or excuses given why more people don't join FFA.

However, there is another angle why people should join FFA. As is the case at our school, the FFA is the only selfsufficient and self-supporting organization on the campus.

Secondly, FFA members are more active than members of any other club or organization. Sure, there are fairs, but what about project competition, parliamentary procedure, public speaking, state and national conventions, judging contests, to say nothing about the valuable financial and leadership training each member receives.

Thirdly, while other clubs have lost members, or collapsed completely, the FFA showed a gain in membership for 1975-76.

I believe that being a member in the FFA is to be a person who lives, and doesn't crawl into a shell and hide. And to be a successful FFA'er is to be a successful person.

Bravo on a job well done! I'm glad someone was able to put into words why FFA is approaching its fiftieth anni-

versary!

Gregory Colbert

#### Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I saw your story on Larry Lankard (Aloha Larry) in the February-March issue today . . . and have to report that he took the Hawaii trip with us in January.

He says his livestock judging team members convinced him to take the trip. He was among some 450 farmers and

their wives that we took with us. Frank Lessiter, Editor National Livestock Producer



# Don't tell Winchester about this ad.



It isn't every day that the good ol' boys from Lewiston manage to get one up on the gentlemen from New Haven.

But in the area of WMR ammo, of all things, it looks like they've succeeded.

Please observe.

CCI makes a .22 WMR solid point cartridge that's perfect for target and game.

So does Winchester.

CCI also makes a .22 WMR hollow point cartridge that mushrooms upon impact, for good riddance to bad varmints.

So does Winchester.







And, CCI makes a .22 WMR shotshell that's perfect for pests, for birds or for plinking.

Winchester doesn't.

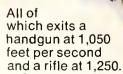
The good ol' boys spent three years testing and tinkering to perfect this shotshell. It packs 1/8 ounce of #11 shot neatly inside

a special plastic capsule.



Keep that in mind when visiting your favorite gun counter. Keep it under your hat, too. The good ol' boys figure the less Winchester knows about this, the





So you see, if you own a .22 WMR gun you've got two choices: CCI with three kinds of ammo, or Win-



Snake River Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho 83501

# **Looking Ahead**

**Agriculture** 

EPA GOES EASY ON FARM POLLUTION—The Environmental Protection Agency has decided against trying to curb water pollution resulting from most farming operations for the time being "though a serious problem exists," according to deputy administrator John R. Quarles, Jr. EPA maintains that most water pollution from agricultural land and forestry activities is non point in nature and generally best controlled by management and planning techniques. Non point sources are those in which the pollution is not traceable to an identifiable source. The EPA summary of proposed regulations released recently does however show that irrigation operations that discharge water through pipe systems could come under the law requiring permits.

NEW FEED ADDITIVE BEING MARKETED—One less pound of feed for every pound of gain. That's the billing given to Rumensin, a new feed additive being marketed by Elanco Products Company. Rumensin has been tested for several years in more than 5,000 beef animals in 19 feedlot trials and results show it improves feed efficiency an average of 10 percent. Rumensin is a fermentation product that works in the animal's rumen to increase the efficiency of energy conversion.

REVISED BEEF GRADE STANDARDS TAKE EFFECT—A new set of U.S. grade standards for beef became effective February 23, 1976. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the new standards will result in slightly leaner beef qualifying for U.S. Prime and Choice grades. The Beef Industry Council of the National Livestock and Meat Board says despite the considerable controversy over the revisions, which were held up in court for several months, the changes are relatively minor. "The effect of the new standards on the taste of the beef you eat and what it costs you should be minimal," they say. Over time, officials expect the yield grading provision to lead to a reduction in the amount of excess fat on beef cattle by providing a more direct means to encourage the production of meat-type cattle. Such cattle can produce thickly muscled, high quality, beef carcasses with a minimum of excess fat.

SPORTSMEN SUPPORT WILDLIFE—In a recent article the National Shooting Sports Foundation points out some interesting statistics. According to the organization, sportsmen-supported conservation programs benefit over 1,700 species of wildlife in North America. Of these, only 110 are considered game. Thanks to hunter-financed programs there are 15 million deer in the nation today compared to one-half million in 1900. There are five times as many elk. Wild turkey, once nearly extinct, now number over 1,250,000.

CHAMPION CORN GROWER-

Ron Eyre, Hillsboro, Ohio, was named the 1975 304 Bushel Challenge national corn growing champion at the national meeting of the Producers of Funk's G-Hybrids. Eyre's plot yielded 266.7 bushels per acre. Ron is a member of the Mowrystown FFA Chapter, Mowrystown, Ohio. Eyre has been a contender in the 304 bushel chal-



lenge program for the past four years. The program is open to all members of the FFA and vocational agriculture students. Shown in the photo are D. D. Walker, president, Funk Seeds International, presenting the award to Ron. Chapter Advisor James Bratton looks on.

FARMERS ABANDON THE PLOW—Farmers in increasing numbers in 1975 turned away from plowing and other traditional tillage practices to save both soil and tractor fuel, reports the Soil Conservation Service, USDA. Minimum tillage, including no-till farming, was tried on an additional 2.6 million acres in the United States during the fiscal year 1975. Total U.S. acreage farmed under such practices reached a record 35.8 million during the year. The agency calls it "the fastest growing conservation practice in America." Does that mean we'll have to change FFA's opening ceremonies, "Here by the Plow?"

# Over \$5,000 in prizes

**Awarded Monthly** 



## Draw "Winky"

Let "Winky" help you test your talent. You may win one of five \$995.00 Commercial Art Scholarships or any one of seventy-five \$10.00 cash prizes.

Draw "Winky" any size except like a tracing. Use pencil. Every qualified entrant receives a free professional estimate of his drawing.

Scholarship winners will receive Fundamentals of Commercial Art taught by Art Instruction Schools, Inc., one of America's leading home study art schools.

Try for an art scholarship that may lead

Try for an art scholarship that may lead you into the exciting fields of advertising art and illustrating, cartooning or painting. Your entry will be judged in the month received. Prizes awarded for best drawings of various subjects received from qualified entrants age 14 and over. One \$25 cash award for the best drawing from entrants age 12 and 13. No drawings can be returned. Our students and professional artists not eligible. Contest winners will be notified. Send your entry today.

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Please enter my drawing in your monthly contest. (PLEASE PRINT)

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 Age

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Accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the National Home Study Council.

"I got into the ministry right after my thirteenth birthday. And performed my first wedding at fifteen. It was for my sister and her husband. They were the only ones more nervous than I was."



"Sometimes you get physically drained. But you keep telling yourself everything you're doing is important. If you don't you can really get depressed."



"I'll get to 25 or 30 states during the year. That's ironic because I get motion sickness on anything that moves. I schedule direct flights. One landing, maybe I'll survive. Two, it's doubtful."

# ... Your National FFA President

# MEET BOBBY TUCKER

As you'll find, your National FFA President is a very atypical young man. But as a spokesman and inspiration for the one-half million FFA members he's cut from the same mold that has consistently made National FFA Officers highly regarded for their leadership abilities.



"I think I enjoy working with Greenhands the most. I feel more comfortable and like I'm accomplishing more. But adults are just as important."



"In my first speech contest I placed eighth. The next year I won third in the national contest... If I ever got up in front of a group and wasn't nervous I'd be afraid to open my mouth."







"I was a sophomore when the ag teacher asked me in. He thought I'd be a natural for the public speaking contest.

Once I found what FFA had to offer they couldn't have kept me out."



"Being FFA President is a special kind of a challenge—whether talking to businessmen, government leaders or members themselves. You work to inspire them and end up more excited about agriculture's future yourself."

"I just can't imagine what it's going to be like when the full year is over. It's added so much to my life already . . . friends, experiences, and a better understanding of life."





# is that your Calf Manna fed champion?

Today more than ever before, your cattle have to be superior animals.

Buyers and judges are very selective and only the breeder and showman who presents his animals to the very best advantage will top the sales and shows.

Today, it takes superiority not only in breeding, but in size and heart girth; in condition and haircoat; but even more in records that prove feed efficiency and weight gains for age.

For the past 44 years, discerning cattlemen have learned that Calf Manna fed at the rate of just one pound a day, builds the kind of cattle that sell readily. Calf Manna, a highly fortified concentrate, in a starter feed, in a growing ration or as a breeding feed that beef cattlemen can trust to bring out every good genetic trait.

For specific feeding directions, formulas and confirmed statements by other top cattlemen as to Calf Manna's results, write for your free copy of "Selecting, Fitting and Showing Livestock."

Then, when the word goes out — "Here Comes the Judge" — you will find him heading for your Calf Manna fed Champion.





6400 Glenwood, P.O. Box 2917, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201



April-May, 1976



# icentennial riefs



Washington State FFA members hand deliver their state trees to Virginia.

TRANSCONTINENTAL TRANS-PLANT—Three members of the Capital FFA Chapter, Olympia, Washington, hand delivered four Western Hemlock trees, their state tree, to the Pulaski County FFA Chapter in Dublin, Virginia. Rus Harry, chapter president, Donette Elliot, chapter reporter and Sally Klontz, a member of the local alumni affiliate made the trip from Olympia, Washington, in response to Pulaski County's request for a state tree from each of the 50 states. Pulaski initiated the project for the Bicentennial. The dedication of their "Tree Hall of Fame" will take place in early April. Trees will be placed in a community park arranged in the order in which they entered the union. To date, the chapter has received trees from six states and expects a response from most of the 50 states. The Capital Chapter also presented four of the trees to the National FFA Center, Alexandria, Virginia.

ROCKING BETSY ROSS—Was part of the annual homecoming float constructed by the Riverdale, California. FFA Chapter. While Betsy rocked, her hand moved up and down as she sewed the first American flag. Near the front of the float perched a bald eagle. The eagle's head moved from side to side. The float won raves at Riverdale, winning sweepstakes honors.

AFLOAT WITH FLAGS-Another Bicentennial float, this one constructed by the Medford, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter won first place in their homecoming parade. Their theme was historic flags of America. Six flags were presented: Don't Tread on Me, Flag of 1824, Confederate flag, Flag of 1777, the 48- and 50-star flags. Theme for the parade was famous symbols and heroes of America.

A BATTLE ON BOARD-Southington, Connecticut, FFA Chapter guided their float to a first place finish in the town's recent Apple Harvest Festival parade. The battle—a reenactment of the famed conflict at Lexington-Con-

NORTH DAKOTA OFFERS BICEN-TENNIAL IDEAS—This list of suggested Bicentennial activities was made available by the North Dakota FFA Association. Their state theme is "Honoring Our American Heritage." They say, "What are you planning in your FFA chapter to let everyone know that we honor our heritage? Here are some of the things you might do.'

1. Tell the story in green grass with "FFA" and "1976" in dark green letters against the background of light green grass. Or use the same characters in blue and gold flowers.

2. Have your chapter reporter write one story per month on the FFA and historic American farmers.

3. Feature our heritage on all radio and TV FFA programs presented by your chapter.

4. Prepare special heritage programs for church, PTA and other local groups.

5. Build chapter meetings around heritage themes. Assign the programs by eras.

6. Develop special BOAC projects on the general idea of "He loves his country best who strives to make it best." For example, select a stretch of a river or stream and clean it up. There remains so much that can be done to help make your little corner of America shine on its birthday.

7. Plan special ways to honor our flag. A flag pageant for a school assembly might be a very good idea.

8. Sponsor an essay contest in junior high school offering prizes for the best theme such as "Agriculture's Part in Building America."

9. Sponsor a poster contest in elementary schools on the same or a similar topic.

10. Hold some sort of competition to select your area's outstanding pioneer farm or ranch couple. You could probably build it around an "Old Timers Day."

11. Use your own bulletin board to keep your members alert to the Bicentennial. Bulletin boards could feature artists' portraits of great American farmers from Revolutionary days.

12. Arrange for tours of area museums featuring old-time farm equipment.

These are only a few of the countless ideas that might work for you. FFA chapters should let everyone know that the FFA "Honors Its Heritage."

WATCH FOR OUR WINNERS-in the Future For America Bicentennial Essay contest announced in the February-March issue of The National FUTURE FARMER. The winning selection will be published in the next issue of this magazine. Entries are due by April 15. You may still have time to enter. Check last issue for details.

GRETNA FASHIONS A FREEDOM FLOAT-Members of the Gretna Junior High FFA Chapter, Gretna, Virginia, built and entered a Bicentennial float in the Chatham and Gretna parades to celebrate the winning of freedom. The float was entitled "Spirit of Freedom" and received several prizes and many comments for the job of construction by the FFA members. The activity of building a float allowed the students to exchange ideas with other members in the different agriculture classes. The ideas that the float was built around included the American flag, the Liberty Bell, Minutemen, and the backbone of the American Revolution-the American farmer.

Gretna Junior High built this float as their salute to the "76" Bicentennial.



