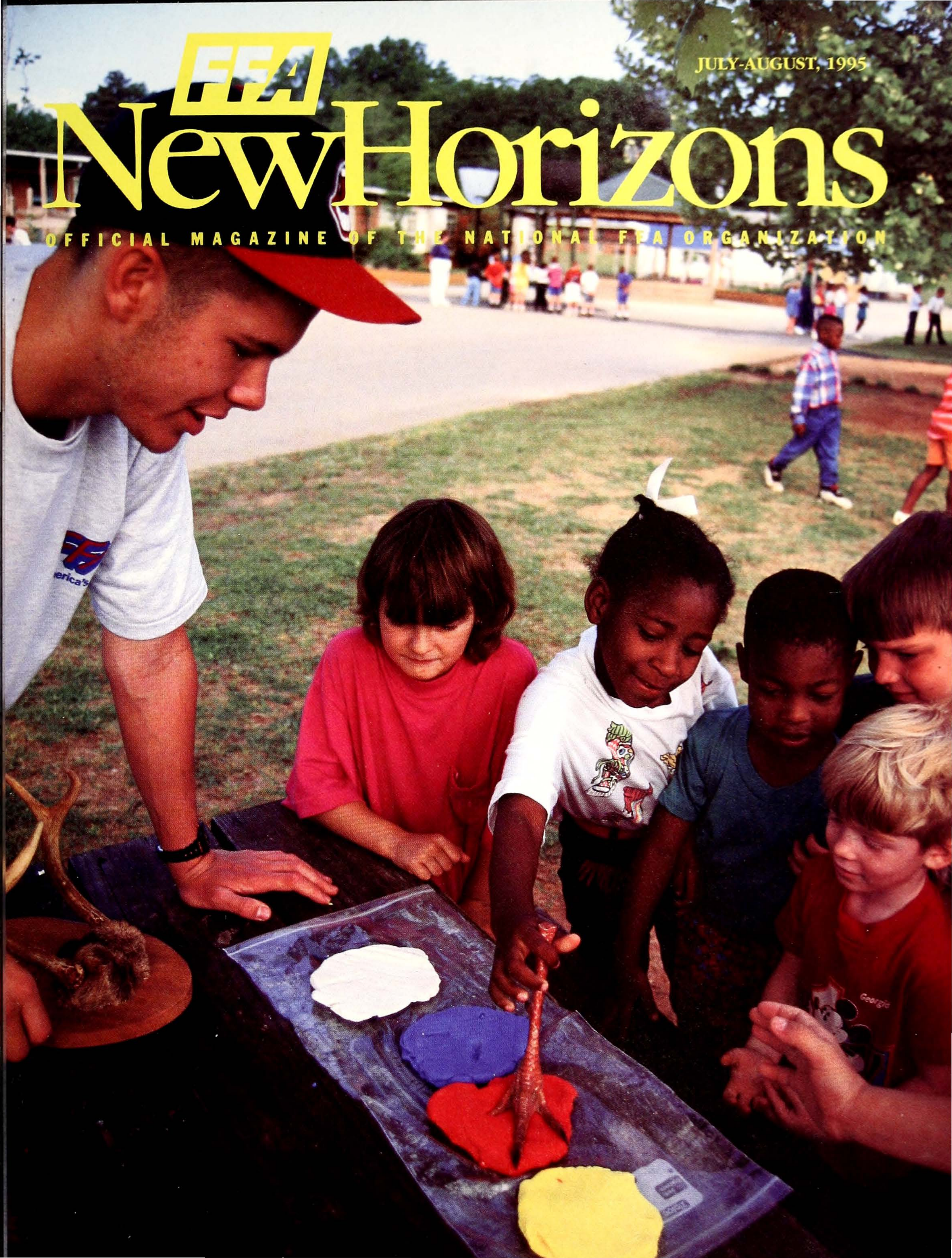


FFA

JULY-AUGUST, 1995

# New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION







# COWBOY UP!



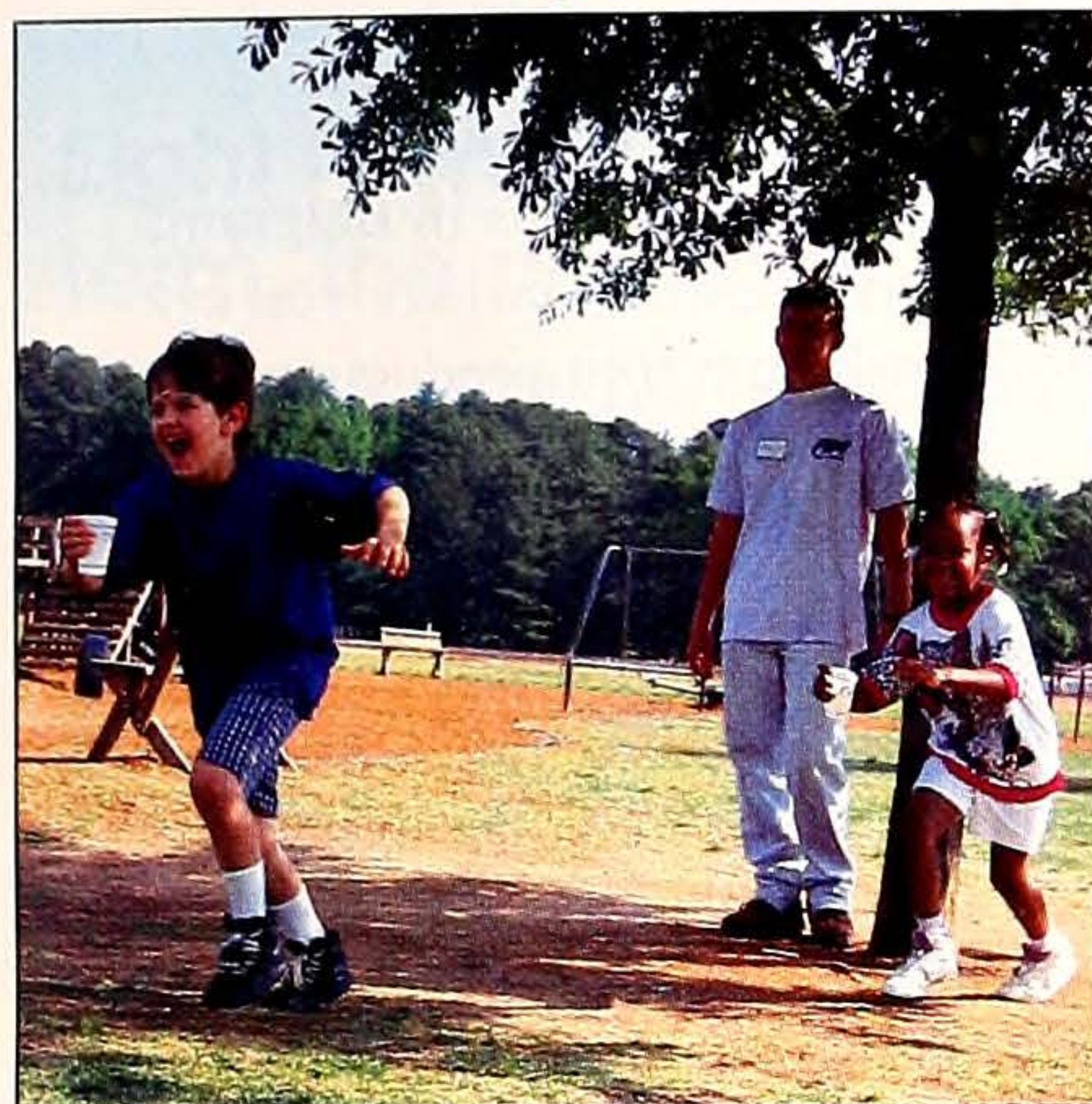


# FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

July-August, 1995

Volume 43 Number 6



## CAREERS

10 • • • • •

### Careers in Horticulture Just Keep Growing

Think about a job in this field where the pay is good, initiative and hard work are typically quick to be recognized and rewarded and it's easy to get started.

14 • • • • •

### You Can't Raise Just One

Rodents are life savers for this snake lover.

16 • • • • •

### Prime Time For Ag Production?

Take a look at the positive points about getting into agriculture.

## COVER PHOTO

8 • • • • •

### Get Out Of The House

See how you can have fun outdoors while you teach elementary students about the environment.

Photo by Lawinna McGary

## LEADERSHIP

18 • • • • •

### How To Be Heard

Gain people's respect and attention when you follow these tips.

22 • • • • •

### The Buddy System

Make a positive difference by working hand-in-hand with young PALS.



Page 20

## DEPARTMENTS

|   |               |    |               |
|---|---------------|----|---------------|
| 4 | News In Brief | 28 | My Turn       |
| 6 | You Asked     | 29 | FFA In Action |
| 7 | Mailbag       | 34 | Joke Page     |

### The FFA Mission

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

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.





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Managing Editor, Lawinna McGary  
 McGary Communications



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Around the World With FFA

### State Officer Special European Tour

Imagine 13 exciting days being whisked around Europe by your hosts, the Young Bavarian Farmers.