FREEDOM

The National FUTURE FARMER

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# Autobahn

Tour counselor Clark leads the way.



A reception with German Rural Youth.



# International Green Week

NTERNATIONAL Green Week, Berlin, Germany, is called the worldwide jubilee for agriculture and the foodstuffs industry. This year it attracted one-half million people. Among those in attendance this January, as representatives of the FFA were state officers (as pictured from left in the above photo): Gary Mitchell, Alabama; Galen Keller, South Dakota; Jose Berrios, Puerto Rico; Warren Clark, counselor for international programs, Iowa; Steve Enger, South Dakota; Allan Barber and Russ Benson, Colorado; and Quay Yendall, Maryland.

Berlin's Green Week exhibits include agricultural products from over 30 nations. Top livestock is displayed. A favorite attraction is a magnificent array of flowers.

As the photos here reveal, Green Week was only a part of a one week

FFA tour. Side trips in Berlin included a visit across "Check Point Charlie" to East Berlin. Formal meetings of the rural youth section of the European Economic Community and the Germany Rural Youth Organization were attended as well as informal social receptions with the same groups.

The latter part of the week was spent in Munich where the visitors toured a German experimental farm, an agricultural engineering institute and a university animal research station. On the final day, the group ventured into the mountains of Austria, near Innsbruck to test their potential for future winter Olympics. It capped a busy week.

This annual Green Week tour is a part of the FFA's International Program. Participants must be state FFA officers or National Convention official delegates.



"With all this leadership it'd be impossible to get lost!"



Colorado officers discuss German research taking place.

Puerto Rico's hope for 1980 Olympics? German farm equipment is explained.







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## Our job is you.



# The Right Thing... In the Right Place... At the Right Time

By John H. Brinker

HUMAN existence and its continua-tion on this planet translates into the fact that agriculture, as a profession in America, constitutes the most fortunate profession in world history. If that sounds like an extravagant and romantic concept, let's consider some of the present human situations which add up to that conclusion.

#### First: Human Population Growth

According to the latest discoveries by Dr. Leakey in Africa, there have been animals on this globe which could be described as human beings for about three and a half million years. If that's the case, then it took almost that long for the human race to grow to one billion people, which it did in 1830. Having taken three and a half million years to get the first billion people into existence, we accomplished the second billion within one hundred years...in 1930...and the third billion in only 30

years...in 1960...and it only took 15 more years to get the fourth billion... in 1975. This tremendous population explosion is increasing with geometric speed and we will accomplish the next four billion people in only 25 years. These statistics are not some demographer's bad dream. The people who will create these additional four billion people are already living among us...and working hard at the job!

The implications of this, for all of humanity, are staggering! Out of our present four billion people, about 500 million are malnourished, with actual serious starvation in three or four geographic locations. Since we cannot adequately feed our present world population, how can we possibly feed the four billion additional people who will be added to our numbers in only 25 years?

In order to try to answer this question, we must take a look at another fact about the present human condition.

#### Second: Human Food Supply

Eighty-six percent of the world's population growth will be coming from

those nations which have, for the past few years, been described as "developing nations"...meaning that they are presently not among the most industrialized nations of the world. These same nations have increased their own food supplies by only 8 percent per person over the last 20 years. What are the possibilities for their changing that situation in order to be able to keep up with their population growth?

Prior to World War II, only Western Europe, among the principal geographic regions of the world, was a "net food importer." Every other principal geographic region of the world had some exportable food so that we, in North America, were not only not the only food exporter, we were not even the leading one. For instance, from 1934 to 1938, Latin America exported about twice as much food as North America. and even the Soviet Union was exporting as much food as North America.

There has been a dramatic change in this situation and, now, only North America has significant food exports.

(Continued on Page 20)

The outhor, Mr. John H. Brinker, is President of A.O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc., 550 West Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005.

#### The Right Thing

(Continued from Page 19)

During the 1970's, North America's grain exports, for instance, have nearly doubled and most countries in the world today obtain part of their food supplies from North America. Today, there are only four nations which have significant net food exporting capability... the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The other three countries are already facing a situation whereby they will have to stop exporting grain-at least the world cannot count on them being able to do it annually. For instance, last year the Canadian Wheat Board banned further exports of wheat, during the season, until the size of their 1975 harvest was known. We did the same thing...but. here, it was for political reasons and not because of potential grain shortages.

Why does it appear that only the United States will have a surplus of food to share with the rest of the world? The only possible answer to that is world population growth in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In 1950, Latin America and North America had approximately equal populations. Our population growth has slowed since the late 1950's, but Latin America's has tremendously expanded. If they continue at their present rate of expansion, they will increase their growth by 19 times in only 100 years. In view of this,

what are the prospects for improving food production outside of North America?

### Third: Prospects for Improving Food Production

Human beings must have protein in order to live and, as nations become more affluent, they increase their protein consumption in the form of meat and milk. Some of this comes from ruminant animals who are able to convert roughage of all kinds into protein. Other meat can be produced only by feeding grains which could have been consumed by the human directly.

The grains and forages which can best produce protein for humans, either in the form of meat or for direct consumption, can best be grown between the thirtieth and fiftieth parallels of latitude in both hemispheres. A glance at the globe will demonstrate that, in both hemispheres, only the United States has a continental-sized land mass lying between these degrees of latitude; therefore, possessing the combination of heat and rainfall for maximum grain and forage production. Elsewhere, there's a lot of salt water...and a lot of mountains...and the opportunities for increasing world food supplies dramatically are not very great...except possibly in the Sudan in Africa and in some parts of Latin America.

Faced with this unpleasant situation, what is the human race to do? It seems to me that there are only two things we can do. First, we must learn how to control human population growth and

those "developing nations" now experiencing great increases in population are the ones who have to change their ways. We, in America, have not achieved zero population growth yet, but we are approaching it. Secondly, those "developing nations" must do everything they possibly can to improve the technology of their agricultural production, using the techniques which free enterprise has made so productive in America, to convert every bit of fertile land in the world into food production.

We, in America, have got to develop the courage and moral fiber required to deny our surplus to nations who do not try to control their population or improve their food supplies. We have to remain generous with our surplus food ...and maximize it to the greatest possible extent...but be very hardhearted about how we use it.

What does this mean for the American farmer...particularly the young farmer? Simply stated, it means that he has embarked on a profession at which he cannot lose. He may have bad weather or droughts occasionally which may result in some temporary losses but, year in and year out, he cannot lose! What he grows is going to be in great demand, and his skills and technology will become the most valuable natural resource of the United States. Probably, more than any other group of people in the history of the world, the North American farmer of today is doing the right thing...in the right place...at the right time.

# The Secretary Said...



THE National FFA Officers paid a visit to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz in his office at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in February. The Secretary answered a number of questions posed by the

officers. The following are selected segments of the discussion that took place.

Secretary Butz: "You've come along at a tremendously important time for agriculture with the world population estimated at seven billion people at the end of this century. The population of the world is going to increase 80 percent in the next 25 years—which means if we feed them a little better, we must find some way to produce as much more food as we have learned to produce since the dawn of history. It's a very frightening challenge up ahead of you. And it's here at a time when there is no new western hemisphere to discover, there are no virgin forests left to clear. The only additional input we have is agricultural science, research, brain power, management and technology.

"I know we can do it if we keep it high enough on our priority scale of national values in this country and around the world. We're going to depend on people in your generation to get this job done. I think you're coming along at one of the most fascinating times in the world's history."

Officers: "What role do you see food playing in terms of world peace?"

Butz: "Food will play a very positive role. We exported \$22 billion worth of farm products last year. When these countries extend their lifelines into this country and

(Continued on Page 51)

# "Our family's quit horsing around. We got Hondas."





# Don't stop now, join the Army.

Congratulations. Graduating from high school is a real achievement. You've got a lot going for you now. And that's the best reason for moving ahead right away. Whether that means starting college,

looking for a job—or joining the Army.

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Continue your education. You don't have to wait to start college or vocational-technical school. The Army has several educational programs, offered through accredited colleges and universities. Most of the classes are held right on post. And the Army pays up to 75% of your tuition. With one of the programs, Project Ahead (Army Help for Education And Development), you can enlist in the Army and start working on your college degree at the same time.

Join now, go later. One thing the Army offers a new graduate is a chance to recover from a head-bending senior year. With the Army's Delayed Entry Program, you can sign up in June, then take up to nine months to report.

But the main thing you want right now is to keep growing. The Army offers plenty of opportunity to do that. For more information, send the postcard. Or call 800-523-5000 toll free. In Pa.,

call 800-362-5696.

Join the people who've joined the Army.



Chris comes face to face with one of their registered Brahman herd sires.

Photo by Author

# The Best of Three Worlds

Florida's State FFA President has to keep on the move to fulfill the obligations of his office, his job, and his career.

By Gary Bye

CHRIS Hardee stretched into his customary fast pace as he skirted the crowd. He east a quick glance at the attractions: the Giant Octopus, the Rocket Sled, the World's Smallest Man, the World's Biggest Steer, all the things that make up a carnival. In an instant his attention was diverted back to the working world by a familiar call. "Hey, Chris, they're looking for you at the fair office."

Business as usual. For the past year Chris Hardee from the Chiefland, Florida, FFA Chapter has been living three very busy lives. As president of the Florida Association of Future Farmers of America, he's responsible for

providing leadership to over 13,500 FFA members. As an employee of the Florida State Department of Agriculture he answers to the Division of Shows and Fairs. And as the son of a Florida farmer and rancher, he tries to maintain close contact with the home operation. He owns half interest with his sister Diane in 17 registered Angus cows and four bulls.

Days like this one at the state fair are divided among those responsibilities.

Employed for the year by the state department of agriculture, Chris spends much of his time setting up displays and serving as a spokesman for agriculture. He'll earn a salary of \$25 per

day plus travel expenses.

The extensive travel required for this job allows time for subsequent FFA visits all over the state. "An eight-hour day often ends up closer to 12 to 13 hours," notes Chris, with a hint of pride in his voice for being able to carry out the busy assignment. "I try to schedule nearby chapter visitations wherever I am."

The arrangement between FFA and the department of agriculture has existed for the last several years. According to Chris it's a good setup. "By working for the state the FFA State President meets the leaders of agriculture as well as the general public. He pro-

motes agriculture to the public and at the same time gives a lot of exposure to the FFA." Chris's employer, the Commissioner of Agriculture for Florida, is Doyle Conner, a former National FFA President.

Chris is a capable spokesman for agriculture. In last year's state FFA public speaking contest, his speech, "A Story To Tell," emphasized the importance of communications in agriculture. Chris was named runner-up for the contest.

The young officer's farm background also gives him the credentials to speak for agriculture. His interest in the family farm and ranch will one day likely lead him back into full time farming. Even now he has the primary responsibility for selection of herd bulls for the 600 head of registered Angus and crossbred Angus-Brahman cows on his family's ranch.

The Hardees' ranch is owned and managed by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hardee, Chris's parents.

Recently the Hardees have been crossing their purebred Angus cows with top Brahman bulls. "We're trying to produce top quality F<sub>1</sub> crosses to sell to both purebred breeders who breed up to Brangus (% Angus, % Brahman), and to commercial feeders who like the F<sub>1</sub> Brahman cross for its hybrid vigor and adaptability to climate."

Chris adds, "There is just more of a demand for Brahman crosses here in Florida and that's what we're trying to do—meet the demand."

Besides the cattle, the Hardee farm also specializes in peanut production. According to Chris, it is a labor and capital intensive crop. "We'll go over the field 20 or more times in the 135-day growing season," he says. "And one acre of production may cost \$400."

The Hardees raise certified seed for which they receive a price premium. This year they were presented a plaque



Chris, at left, and the Florida FFA officer team meet with Executive Secretary Gary Bartley, center, for an on-the-spot planning meeting at the Florida Fair.

by the county extension service for their yield of over two tons per acre.

Chris's combined knowledge of agriculture and leadership ability has led to numerous awards. He was named class valedictorian with a grade point average of 3.96 out of a possible 4.0. He served as high school student council president and was named one of Florida's star students by the state Junior Chamber of Commerce. Only 250 students were so recognized in the state.

In FFA under advisors Eli Beasley and Dan Faircloth, he was Star Greenhand, Star Chapter Farmer and Regional State Star Farmer. And at last year's state convention he won the Beef Proficiency award.

As a livestock showman Chris has also been a consistent winner. Last year all three steers he showed won high honors. One was selected as grand champion at the Southeast Florida Steer Show, the biggest steer show in the state. Another was Reserve Champion

at the local Tri-County fair. And the third won the number three spot in the Florida State Carcass Show and sale.

In all, the sale of the three steers grossed over \$5,000 for Chris in one year. But the winnings are really only a means to an end for the young FFA leader. "I'm planning on using the money to attend Auburn University. I'll work for a four-year degree in animal science," he notes.

Then his plans call for a return to the family farm. The family including Chris, his parents, and his sister and brother-in-law hope to soon form a family corporation. "We've put in a lot of work on the place," says Chris, "it'd be hard to leave it."

So eventually Chris may again live only one life at a time instead of three. But to watch him as he moves about the fairgrounds shaking hands, and greeting friends and acquaintances on his way to another job, it's hard to believe one would be enough.

Chris and his sister Diane share half interest in a herd of cows. The family works closely on many farm operations.

Working for the State Department of Agriculture, Chris is a spokesman for Florida agriculture as well as the FFA.





# Giving Oral Reasons



A judging contestant gives his oral reasons at the National FFA contest.

EVERY livestock owner should be able to describe his animals to prospective buyers in concise, accurate livestock terminology. Judges of livestock shows and other events also need to describe and compare animals in terms acceptable to exhibitors and audiences. Formal oral reasons are required in FFA and collegiate livestock judging contests including the National FFA Livestock Judging Contest.

#### What Are Oral Reasons?

Oral reasons are talking from a mental image to logically and accurately defend your placing. Or in simpler language just telling someone how and why you placed a class by comparing the faults and good points.

#### What You Learn By Giving Reasons

Learning to judge is valuable to people in the livestock industry. The skill can help you to become more observant. You learn to detect quality and/or approved practices by assigning values based on relative importance. You learn to organize your thoughts and to rely on your own judgment. Giving reasons helps to develop your memory. You learn to express yourself through clear speech. Through all this you gain confidence in yourself and learn how to make logical decisions. You learn how to sell yourself and your ideas.

Additional benefits include becoming familiar with recent trends and opportunities in the livestock industry.

Condensed from "Oral Reasons in Livestock Judging," a Science and Technology Guide, University of Missouri, by Greg Martin and C. Melvin Bradley. You will develop an awareness of the economic importance of various characteristics of livestock.

#### Taking Notes

Notes help you recall the visual image of the animals. But when you give oral reasons you must talk from a mental picture of the animals and not a page of notes. Use them only to help you develop that picture.

When taking notes write down your first impression of the placing. Look for big things first, like size, frame, and thickness. Judge the whole animal, not just a class of feet and legs or underlines.

Notes should be brief. Write just enough to help you recall the class and a few important details. Then spend the last three minutes looking at the class to try and memorize the animals. You have to train yourself to remember the animals, it doesn't come naturally.

#### **Organize Your Reasons**

The ability to give effective reasons is an important quality of any good livestock judge. Many factors influence the effectiveness of your reasons. However, unless reasons are presented in a manner which is pleasant to hear, and clear and easy to follow, the value of accuracy is largely lost because much that is said doesn't "get through" to the listener.

The organization of a set of reasons largely determines how easy the reasons are to follow. There are many different systems of organizing reasons. Pick a system that is logical, clear, and easy to follow. Following is a basic outline for a set of reasons.

When giving oral reasons on a class of our animals, the class is divided into a top pair, middle pair, and a bottom pair. The same procedure is used in presenting each pair. For the following example, assume a class of Crossbred Market Barrows is placed 1-2-3-4.

#### Style and Form

Introduce the class by saying, "I placed this class of Crossbred Market Barrows—1, 2, 3, 4,..." Then begin your analysis "... and thought I had a two pair class."

Give a general statement including the most important general points for placing the pair. Example: "In my top pair of gray rumped pigs, I placed I over 2 because 1 was a larger framed trimmer barrow..."

Then compare by continuing with the general points and adding the detail needed to complete the comparison. Stick to comparing only where differ-

ences exist. Example: "One was wider through his chest floor, taller at the top of his shoulder and was cleaner over his shoulder and down his top..."

Finally, grant the most important things first. Example: "I will grant that 2 was a thicker topped barrow with more muscle expression through his lower ham and that he had more cushion and give to his pasterns..."

#### Delivery

Oral reason scores are subjective, therefore the impression made on the reasons judge is important. Your appearance should be neat.

Display confidence in your placing while giving oral reasons, and be organized so the judge can easily follow your reasons. You should be able to give your reasons without looking at your notes.

Stand with your hands behind your back, knees bent slightly and your weight on the balls of your feet. Stand straight and still, don't lean forward or bend over. And look at the judge at all times.

Your voice should be strong and confident, not too loud. Adjust it to the room you are in. Make the judge listen to you but use smooth easy flowing delivery with pauses. Vary terms in each pair and don't overuse any particular phrase or term.

Another common mistake for those giving reasons is to go too fast. Talk at a speed that is easy for the judge to understand everything you say.

Success in giving oral reasons comes from practice. Even the best judges need occasional practice to maintain their ability. If you're planning a career in livestock you'll need to start now in developing those skills.

Notes should help you develop a visual image of the class you are judging.



The National FUTURE FARMER



FFA Advisor Hubert Schuler, left, puts his emphasis on agribusiness instruction. Billy Justus says "it's paid off."

BILLY Justus has pulled a couple of switches in his agricultural program. He'd started in FFA with a few head of registered sows. He liked production ag and thought he might like to be a full time farmer.

About that time the Corps of Engineers started developing a lake. The lake would eventually inundate the land he was renting near his home in Smithville, Missouri.

So at age 14, Billy went to work for a meat cutting business. The job was his first experience with an agribusiness. It proved to be valuable training and was the basis for his FFA State Farmed degree.

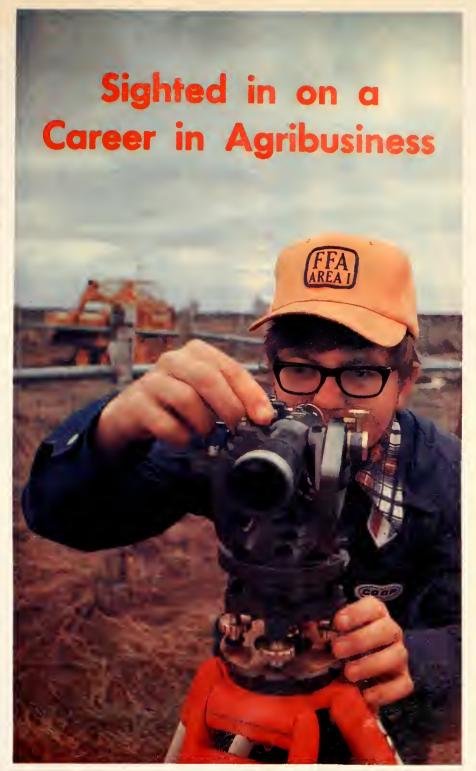
During his senior year, Billy, who by now was looking for full time employment happened to take a tour of Farmland Industries, Inc. The farmer cooperative is one of the largest in the United States. Billy recognized the opportunities at Farmland. Working through channels he applied for a job as a research technician in the ag engineering department. The job required experience in production agriculture and skills in farm mechanics.

Billy was hired in June of 1974 and began working in the job that would help him earn his American Farmer degree. He received it at the 1975 National FFA Convention.

"The job as a research technician gives me a wide variety of experiences," says Justus. It includes the testing of products under consideration for marketing by Farmland.

"We try to put these things under use as near to the real thing as we can," notes Billy. "But we try to increase the stress and wear to a point where we can see just how good the product really is."

Products tested run from ammonia shanks and hog feeders to lawn mower blades and plastic fence posts. The evaluation results are written up and sent to the Farmland sales office for the final



decision on whether the product should be sold in the coop's stores.

Much of the testing is done on Farmland's research farm. 20 miles outside of Kansas City. Billy's work on the farm may call on the practical skills he learned while working in production ag. Many of the shop work skills used at the Farmland testing laboratory in Kansas City were learned in his high school vo-ag classes. Other divisions of Farmland often call on Billy's engineering division to construct projects they need built.

"My vo-ag teacher, Mr. Hubert Schuler, could see the change taking place in Smithville (a bedroom community for Kansas City). With the number of people moving out to the lake to live and commute to Kansas City, he knew there wouldn't be much farming taking place there. So he began shifting our ag program from production ag to agribusiness.

"It was a good move. Our ag program is still strong and continues to teach students the skills that will get them jobs."

# Will America's Love Affair with Beef Continue?



Too many cattlemen feel that America's romance with beef will continue without any effort on their part.

By Ron Francis

VERYBODY loves a cowboy. He's our hero. We've watched him with great awe on our TV sets and at the movies. America's great love affair with the tall man in his saddle, his cattle and the independent rugged life he lives is very much with us. Cattlemen and cowboys are a great part of our 200 years of history.

But, what of the future of eattlemen, eowboys and you? The "real world" cowman is quite a different person than the movie hero we've watched. The modern manager is a vital link in the world food chain. While he knows he's here to stay, he can see many challenges for future eattlemen.

The beef business does have a number of strong points that give stability to an industry often accused of being an inefficient and wasteful supplier of a food we could do without.

Beef now provides 19 percent of the nation's protein needs. Year in and year out, we spend an average of 2.5 percent of our disposable income for beef. Meat represents about one-third of the consumer food budget, and beef accounts for half of the meat expenditures, or about one-sixth of the income spent on food for use in the home.

Clearly, consumer preference is for beef. A recent California study showed that in almost all income groups, from 40 to 60 percent of meat purchases were beef. Eating enjoyment and nutritional value must be considered as important factors in the preference for beef.

If size is a factor, then consider this. The beef cattle industry is the largest segment of American agriculture, with annual sales of cattle and calves totaling around \$20 billion, or 20 to 25 percent of all cash receipts from farm marketings. The U.S. has only 10 percent of the world's cattle, but produces 30 percent of the world's beef.

One very strong point for the beef industry is the unique nature of the beef cow. Equipped with a special four-stomach digestive system, cattle are the world's original seavengers, converting otherwise wasted resources into essential protein and other nutrients for mankind. Eighty percent of the feed consumed by beef cattle in the U.S. comes from roughages and by-products not edible by man, and that does not include grazing land. Without ruminant animals, this land is wasted as a renewable resource for food production.

Sixty percent of the land area of the world, including about 60 percent of the land in the U.S., is classified as grazing or range land—land which eannot be used to produce cultivated crops. Ruminant animals like beef cattle, with their ability to digest cellulose (which makes up three-fourths of the world's plant material), offer the only way to

harvest food from these billions of acres of grazing land.

Before we say that all is well, there are a couple of questions that need consideration.

First, can the beef industry really produce protein more efficiently when compared with other sources of protein? In the case of cheaper items like beef liver and ground beef, the answer is yes. But, other beef cuts are relatively expensive sources of protein. To be realistic, it should be noted that beef is the preferred meat because of eating enjoyment, not just because of nutritional value. But that is a real plus, not a minus for the beef industry.

One recent analysis showed that 20 grams of protein from beef liver and hamburger cost only about 20 cents. The only cheaper sources of protein in this analysis were dry beans, peanut butter, eggs and bread. Milk protein and chicken protein were about the same as, or a little higher than, hamburger. In the case of sirloin steak and rib roast, you are obviously buying enjoyment, not just nutrition. The cost of 20 grams of protein in this form was more than 60 cents. Even more expensive, however, was protein from pork chops and lamb chops, and the highest of all, at \$1 for 20 grams, was bacon.

Another question. Can the cowman really exist by himself? At one time, he did; there was no feeding industry. If economics dictated it, we could dispense with feeding in this country again. But for now, and for the foreseeable future, feeding performs an important economic function in this country—increasing total beef supplies, leveling supply, producing a more palatable product and improving over-all beef production efficiency as a result of faster growth, higher yields per animal and cheaper per unit processing costs.

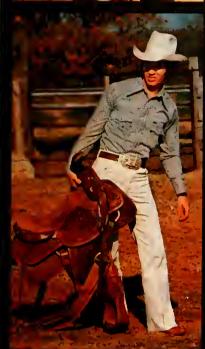
Now assuming we can go on producing protein food competitively, what about external forces? We could dwell at length on inflation, the energy crisis and international problems which affect all businesses. But, here are a few specific obstacles confronting the beef business.

Excessive environmentalism. Before we dismiss the environmental movement, note the results of a recent opinion poll. Sixty percent of the public said it is more important to pay higher prices for products, in order to protect the environment, than to keep prices and taxes down and run the risk of more pollution. However, 95 percent did say that the need to clean up the environment should be balanced with needs for full employment. A major problem for beef producers is that many of the environmental spokesmen distort the facts and make irresponsible

(Continued on Page 45)

Ran Francis is a former state president of the FFA in Utah and is presently Associate Cammunications Director for the American National Cattlemen's Association, Denver, Colorado 80201.





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# Meet the Vanishing Mr. Mule



He is walking into limbo but he will be a mule to the last.

By Irwin Ross

TOLL the funeral bell, chant the dirge, shed the furtive tear; for the mule, with ears flapping and hard tail swinging, is walking into limbo. He'll be a mule to the last; he won't walk fast and he'll balk a time or two but he'll get there, nevertheless.

This honest, homely workman is a victim of progress. Our grandchildren will probably know him only as the strange looking inhabitant of a pen at the zoo. History will probably not do him justice, for his reputation among those who know him only by hearsay is not pretty. No animal has inspired so much profanity, so much concentrated criticism, as this purely utilitarian beast, created by man when he diverted one of nature's laws to cross two noble creatures, the horse and the ass, to make a hybrid.

Rural folklore swells at the seams with homely wisdom about the mule. "Never bet on what a man can do, or what a mule will do," and "The best way to put a mule in his stall is to hire someone else to do it."

A Missouri outlaw mule could knock a hole in a two-foot wall, stand on his head and kick at the sky, and chill the spine of the toughest mule skinner with his display of temperament.

The large barns, which mule barons built to house the animals until they were sold, had windows the size of a ray of sunlight. Stockmen felt that the mule was less lethal in a dimly lit enclosure.

And mule buyers, out of respect, quickly learned to take the shoes off the hind feet of those which they purchased.

The first mule to set foot on the soil of America came into Missouri from Mexico. However, the Mexican mule, originally from Spain, proved inadequate for the hard, endless labor of the American frontier, and the now famous Missouri mule was invented.

Kentuckians sent blooded jacks and jennets into the state, and Ohio farmers sent large, strong mares. After the mule colt was foaled, high grass, limestone springs, and the expert handling of Missouri farmers did the rest.

The result was a large-boned, shambling animal, weighing between 1,100 and 1,200 pounds, an animal which did not have a peer anywhere.

By 1880 Missouri stood first among the states in mule population. The state's reputation justified an oft-appearing illustration of two mules being led by their halters, with the caption, "In mules Missouri stands at the head—the only safe place."

The growth and expansion of America during the latter part of the nineteenth century can be told, in part, in terms of mule statistics. They built the railroads, logged the forests, plowed the fields and harvested the wheat. Teams of 8, 12, and 16, powered the reapers and the combines. They turned the grist mills, built the roadways, forced the sugar out of the sugar cane. They groaned and sweated and kicked—but they did not stop. The coal mines employed them, the army utilized them, and foreign countries purchased them.

After enjoying a boom during World War I, the mule industry had a few good years immediately following the peace. In addition to the home market, there was a big demand for Missouri mules in Europe. The Germans, having seen what the Missouri mule could do on the Western Front, were the largest importers.

As the economic situation in Europe deteriorated, mule trading declined. By 1929, the high rate of exchange and the general condition of international trade all but wiped out the trade.

The mule population of the United States increased up until 1925, and then the years of decline set in. In 1925, there were 5,918,000 mules on the nation's farms. From that time to the present, there has been a steady decrease.

Old mules are dying faster than the young ones are growing up. Since the life of a mule ranges between 17 and 19 years, this indicates that the mule is

(Continued on Page 36)

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#### Meet Mr. Mule

(Continued from Page 34)

rapidly passing into the ranks of those other animals symbolic of early America—the Texas Longhorn, the American Bald Eagle, and the American Buffalo.

At present, the big mule states are all below the Mason-Dixon Line. Forty acres and a mule are still common in the South; 200 acres and a tractor is the Midwest story. The land of cotton is the mule's last stand.

The decline of the mule was reflected in the number purchased by the United States Army during World War I—123,660 and World War II—29,336.

The mule had a brief day after World War II. With one foot in heaven, he still packed a tremendous wallop in the other. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration purchased 20,500 mules in the United States to be used for general farm work abroad.

Since then the market has deteriorated. One farmer, who has worked around mule auctions for 41 years, claims that more mules formerly went past the auctioneer in Kansas City in an hour than now go by in a month.

It is said that a mule has no pride of ancestry and no hope of posterity. He is a hybrid, a cross between a horse and an ass, and is almost always sterile.

Male donkeys are called jacks and female donkeys are called jennets. The cross between the jack and horse mare produces the mule, while mating a stallion and jennet produces a hinny.

The standard crossing is, of course, with the jack and mare. The hinny is not deliberately bred in this country.

The hinny partakes more of the nature of the horse in form and disposition than the jennet. It has a neater head, heavier head and mane, and a larger foot than the mule.

However, authorities seem to agree that the hinny does not have the strength or the endurance of the mule. The hinny has a whinny similar to a horse's; a mule brays like a jack. Both the mule and the hinny can be of either sex.

It is commonly believed that the mule, being a hybrid, is sterile. However, a number of cases of female mules that produced progeny are on record, well authenticated.

In one instance, checked by the Texas Experiment Station, a female mule produced to the cover of a stallion, and later produced to the cover of a jack. One of the colts was therefore three-fourths ass and one-fourth horse and the other three-fourths horse and one-fourth ass.

A St. Martinsville, Louisiana, mule mare by the name of Lou dropped a colt on November 13, 1947. This was verified by a veterinarian.

There is no evidence of offspring sired by a male mule.

Numerous tests have been made in comparing horses and mules in pulling contests. Under pressure with whips, it seems likely that mules will pull as much in proportion to their weight as horses; but where whips or goads are not allowed, horses pull more. In other words, mules always work with some mental reservation.

The truth of the expression "A mule will do the work of six horses" is borne out when it comes to endurance under adverse conditions, especially in hot weather. No draft animal, so far developed, has the endurance of the mule under all kinds of working conditions.

Farmers believe that a team of mules can outwork two teams of horses on a hot day. It seems that a mule's hide is tougher, harder, and less sensitive, making the mule more capable of resisting sun and rain.

A mule will not only eat a coarser food but will thrive under conditions which would kill a horse. He will find enough to eat where any other animal, save a goat, would starve to death. Straw, pine boards, the bark of trees, grain sacks, pieces of old leather, and old felt hats go down the hatch when the mule is hungry.



"Of course you're more than just a pretty face to me—You're a pretty face that knows algebra."

Out of the Civil War comes a story of a team of mules that ate a government wagon. On the other hand, a mule can go for long intervals without food.

A mule will not injure himself in a runaway or by charging into a fence. A horse will knock himself out, but a mule never. He has too much common sense for that and doesn't get excited. Mule colts are easier to raise than horse colts for that reason.

Since mules do not reproduce, farmers rarely own all mules. If they prefer mules, they keep a good brood mare or two to supply mule colts.

It is true that mules sometimes balk under heavy loads. Tradition says it is because they are stubborn and perverse; those who know the mule say he's too smart to do more than he has to. In fact, there is much evidence to support the claim that a mule is smarter than a horse. Even his detractors notice that he rarely gets himself into a jam, and always has a sharp eye open for his best interests, not always true of a horse.

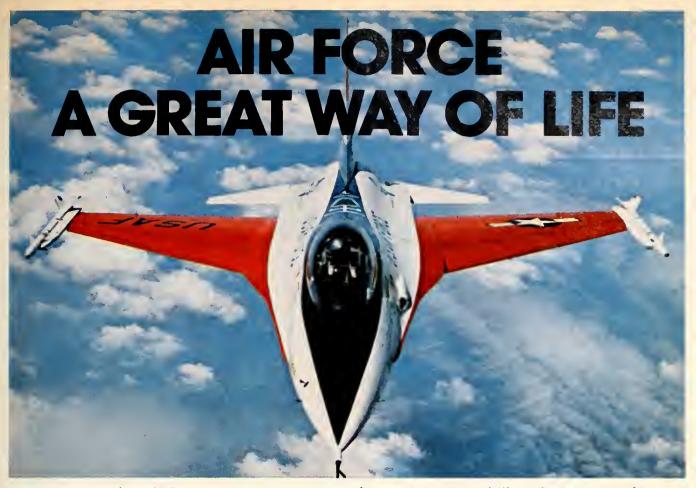
The mule also outlives the horse. The average life of a work horse is 15 years; of mules, 18 years.

The mule costs less to shoe and is more sure footed than the horse. He will hold a shoe longer than a horse because his hoof is more deeply cupped and is tougher. The mule suffers less from disease.

The horse has a number of advantages over the mule. He comes to maturity more quickly and can be put to hard labor sooner. Larger and stronger horses can probably pull heavier loads. Rarely do you hear of a mule weighing over 2,000 pounds; many draft horses weigh up to 2,600 pounds. Horses are easier to handle, less temperamental, less likely to kick.

The mule is vanishing, but he will not die, only fade away.





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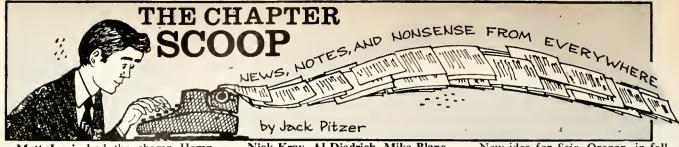
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there's good pay, and 30 days of paid vacation each year. It's a great way of life for those young men and women dedicated to the continuation of 200 years of American freedom. If you are one of these people and believe you could meet our high mental and physical standards and want to help make a great Air Force better, call toll free 800-447-4700 (in Illinois call 800-322-4400) for the location of your nearest Air Force representative. Or send in the attached card.

AIR FORCE A GREAT WAY OF LIFE

April-May, 1976



Matt Jarvis had the champ Hampshire ewe at Utah state fair. He's from Spanish Fork Chapter.

Belgrade, Montana, annual Christmas tree hunt has been going 15 years on Mr. Stan Milesnick's ranch. Used trucks and snowmobiles.

Top public speakers at Tulsa, Oklahoma, state fair were Steve Pope, Lomega, first; Billy Miller, Anadarko, second; Otey Enoch, Central High, third; Noble Sokolosky, Owasso, fourth; and Carl Gragg, Morris, fifth.

"Our chapter has a weekly radio program every Tuesday at 6:45 a.m. on KDSN." The public relations committee is responsible. *Manning*, Iowa.



Riverdale, Florida, built such a bonfire as a kickoff for their FFA year, the principal thought the ag department was on fire. He called out the trucks.

With three chain saws and three days of work, 80 *Rockford*, Michigan, FFA'ers cut, hauled and stacked 30 cords.

First place grass judging team at Heart O' Texas fair from Stanton—Danny Ireton, Russell Mims, Wayne Atchison.

Develop pride of FFA membership. Show "Sights and Sounds" of recent National Convention. Order slides and tape from National Organization.

To promote agriculture in their state, Brewster, FFA sent famous Washington apples to Gillete, Wyoming.

Dress for Livingston, Montana, dance was "hard times" and Chuck Hotes and Michelle Cassidy were named worst dressed boy and girl.

County fair board includes a *Paris*, Missouri, FFA'er.

A team from *Blackhawk*, Pennsylvania, demonstrated the use of solar energy to dry grain at state farm show.

Nick Kray, Al Diedrich, Mike Blanc, and Dave Binder were selected to put on a pruning demonstration at Ohio State Fair. These *Parma* members "showed how" on deciduous and evergreen hedges.

South Kitsap, Washington, was organization selected "Pick of the Week" by their high school. For chapter's accomplishments in judging and showing.

Sure lots of chapters selling things—at least that's what many news items we see are about. Newest is cheese at *Klemme*, Iowa. Hope our chapters are doing more than just selling things. Write about everything.

Francis Scott Key, Maryland, FFA is having a farmer dress up day during FFA WEEK.

Bennett County, South Dakota, ordered Home & Office style FFA calendars with their County Conservation District as sponsor.

Idea—purchase large FFA and U.S. flags for your church, school board room or stage. Or get the smaller sets for homes and offices.

It was agreed to give every Greenhand "An FFA member lives here" sign at Webster, South Dakota.

Farm plot committee sold 500 bushels of corn for *Charles City*, Iowa, and has 1,200 bushels in storage to sell.

A two-year-old registered Red Poll heifer was donated to Eugene, Oregon, by supporter Jim McKee. Chapter has heifer at their farm.

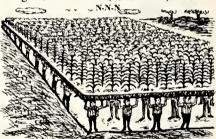
"Boy meets girl" at roller skating party for an FFA and FHA in county. But it was all an accident. Hosts— Buckeye Central, Ohio, FFA.

From money donated by local Cowbelle's organization, *Petaluma*, California, Chapter bought a cattle blow-drier.

New idea for *Scio*, Oregon, in fall—a harvest auction. Members squeezed 60 gallons of cider from donated apples. Then sold it with fruit, vegetables and shop items.

Nearly 250 came to *Monache*, California, sponsored barbeque. Then stayed for auction of items donated by local businesses.

We donated ingredients for pizza party and FHA put it together. "Pizza tasted real good but looked like something else." *Hobson*, Montana, FFA.



Logan View, Hooper, Nebraska, Chapter picked up 100 acres of corn to pay National Convention expenses.

After Fairview, Oklahoma, project tour, a barbequed lamb and goat lunch was served by FFA boosters.

Quartz Hill, California, installed an automatic drip system to water plants surrounding the town's welcome sign.

So far, New Holstein, Wisconsin, members have assembled a corn planter, 24-foot digger, two 6-row cultivators, and two vibra-shank diggers for local machinery dealer. It's fun, good PR and great work experience.

Ainsworth, Nebraska, hosted 46 young farmers from Jackson, Minnesota, overnight. Guests learned from FFA'ers about Sandhills farming on way to Denver stock show.

Escaped...20 leghorns of Annette Carlos, Covina, California, got out at the school farm and invaded the auto shop and rest of the campus. All birds made it back.

It was at a camp for Carthage, Missouri, area underprivileged children that FFA conducted Food For America.

There must be some new ideas being used in your chapter that would be newsy to members in another state. Jot a note off soon to Scoop. Share.



You've come a long way, farmers of America. From 1 horse or ox to 180 "horses" today. Our new 180 hp\* Model 1570 symbolically measures the progress of the American farmer thru the years.

The Spirit of '76 shown above is a limited edition of the new Model 1570...our tribute to the Bicentennial. It typifies the pioneering

\*Manufacturer's rating.

tradition of Case dating back to the first steam engine for agricultural use.

Look back over agriculture's progress of 200 years. Consider the tremendous advances in farm mechanization in just the past 75 years. Then you know that America's pioneering spirit still lives. And the agriculture of tomorrow

may well outstrip the progress of the past two centuries.

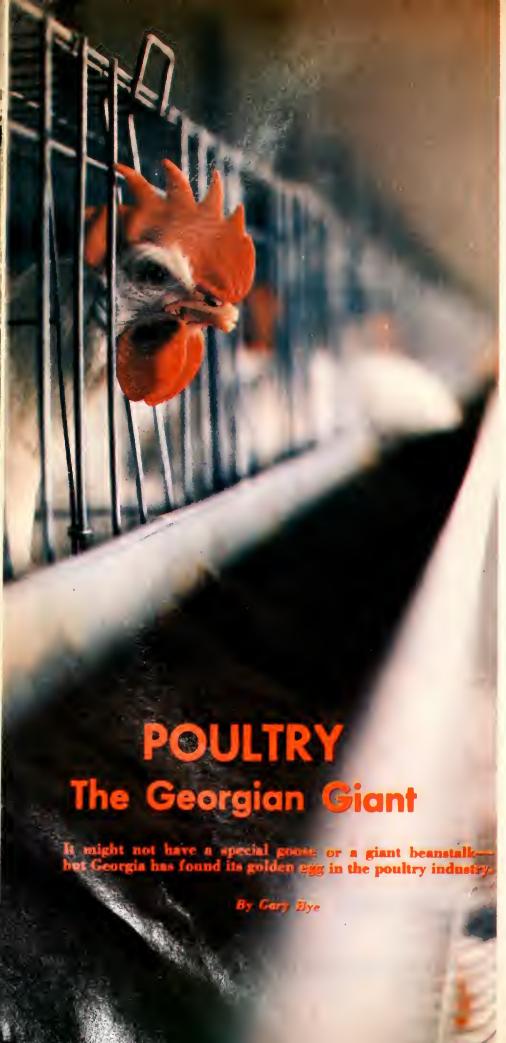
You and Case will be an important part of that tomorrow. J I Case Company, Racine Wisconsin 53404.

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doing something about it.





Where the streets are paved with feathers," quipped Mr. E. H. Stowers, the FFA advisor at East Hall High School in Gainesville, Georgia.

The comment was in reference to the chicken feathers scattered outside the poultry processing plant we'd just visited. Yet it had a deeper meaning. For Gainesville is literally a city built around chickens—millions of them.

Georgia, dubbed the Poultry Capital of the World, leads all other states in income derived from poultry and poultry products. In 1974, the state was producing and processing an average of over 4½ million pounds of chicken and more than one million dozen eggs every day. Yearly cash receipts from farm marketings of poultry were \$735 million.

And that's only part of the story. Poultry is also a vital part of the business and industrial community. Georgia has 25 USDA-inspected broiler processing plants, 20 USDA-graded egg processing plants, 77 hatcheries and countless other operations.

Today that industry is providing you and me with a delicious quality product at much less the real cost of 10 to 15 years ago.

To tell the whole story of this miracle of modern agriculture we selected FFA members in and around Gainesville who work in various aspects of the industry.

The Hatchery—Since in our judgement "the egg came first," we drove to Tatum Farms, home of Ricky Tatum, 1974 FFA Star Farmer of Georgia.

Tatum Farms, in most simple terms, is in the business of producing eggs to produce chickens. Like a purebred cattle breeder produces the genetically desirable breeder stock, Tatums produce the highest quality hatching eggs, chicks, and breeder parent stock.

Ricky is a management trainee in a business that has 650,000 commercial and breeding chickens on hand at all times. "On the average we ship 1,100 cases of hatching eggs per week," notes Ricky. "Another 1,000 cases are shipped as commercial eggs." Multiplied out that comes to over 39 million eggs a vear.

The 450-acre farm located near Dawsonville. Georgia, is home base for the company which has some 50 employees. Since the Tatum breeding operation began some 25 years ago with 3,000 birds, it has shipped birds to 40 countries, including the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle and Far East.

In January of this year the Tatum operation expanded its overseas operations with the opening of Tatum Dominicana, South America, a 1,600-acre





At left, Mike Buffington shows his FFA Advisor Mr. E. H. Stowers the new poultry house on their farm. Above, Charles Cantrell checks feeders in the broiler house.



Above, Steve Wehunt inspects one of the many birds that passes through the processing plant. On the right, Ricky Tatum consults with his father Mr. W. L. Tatum, president of Tatum Farms on business end of a hatchery.

complex operating as a separate breeding farm and egg production facility near the capital of Santo Domingo. The Tatum operations supply close to 75 percent of the hatching egg market in Santo Domingo. They also supply a large percentage of the hatching eggs in many of the other Latin American countries.

Ricky says their business stresses research and testing to develop the strains of chickens that produce total performance; growth, fertility, hatchability, livability and dressability. Most of the research is done on the home farm, but continuous monitoring of bird performance is done through grower reports and reports from contract farms which grow out the birds.

Mr. Tatum, president of the com-

pany, noted in an address to a young farmers' group that was visiting the farm, "My first poultry project consisted of 150 chicks. These were grown out for my FFA project." Mr. Tatum still holds strong feelings for the FFA. He became the first life member of Dawson County Alumni Association.

The Broiler Flock—Another important segment of the poultry industry is the broiler flock. To illustrate this aspect, we made two stops. First, we visited the home of Charles Cantrell who lives near Gainesville. Charles was the Southern Region winner of the FFA Poultry Production award for 1975. The young man started as a novice in the chicken business. In 1973 he moved to Georgia from Colorado. His family purchased a 90-acre farm where he and

his father became partners in an 86,000 bird operation.

Like most broiler producers, the Cantrells work on a contract agreement with a poultry company. The company provides the chicks, feed, medication and supplies for a full cycle of production. A company field man will visit the operation once per week. Charles says the grower in turn supplies the houses, labor, water and heat. "Last year with this system we produced close to 425,000 chickens," says Cantrell.

The chicks are delivered when they are about one day old. They are fed for about 7½ weeks before being picked up by the company for processing.

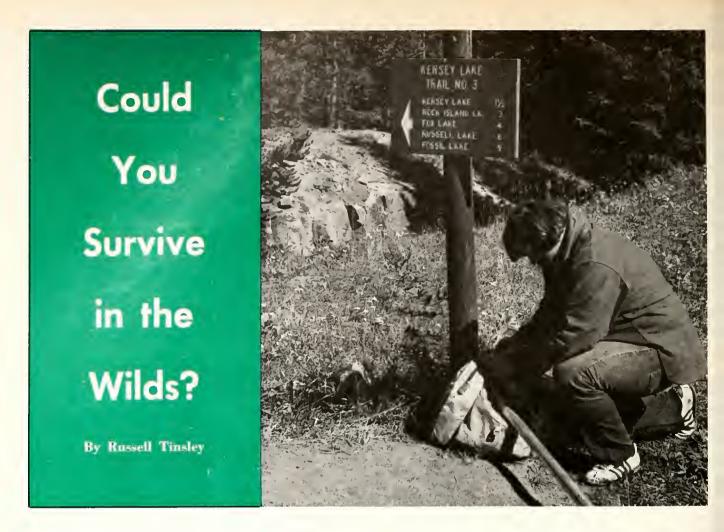
Growers receive payment by the pound. Therefore, the more gain per pound of feed and the lower the fatality rate of the birds, the more profit is made by the grower. Incentive payments are made for feed conversions (pound of gain per pound of feed) under two to one. Last year Charles' average was 1.87 to one.

Birds should weigh between 3.8 and 4.0 pounds. And the Cantrells try to keep their livability percentage over 95 percent.

Performance records are published by the poultry company describing which of their growers are making or losing money for the company. "If you are on the losing column too many times you won't be one of their growers for long," concludes Charles.

Broiler Growers Stress Automation— The other broiler operation we visited was at the home of Mike Buffington. Mike was the state FFA Poultry Proficiency winner for Georgia for 1975. He works with his father in an operation that houses 38,000 broilers at one

(Continued on Page 60)



I N many years of roaming the woods I must admit I have been lost a couple of times. To suddenly realize you do not know where you are is a feeling of frustration bordering on panic. But in either instance I sat down, calmed myself, and ran things through my mind and eventually came forth with a clue which enabled me to escape the dilemma with nothing more serious than a case of nerves.

Therefore, the basic question, I believe, is not *could* you survive for any length of time in the wilds but why face this problem? 'Tis much easier on the nervous system to avoid trouble rather than attempting to cope with it, a Tinsley axiom.

Most established trails in national forests and parks are marked and unless you stray off them there is little likelihood of getting confused or turned around. But there is a bit of adventure in all of us and we succumb to the temptation for getting off the beaten path. No problem with this if you think before doing and you are prenared.

When hiking through an area be aware of any prominent landmarks, such as a mountain. Use this as a key to determine your whereabouts at all times. If leaving a trail note the sun's position; should it be on your left as

you walk away, it naturally should be on your right coming back, unless there is sufficient time interval for it to change direction. At night or during a snowstorm or if the sky is overcast, you must be doubly wary. Don't take any unnecessary chances.

It always is wise to pack a compass and know how to use the device. But probably the most valuable item you can carry, more important than even rudimentary survival gear, is a topographical map.

Topo maps come in a variety of scales—the size relationship between the earth's surface and corresponding map features. A 1:24,000 map, for example, means one inch on the map represents 24,000 inches (2,000 feet) of the area shown. Smaller the ratio, the more detail. A medium-scale map (1:62,500) and small-scale map (1:250,000) cover larger areas and are not as practical for someone going into a specific locale.

Such a map is very detailed, showing both natural and man-made features. By studying it periodically in strange country you can pinpoint your location at any given time.

Cost of a map is nominal. Indexes listing topographic maps in each state are available free from Map Information Office, U.S. Geological Survey,

Washington, D.C. 20242, or Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Don't forget to specify the state.

Index information includes the area covered by each quadrangle map, its name, scales, year of survey, and also lists federal map distribution centers and addresses of local top map dealers in the larger cities.

(Continued on Page 46)

Nature foods are almost endless. The fruit of prickly pear cactus is edible.



The National FUTURE FARMER

#### Beef

(Continued from Page 30)

statements which are difficult for an industry to counter.

Related to the problem of environmentalism is opposition to technology which often is based more on emotion and politics than on scientific evidence and judgement. One example of this was the Senate vote to ban dicthylstilbestrol (DES) in beef production. It was a case of a political body making a scientific decision based on emotion.

Related to technology, consider how agricultural research has lagged at the very time when it is needed most. Back in 1955, some 10 percent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture budget was for research; now it's only 2 percent. In 1940, agriculture's share of federal research money was 40 percent; in 1973, it was less than 3 percent. One report indicated that the current national research and development budget totals \$20 billion, but only 2½ percent is for agriculture.

Still another obstacle is increasing criticism of the amounts and types of beef we consume. However, the often quoted per capita consumption figures are based on carcass weight. Actually, we eat only about 45 pounds of cooked, edible beef per year—or only 2 ounces per day. This is less than the 3½



At this scientific feedlot, a computer prepares the high protein "ration" of grain and roughage. Feedlot cattle receive a more balanced diet than humans.

ounces of beef which is frequently recommended as a daily amount.

With all these obstacles is it possible for a cowman to make a living in this uncertain world? That depends. It appears that most cow-calf operators cannot earn an adequate return on investment unless they consider land appreciation as part of the return. The man who can improve production efficiency and management skills will likely make a living at it.

But production efficiency is not enough. Most cattlemen know how to produce pretty well. A bigger problem is business and financial management and marketing. In a supply/demand business you may not be able to climinate periodic cycles altogether, but you should be able to do a better job of planning, management, and marketing.

The future of the beef business for Future Farmers? That depends on you. If you're willing to become more sophisticated in your economic understanding, business management, and in your public and governmental affairs skills, then your chances of success are improved.

There are lots of good things going for the cattle business. Saddle up and give it a try.



#### Could You Survive?

(Continued from Page 44)

Other than a map perhaps the second most-important item you can have with you is a container of waterproof matches. You can dip the heads of ordinary wooden matches in parafin to make them moistureproof and cut them to size and seal them in something like one of those plastic snap-tog cylinders which 35mm film comes packaged in.

Matches are for making fire, a basic fact to be sure, but one that comes in mighty handy in any emergency, whether you are lost or not.

Each year people die unnecessarily in the wilds, and sometimes deaths attributed to drownings, falls or other accidents might, in fact, be the result of hypothermia, commonly known as exposure sickness.

Hypothermia often strikes because someone foolishly tries to assume the



Numerous wild berries, like the agarita not only are edible but are also tasty.

role of he-man. The victim, robbed of vital body heat by wind and/or dampness, becomes groggy, has difficulty making decisions, and might lose his sense of direction—a mishap just waiting to happen.

And would you believe that bluejeans can be a contributing factor? When dry, jeans are comfortable and rugged, but if they get wet they, made of cotton, lose about 90 percent of their insulating capability and even draw moisture to the garment's outside so that evaporation adds to the chill. The same is true of any cotton apparel such as T-shirts, sweat shirts and denim jackets.

Wool garments are a better choice. They dry from the inside out and retain some of their insulating power when wet. Wool trousers beneath a rain suit or poncho will keep you warm even during a winter rain, but bluejeans could steal the warmth and unknowingly you become a victim of subtle hypothermia, even if you are in the prime of physical condition.

So should you get wet in a cold mountain thundershower or take an unexpected dunking in a high-country lake or stream, it is sensible to find a sheltered spot, build a fire, and dry yourself completely before continuing.

The odds, really, are against anyone getting lost anymore, what with a shrinking wilderness and more and more people roaming the woods. It is difficult to find a place where you won't meet up with another human. But that doesn't mean it can't happen. I had a friend get lost and he had to spend the night in that forbidding chunk of wilderness real estate called the Big Thicket of East Texas. He said the experience was frightening as hell.

So take some time and analyze in your own mind as to what you would do in case of an emergency. This "preparation" is sort of a mental exercise and use of ingenuity that is itself a fascinating pastime.

Consider your baliwick. Could you go into the woods near your home and, depending upon your wits, survive two or three days merely by what you eatch or find? If you do some research you will discover that you could indeed. Something edible growing wild is available everywhere.

Nature foods are almost endless in number, such nourishment as wild onions, dandelions, watercress, the fruit of prickly pear cactus, any of the nuts such as native pecans, beech nuts and hickory nuts, fruits like dewberries, erab apples, wild plums, various types of cranberries, huckleberries, blueberries and wild strawberries, to name just a few. Four kinds of mushrooms not only are widespread and plentiful, they are easy to identify. These include the morels, which appear about apple-blossom time and have a lifespan of three or four weeks; the pasture mushrooms, found primarily in August and September; the puffballs of late summer and fall; and oystershells with their long season, early spring to very late autumn.

Your local library probably has sev-

Many nuts, such as native pecans, are available in the fall in some areas.





Mesquite beans, while sort of bitter, can be eaten and they are nourishing.

eral volumes on wild foods. Living Off the Land, by Bradford Angier (Stackpole) or any of the books by the late Euell Gibbons.

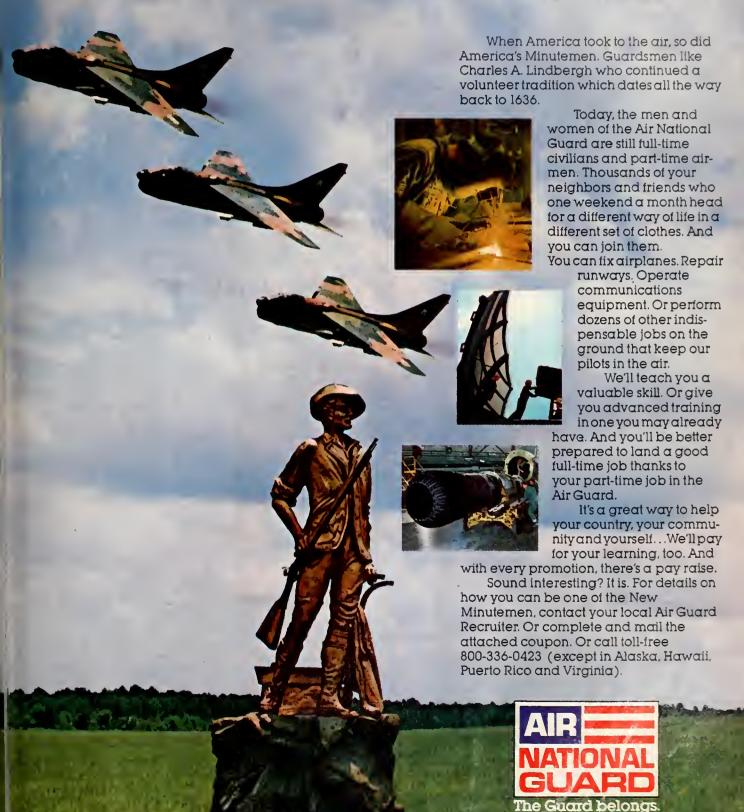
Most wild animals are edible and a few such as the porcupine and armadillo are easily caught. I even have eaten rattlesnake and it isn't bad. Buy several snares and learn how and where to set them. They particularly are effective on small game like cottontail rabbits.

If you want to test your woodsmanship, do your homework and then, along with a buddy, tote your sleeping bags into the woods and remain two or three days and attempt to survive on what you can find and catch.

The less you carry, the more authentic the test. I would recommend a knife and such staples as salt, pepper and flour, along with two or three pots and pans. At least make the food tasty. You undoubtedly will be hungry, but there is a certain amount of self-satisfaction in determining how well you can live on just what nature provides. I once, on assignment for a national magazine, spent two weeks in the wilds, subsisting on whatever I could find or kill (I did have a .22 rifle). It was tough, almost like torture at times, but I feel I'm a better outdoorsman for the experience.

The nice thing about sticking close to home is should the ordeal get to be a drag or too demanding, it is a simple matter to pack up and head in. But should real need arise, a true test of survival someday, what you know can be invaluable. There is nothing like practical experience. And other than being a noteworthy achievement of learning, this attempt to live off the land is also a challenge and really a fun thing. That is a hard combination to beat.

# THE MOST IMPORTANT PART-TIME JOB IN AMERICA.





The whole agricultural community turns out to support this successful chapter pig sale.

#### Agri-Emphasis: Livestock

# These Pigs Go To Market

By Jack Pitzer and Joe Navrath

TWICE each year, in the spring and in the fall, members of the Prague, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter join with area swine breeders in conducting the Prague Pig Sale.

The biannual event has become well known to swine producers, 4-H and FFA members in Oklahoma and surrounding states. Buyers have come from as far away as Wyoming to purchase quality pigs.

Prague FFA members have played an important role in the growth and development of the sale since its beginning in the early sixties.

In order to facilitate the Berkshires, Poland Chinas, Spots, Durocs, Yorkshires and Chester Whites offered in the sale, Prague FFA members and area swine breeders constructed a new 140 foot by 60 foot livestock barn adjacent to the vocational agriculture department.

The ag mechanics class constructed 200 6-foot wire panels to make into pens. They also built the auctioneer stand and special portable pig chute to facilitate getting animals into the ring.

The chute is 16 foot wide and has 3 compartments with sliding gates to hold pigs in order that they may be ushered into the ring quickly. FFA members operate the chute at the sales and bring pigs trom their pens, through the chute, in and out of the sale rings and back to their pens again.

In advance of sale day, members clean up their animal science building—sweep and wash—set up the 6 foot by 6 foot pens for stock, put up a show ring with portable bleachers around it in one end of the building, plus put up the auctioneer stand.

The day before the sale day, FFA members help transport pigs to the animal science huilding. They help local breeders wash, groom and paint-brand the pigs the day before the sale.

FFA members also keep the area clean by sweeping and cleaning the aisles and helping with manure and straw disposal.

The day of the sale, members bring the pigs into the ring. The paint-brand of each pig is written on a chalk board by an FFA member as soon as it comes into the ring. As soon as an animal is sold it is identified with marking

Part of the publicity for their sale is the announcement board at school.



chalk and then taken back to its pen.

The actual sale of the pigs is handled by an auctioneer with the animal being sold to the highest bidder. Local FFA members and members of the Prague Swine Breeders Association are eligible to consign pigs to the auction. Buyers of the pigs include FFA and 4-H members who purchase both breeding stock and show pigs and swine producers needing boars and gilts for breeding stock.

Following the sale FFA members assist the local veterinarian with necessary health papers for swine being transported out of state. FFA members also help the buyers load their pigs and then finally they disassemble the pens and clean up.

The success of the sale, which last November grossed over \$32,000.00 on 409 head, is due in part to the planning, organization and a lot of hard work by dedicated FFA members and swine producers. In order to adequately promote the sale, FFA sends 500 sale bills to prospective buyers—in and out of Oklahoma. The FFA parents even operate a concession stand at the barn. The quality of the product being sold has always been kept the highest and the buyers keep returning to buy champion boars, gilts and show barrows.

FFA members and area swine breeders have developed a pride of accomplishment in conducting a successful livestock marketing operation.

### The Secretary Said

(Continued from Page 20)

depend on us they won't do anything to jeopardize that relationship. The Foreign Minister of Agriculture in Romania, for example, turned to me on my visit there and said, 'You've got a weapon in the United States more powerful than the atom bomb—you've got soybeans.' What he meant was 'I've got to have your soybeans to succeed in Romania.' So there it is."

Officers: "Should American agriculture feed the world?"

Butz: "No, we can't do it. We've been making substantial contributions but in the long run, the world must feed the world. That's why we must help develop agriculture production all around the world. We are the world's bread basket. We provide the extra margin that is needed. Last year one half the food that moved in international channels originated in the United States. But the real challenge is to build up the food growing capacity of those other countries."

Officers: "I believe you recently made the statement that you didn't think food should be used in the political sense in international diplomacy?"

Butz: "No, I said we could never let our farmers become the pawn on the chessboard of international diplomacies of state. I didn't say it shouldn't be used. It is, yet in a positive way. The current stance of American agriculture is that of full production. We are using it in a positive way and it's a powerful tool in a diplomatic kit. On the other hand, if we ask the farmer to produce fully as we are, and want them to invest in expensive fertilizers and insecticides we can't let them then become the pawn of a ministry of foreign diplomacy that is insensitive to these aspirations of farmers. If we do that then we interrupt the very incentive that's made full production possible, that gives us the strength we have."

Officers: "Does the Secretary of State agree with you on this point?"

Butz: "Sometimes our goals are not completely consistent. When that happens we go to our policy board. If we can't resolve it there, it goes to the President."

Officers: "Will American agriculture continue to be set by the forces of supply and demand?"

Butz: "That's the way they are. I never want agricultural prices again to be set in this town."

Officers: "What are the chances for continuation of a market oriented agriculture?"

Butz: "Excellent, as long as I'm the Secretary of Agriculture and as long



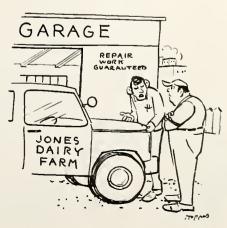
as Ford's in the White House. Under this policy our farmers are very competitive. I know there are individual differences—some prices are up and some are down. We've just finished three years of the highest net farm income in the history of America—that's net—that's after production expenses. About \$25 billion each of the last three years.

"Government's out of the commodity business and back where we belong. I think our farmers have been a lot better for it. Furthermore, we can operate as a very active competitor in the international market."

Officers: "Mr. Secretary, as National Officers, we have the opportunity to talk to many FFA members around the country. What do you think our message to them should be?"

**Butz:** "To get active in government. To run for office at the local level. We need responsible people to get active in the party of their choice and participate. I want the best possible people at all levels of government.

"I appreciate what you're doing. You have no choice when you start your professional careers. Neither did I. But if I had a choice of when I was going to start my career, I'd start it today, because of the tremendously fascinating challenges facing mankind. What a marvelous time to start your career."



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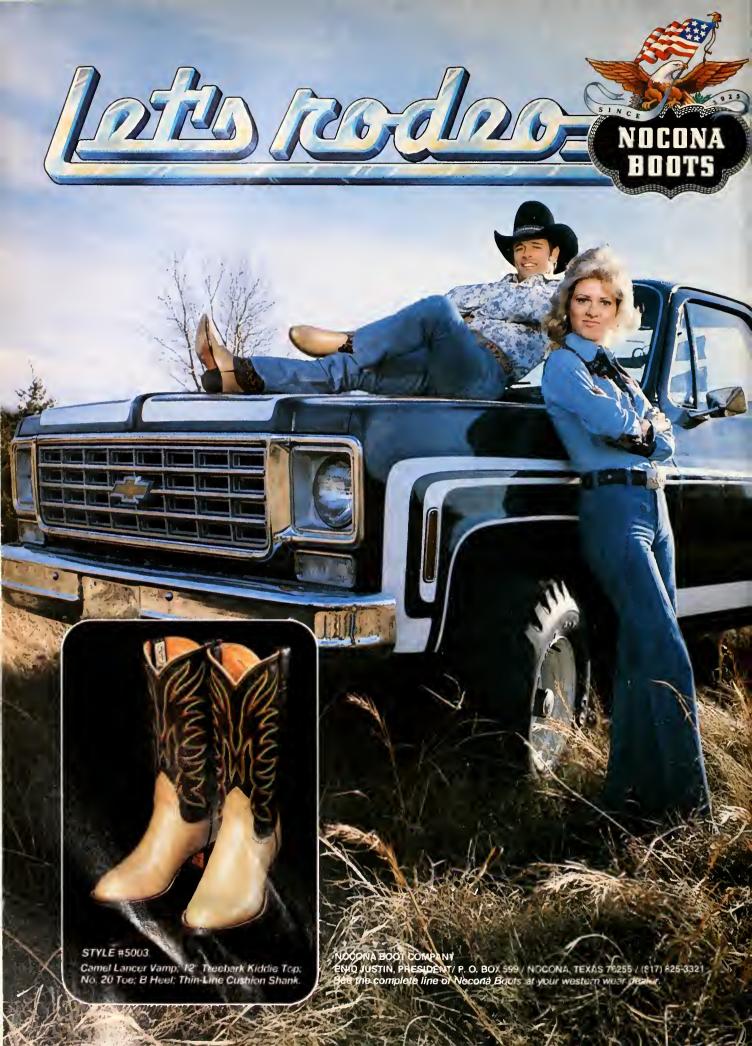
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# FFA in Action

Hope From a Night's Work

The Hanford, California, Chapter held its first Wake-A-Thon and made \$5,000—half of which they donated to the City of Hope Hospital for cancer research.

The object was to stay awake for 24 hours. Members had canvassed the area to get sponsors to pledge money per hour. Special contracts were signed by the sponsors and recorded.

Members reported to the high school gym at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 19 and remained until 9:00 a.m. Sunday, October 20. There was a pot luck organized Saturday night at 6:00 for families by the parents and ag teachers. A snack bar was open all night and games and contests were held throughout the night to help keep everyone awake. A band played from 9:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

There were over 100 participants in the Wake-A-Thon which netted \$5,000 for community service, judging teams and FFA activities.

At the January 24 meeting a check for half the profit (\$2,500) was presented to the City of Hope to be used in their cancer research laboratory. At the same meeting prizes were awarded to individuals getting the most money sponsored.

It was a great success and enjoyed by everyone participating. Lori Couto and Debbie Dias were co-chairmen.

#### A Really Big Show

Approximately 12,000 persons attended the nineteenth annual Thurmont and Emmitsburg Community



Arkansas Governor David Pryor traded places with National President Bobby Tucker when FFA came to his office. Left to right, Ted Amick, National staff; Roger Horn, Tim Mathias and Ronnie Nix, state officers; Governor Pryor; Don Carlton, Kent Hendrix, state officers; Elton Bouldin, National Officer; Robert Crawley, state advisor and member of the National FFA Board of Directors; and Tony Hoyt, executive secretary of Arkansas Association.

Show, held September 12, 13 and 14.

This year's theme was "Patriotism On Parade" which included the massing of flags by local civic organizations and a Bicentennial salute.

Highlighting the program was the recognition of the four oldest farmers from the community and the crowning of the FFA chapter sweetheart Patty Myers.

Mr. Y. D. Hance, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, crowned the queen and participated in the honoring of the four farmers.

Afterwards, a cake auction and sweetheart ball were held with the new chapter sweetheart reigning over the activities.

The Catoctin Area FFA Alumni sponsored its second annual beef, sheep and swine sale. Seventeen head of cattle, three head of sheep and three hogs were sold. All livestock was raised by FFA members.

The Alumni also held a benefit drawing to build up a scholarship fund. First prize was half a beef, second, hind quarter of beef, third, front quarter, all cut and wrapped.

On Saturday things began with a pet show. Over 75 pets were entered in the following classes: best trained pet, pet with the most unusual name, cat with the longest whiskers, and dog with the waggiest tail. An overall champion was then selected from all the entries.

Another feature was a bicycle rodeo, designed to test riding skills and bicycle control by the rider. A pie eating and greased pig contest followed the bike rodeo.

During the evening a Bicentennial concert was presented by the Frederick High School Band.

On Sunday, the main event was a Steam Festival. Mr. James Hessong and Sons of Smithsburg. Maryland, operated their 1923 Frick Eclipse steam engine and threshing machine. They

(Continued on Page 54)

The variety of events at the community show attracted large crowds from the surrounding area. The steam machinery show was an especially popular sight.



April-May, 1976

# **FFA** in Action

(Continued from Page 53)

threshed wheat and the straw was baled by a wire baler.

There was also a display of antique cars, gasoline engines, tractors, horses and old farm equipment.

Over 1,900 displays of farm and garden products were brought to the show by citizens of the community. The products are judged and then the winners receive money and ribbons for their placings.

Throughout the weekend there were demonstrations by local craft people, a flea market, quilt show and Bicentennial exhibits from the community.

The show is sponsored by the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Granges, Catoctin FFA Chapter, Catoctin Area FFA Alumni and the Maryland State Fair board. (Patty Myers)

#### Dealing for Cows

A special agreement was reached recently between the Grant, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter and a local farm owner



Checking out the new farm they'll run are officers and Advisor Scott with land owner Jeffery, second from right.

which may serve as a model for other vocational agriculture chapters.

Under the agreement the Grant Chapter will have a facility at its disposal to use for on-the-job training, while the property owner will be relieved of the responsibility of managing and working the operation.

Owner of the 95-acre farm is Mack Jeffery, local district operator for Public Service Company.

Under the agreement Mr. Jeffery will totally finance the entire operation of the farm just as if he was continuing to work it himself.

The chapter will operate the farm in return for a percentage of the calf crop which will be distributed among the vocational agriculture students. Chapter Advisor Johnny Scott explained that his students will perform all the routine work at the farm such as mending fences, feeding the cattle and mowing. In addition, they will strive to improve the existing cattle herd by introducing upgraded blood lines in the herd, keeping detailed records and improving the soil and pasture.

As a result, Mr. Jeffery will, at the end of the agreement, have an improved total farming operation by taking advantage of the chapter's agriculture knowledge and expertise and improvements to the property from the labor performed.

The chapter will have a place where classroom instruction can be applied to actual use. The chapter will run pregnancy tests, perform castrations, make soil and hay tests, harvest hay crops each year, and do all other items necessary to the complete and proper operation of a farming operation.

The chapter has been operating the farm for one month and both the advisor and the owner agree that the arrangement is working well and expect favorable results from the arrangement.

Presently existing on the farm are 35 cows and calves, one herd bull, three ponds, two barns, a corral and working pen, and a tractor and mower. (Submitted by James Parsons, Reporter)

#### Off and On For Racing

In June of 1975 the Wabasso, Minnesota, FFA sponsored a Ride and Tie

"We planned the race by writing and requesting information from Levi Strauss & Company for rules of their race. Then we started on publicity by sending information to the state FFA office and area radio and television stations. We also sent letters and entry blanks to other FFA chapters around the state. We even had people sign up at the State FFA Convention."

This team race marked the start of the seventy-fifth jubilee for Wabasso,





Arizona Governor Castro was presented a set of Bicentennial flags from FFA President Howard Morrison following the Governor's proclaiming FFA WEEK.

Minnesota. Each team consists of two people and one horse. One person would ride for a while then tie the horse up. The other member had to run and catch up with the tied horse and ride. This switching process had to be done at least four times during the race. The race started in Vesta and ended in Wabasso which is 15 miles.

At starting time, which was about 11:00 a.m., it was cloudy and misting. By the end of the race at 1:00 p.m. it was pouring. The race finished with everyone soaking wet.

In spite of the weather and horses getting away, everyone finished the race tired and glad to be finished. Entry fee was \$10.00 per team. From this the prize money was given: \$60.00 for first place, \$30.00 for second place, \$18.00 for third and two \$12.00 checks for fourth place since there was a tie.

First place was won by Dan and Randy Tetrick, Redwood Falls, in 99 minutes. Another set of brothers, Kevin and Mike Sinclair, took second at 103 minutes.

Jo Gladitsch and Kathy Potter were the only girls entered in the race but took the longest—155 minutes.

"We also had TV coverage from WCCO, Minneapolis. They were at the start and followed riders, runners and horses along the route to the finish."

Everyone had a good time and there was a lot of interest in having another one sometime. (Susan Kalholff, Kim Bock)

#### FFA Goes to College

The Cornell Collegiate Chapter of FFA in Ithaca, New York, held a Cornell Day for FFA on Saturday, December 6.

Participants in the one-day leadership conference came from all parts of New York State, representing 25 different FFA chapters.

In addition to members of the col-



When West Columbus, North Carolina, Advisor John Faulk married Miss Junella Long, FHA advisor, they invited the FFA officers to be the honorary ushers.

legiate chapter, conference staff included state FFA officers, Scott Mc-Kain, past National FFA Secretary and Mike Jackson, National FFA Secretary for 1975-76. Mike got the group ready for action by reminding them that, "today is a day of opportunities."

FFA members had the opportunity to meet in committees with members from other chapters to discuss ways of solving chapter problems. Ideas for discussed, activities were chapter among them the FFA Food For America program.

This was the second conference of this type sponsored by Collegiate FFA. (Janet Golub, Collegiate Reporter)

#### Baseball Basketball

The Springs Valley, Indiana, Chapter was co-sponsor with Springs Valley Lions Club of a fund raising basketball game which featured the faculty of Springs Valley against members of the World Champion Cincinnati Reds haseball team.

Ballplayers traveling to Valley for the December game from the Reds

After the big game, From left, Advisor Bob Guillaume; Reds' ace pitcher Jack Billingham; ball coach Jerry Denbo.



were Jack Billingham, Merv Rettenmund, Will McEnaney, Lee May, Ross Grimmsley, Skip Weber and Dick

The game was played to raise funds for a pitching machine for the high school baseball team, plus adding funds to the FFA chapter treasury.

Members of the Reds team signed autographs for fans at half time and autographed baseballs were awarded to lucky fans throughout the game. A crowd of some 1,600 people witnessed the event. The game caused chapter members to experience working with

(Continued on Page 56)



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Host David Thomas, at left, with the National FFA Officers. Back row are some of the Missouri Greenhands who got to meet one-to-one with the officer team.

# **FFA** in Action

(Continued from Page 55)

another community organization and another school organization—the baseball team. Plus it provided wonderful entertainment for local fans.

#### Greenhand Inspiration

A fourth annual Greenhand Motivational Conference was conducted in Columbia, Missouri, in November which was attended by 385 Greenhands from 49 area schools in central Missouri.

Midcontinent Farmers Association sponsors the Greenhand Motivational Conference which is conducted by the National FFA Officers.

In previous years the conference was held before the FFA Convention in Kansas City, immediately before the FFA officers arrived to prepare for the convention. This year, it was arranged

North Lebanon FFA Chapter did more than just tell 500 Food For America participants about food. They served apple or orange juices, plus crackers and cheese representing the grain and the dairy industries of our agriculture.

Photo Lebanon Daily News

to be a training session for the newly elected National FFA Officers.

On Tuesday, three days after their election, the six National Officers went to Columbia and were put to work. Wednesday morning each of the officers had the opportunity to speak for a high school assembly program at a different school within a one-hour driving distance of Columbia. These schools included Fayette, Centralia, Moberly Area Vocational-Technical School, North Callaway, Montgomery County R-2 and Fatima.

After the high school assembly programs, the officers returned to Columbia in order to become acquainted with the executives of Midcontinent Farmers Association and to visit with them for a few minutes.

At lunch, the National Officers provided a program for the state and agricultural leaders in Missouri. The guest list included four bank presidents; the President of the University of Missouri; Vice President of Extension, University of Missouri; State Farmers Home Administration Director; State ASCS Director; State Soil Conservation Services Director along with executives from the sponsoring organization and MFA Insurance Companies.

After the luncheon, the officers conducted the fourth annual Greenhand Motivational Conference at the Biscayne Mall Theater.

This is a triple theater with the center theater providing the major assembly hall.

Officers visited for approximately 30 minutes with the 385 Greenhands, as a group, explaining how each of them became a Naional Officer.

Then the group was split for six smaller sessions. In these sessions, Greenhands had the opportunity to ask any questions and also get involved them-

selves by asking questions and participating in discussions by giving their names and telling about what goes on in their local FFA chapter.

At the conclusion of the group sessions, everyone was brought back together for a 45-minute motivational-inspirational session.

#### All Peaches and Cream

A major crop in the Livingston, California, area is the many varieties of cling and freestone peaches. And the Livingston Chapter has quite a number of its members that farm or work in the peach harvest.

While members were seeking a worthwhile chapter activity, they hit upon the idea of having a Peach and Ice Cream Feed to conclude the harvest and to involve and introduce new and older members and their parents to the FFA and each other.

It also gives the chapter an opportunity to invite friends of the FFA, buyers at the fair auctions, faculty members, and others that assist the chapter to the event.

Local canneries donated canned, sliced peaches. A local creamery furnished the ice cream mix and the members did the cranking to make ice cream. The eafeteria manager, who is an honorary chapter farmer, prepared the shortcake.

Members decorated the cafeteria with a theme for the event and an evening of socializing and eating of all the peaches, shortcake and homemade ice cream they could hold.

The Peach and Ice Cream Feed is a very informal affair. There are no long speeches or programs. The chapter officers make a few introductions and welcome those present. The advisors, members and parents are then encouraged to meet and get acquainted with others in support of the FFA program. (Marie Butler, Reporter)



"We could sure use him on the basketball team!"

The National FUTURE FARMER

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The period for requesting application forms for four-year

Army ROTC scholarships is April 1 through November 15.

But if you're a high school junior and return your completed application forms before September 1, you'll have two opportunities to be considered. That's because we have an early scholarship selection program awarding about 300 scholarships in October. With the remaining scholarships to be awarded next April.

Your military obligation as a scholarship recipient is four years active duty, serving as an Army officer. If you're prepared for this commitment, and believe you have the dedication and ability to learn what it takes to lead, then

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LEARN WHAT IT TAKES TO LEAD.

April-May, 1976

### The Georgian Giant

(Continued from Page 43)

time. A grower contract is used similar to the one used by Charles Cantrell.

Part of Mike's project includes a new broiler house just completed for use. The house provides 12,600 square feet of floor space. It is one of the most automated houses in the area. All hand labor has been minimized.

Automatic curtain risers operating off of a thermostat keep the house at the desired air temperature at all times. The blue curtains filter out harsh light, keeping the birds inactive.

Feeders operate off of a time clock. Every four hours the automated feeders will click on to supply fresh feed. The feed is augered automatically from an outside storage bin.

Waterers too are automatic through use of a float system. If the level is too

low, the valve will open for more water.

Manure is handled only once per year. As each flock is moved out, new shavings are scattered over the floor area.

With this housing and feed system, labor is kept to a minimum while increasing overall broiler productivity.

The Processing Plant—Our last stop was made in Gainesville itself. There to meet us was Steve Wehunt, a former FFA member now working as a federal meat and poultry inspector. Most of his time is spent in one of Gainesville's six poultry processing plants. One plant, J. D. Jewels, processes over 200,000 birds per day.

"The whole process takes about one hour from the time the bird enters the plant until it is ready to be shipped," notes Wehunt. A plant the size of Jewels may employ from 150 to 200 persons.

According to Wehunt, a majority of the birds, up to 75 per cent, are shipped to the northeast United States. The finished product may be packed as a whole bird, or boxed into individual packages of specific parts.

Wehunt described his job as an inspector. "My job is basically to make sure the product is wholesome for the consumer. The moisture has to be right, to avoid overcharging the consumer. We also look for disease, bruises and any undesirable parts, that may be damaged or broken. Our final check is for contamination."

Steve has worked for seven years in his present position. He credits the vo-ag training he received in high school with helping him earn his employment.

Conclusion—When Mr. W. L. Tatum, owner of Tatum Farms, talks about his FFA projects back in the 1940's you can almost visualize the impact that poultry has had for Georgia and other states.

"Our family was not wealthy. We were an average North Georgia family for that period of time. We produced our own food. We grew corn, wheat and all our vegetables, had a hog for our meat, and a cow for our milk. We chopped wood from the farm to heat our home.

"When the poultry industry began it was the beginning of a new era. It changed the lives of many farm families. It was the beginning of wealth for an economically poor area."

Through the use of science, technology, superior management practices, and hard work, those who produce and process poultry today, like the Georgia FFA members we visited, have created an extraordinary industry. One that is truly a Georgian Giant.

# FFA 50th Anniversary Contest ?

# Design the reverse side of the FFA Commemorative Medallion and win these exciting prizes

FIRST PRIZE Expense paid trip to Kansas City Convention in 1977 with your advisor (with appropriate recognition on stage including a slide showing the finished medallion).

SECOND PRIZE\$100.00 Cash
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FIFTH through
TENTH PRIZESBronze Medallion

- This contest will be open to all bona fide, duespaying FFA members on the roles as of June 15, 1976.
- All entries become the property of the National FFA Organization, and cannot be acknowledged or returned.
- 3 Entries must be postmarked by June 15, 1976, and received in the National FFA Office by June 30, 1976.
- 4. Entries are to be submitted on a plain sheet of white paper, with the medallion design enclosed in a circle approximately eight inches in diameter. Drawings may be in link or pencil.
- 5. Entrant's name, address, chapter name, state and age must be printed on the drawing submitted. Entrants may, at their oction, explain their drawing for clarification in he/she desires, however, these explanations must be on the same sheet of paper as the drawing.
- 6. Entries are to be mailed in an envelope to: MEDALLION CONTEST, NATIONAL FFA CENTER, P.O. BOX 15159, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22309. No other correspondence will be placed in this envelope. Questions must be mailed in a separate envelope to Medallion Contest Director at the National FFA Center.
- Entries will be judged on the basis of originality, thoughtfulness and subject matter.
- Judges will have full authority to alter, modify or change the winning design to conform with production requirements as necessary.
- Winners will be notified in February 1977 after final review by the National Board of Oirectors.

   Prize winnings will be the sole responsibility of the
- winners in respect to any Internal Revenue rules in effect.
- Judges' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

You need not be an artist to enter Judging will be done on the basis of originality, thoughtfulness and subject matter.



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On the spot instruction. Advisor Black, center, and student John Bennett on left consult with local nurseryman and former state FFA officer Johnny Moon.

# The Greening of Greenville

Chapter Secretary Mary Kennedy gives reasons on a class of ornamentals.



CAN FFA fit into city schools? The answer of course is yes. It can. It does. It will. And more and more often, does it with a great deal of

A case in point is the Greenville, South Carolina, FFA Chapter. Last year it won national gold emblems in three categories—(the only three available); the chapter awards program, chapter safety, and the Building Our American Communities program.

Yet the school is located in almost the dead center of Greenville—hardly a small town with a population of 65,000 not counting the surrounding suburban communities. Few of the students have access to farms or livestock. But state and national awards in the proficiency areas are not uncommon. And Greenville FFA teams are to be reckoned with even at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. A Greenville team represented South Carolina in the first National Horticulture contest in 1974.

The key for Greenville is the chapter's ability to make use of the facilities and opportunities it does have. "For those teachers who say FFA does not offer the city student or the horticulture student anything, I'd just suggest

they take a better look," says Greenville FFA advisor of 27 years, Mr. J. T. Black. "FFA is the best youth organization going and there are plenty of ways for a city chapter to get involved."

The chapter and its history are examples of just how true that statement is. Greenville Chapter members were early innovators in their use of a school greenhouse. In 1950, their first greenhouse was built by FFA members. It is still in use today, year 'round.

Classroom training in the vocational agriculture department centers around the horticulture program, but is not limited to raising plants. Plumbing, welding, carpentry, landscaping, and training in cooperatives and business skills are all learned in regard to greenhouse or nursery operations.

Much of the training takes place outside the classroom's four walls. In the last three years, classes have landscaped two churches, a youth center house, three highway right-of-ways, a home and a bank. Even the school campus attests to the students' horticultural skills. Shrubbery lines the school grounds, trees shade the walks and the courtyard blooms each spring as a testing ground for the hort classes.

Often landscaping projects fit into the chapter's Building Our American Communities programs. Since the BOAC program was begun in 1970, the chapter has won the governor's citation twice and won five national emblems, four gold and one silver.

Plants and shrubs used for landscaping are grown by classes. A second small greenhouse and lathhouse were built to supplement the 1950 house. In an average year the three houses will turn out 5,000 potted tomatoes, 2,500 peppers, 1,000 cabbages, 500 broccoli plants, 250 packs of petunias and marigolds, 650 geraniums, and over 1,500 assorted plants from different varieties of shrubs and trees.

Of course all of the plants cannot be used in chapter projects. Those in excess of student needs are given to local FFA Alumni members employed in the nursery business. They sell the plants and share the profits with the chapter.

These same alumni members offer placement for students seeking work experience. One such Greenville member is Larry Thomas who last year was named the Regional Proficiency award winner for the Southeast in Placement in Sales and Service.

The chapter's awards aren't limited to horticulture. One whole classroom wall is crowded with awards including national awards in safety and state awards for electrification and cooperative activities.

Using the resources they have avail-

able, the chapter set up a seed coop. Students are offered shares for one dollar cach. Then they go to work in germinating the seed, potting the plants and making sales. At the season's end, after the plants are grown and sold, the dividends are evenly divided among the coop members. The students earn a profit and learn the workings of cooperatives.

For their efforts last year, two Greenville members were sponsored by the state association of farmer coop's to attend the National AIC (American Institute of Cooperatives) Convention in Michigan.

Towards the end of each year, a formal chapter banquet is held. Planning is in the hands of chapter officers, this year headed by Marty Tranum. The officers play important roles all year carrying out the chapter program of work.

In this manner, the program at Greenville High has grown and prospered. And the city which surrounds the school becomes a little greener each CHEVIOTS have what it takes:

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There were three boys who were sent to bed without supper and their mother was sitting downstairs knitting. The first boy figured he knew how to get to the kitchen across the hall, so he did and the floor squeaked. Mother asked, "Who's up there?" The boy said, "Meow." The second boy did the same thing. The third boy went across the hall and Mother asked, "Who's there?" He said, "The cat."

Glenn Moore Yuma, Arizona

**IBEWARE** DENNIS

A traveler noticed a farmer was having trouble with his horse. It would go a short distance, then stop, "Is your horse sick?" he asked. "No," replied the farmer. "Well, is he balky?" "No, but he's afraid I'll say 'Whoa' and he won't hear me so he stops every once in a while to listen."

Susan Keith Centerville, Ohio

Schoolboy conversation: "My dad wants me to have everything he didn't have when he was a boy...like all A's on my report card."

Kevin Putikka Sebeka, Minnesota

Mark: "All dad's hitting the bottle." Larry: "Is he a drinking man?"

Mark: "No, ketchup won't come out!"

Steve Britt Thorsby, Alabama

Fond Mother: "How was the singing test, dear?"

Daughter: "The examiner said I have a haunting voice.'

Mother: "Oh, that's nice. But what did he mean?"

Daughter: "I asked him and he said, 'There was a ghost of a resemblance to the original tune.'"

Thomas LaMance Modesto, California

It was farmer Brown's first visit to the big town. In the window of the department store he read a sign "Ladies Ready-To-Wear Clothes." "Gosh," he said, "it's about time."

> Blossom Perrott Sharpsburg, Maryland

A northern farmer and a southern farmer were arguing about the weather.

The northern farmer said, "Our winters are so cold that we have to put heaters under our cows so they won't give ice cream." The southern farmer said, "So what, our summers are so hot that we have to fan our chickens so they won't give hard boiled eggs."

Randy Neely Quitman, Mississippi

Q: What is Superman's toughest job? A. Remembering which phone booth he left his pants in.

Ted Rhodes Bridgewater, Virginia

Agent to writer: "I have some good news for you and some bad news."

Writer: "Well, give me the good news first."

Agent: "Paramount loved your script -absolutely ate it up."

Writer: "That's fantastic! So, what's the bad news?"

Agent: "Paramount is my dog."

Steven McNair Auburn, Alabama

"If you don't stop playing that tuba, I swear I'll go out of my mind!"

"I stopped an hour ago."

David Bailey
Fyffe, Alabama

Two old farmers were always trying to outdo one another. One day one of the farmers said to the other, "Do you see that gnat walking across the barn?" The other farmer replied, "No, but I can hear him walking."

Dennis Breeden Bloomfield, Indiana



"She's terrific but she talks just like Dad. Like 'Set your goal, better study hard and work for it. You've gotta work to get ahead."





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