Only state officers are eligible to attend this exclusive Greenweek Seminar that begins in Berlin at the Greenweek Expo, a once-in-a-lifetime show displaying livestock, fertilizers, machinery and agricultural products from around the world.

Bring your dancing shoes for the Lanjugendball or Young Farmers' Dance. And get ready to tour Berlin, Prague Castle the Alps and a collective farm in the former East Germany.

You'll make life-long friends in Southern Germany, when you stay with your host family.

### Be World-Wise

From Japan to Ireland, FFA's World Experience Abroad (WEA) program gives you incredible options for working and learning in 17 countries. If you apply now you can take your pick from three- or six-month stays on dairy,

livestock, general farming or horticulture operations in Belgium, France or Germany (where you can also work on a fruit production farm).

Apply now if you want to go this summer.

### The Royal Treatment

Did you know winning the national FFA dairy and livestock judging competitions in Kansas City, Missouri, could land you in Scotland and Wales?

The first-place teams represent the U.S.A. at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, Scotland.

### How To Get There From Here

Grab your chance for a special European Greenweek tour, a livestock judging competition in Scotland or one of the many exciting short or long WEA tours by calling or writing Bruce White: 703-360-3600, ext. 319, P.O. Box 15160, 5632 Mt. Vernon Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

**FFA Is Growing!**  
**There are 443,389 members**  
**this year.**

**(That's 15,000 more members than in 1994.)**

### Rolling In The Dough

FFA members won more than 850 scholarships valued at more than 1.2 million dollars through the National FFA Foundation scholarship program.

If you would like to apply for a 1996 scholarship contact Jennifer Woods at 703-360-3600, ext. 321.

### Keep Kids Alive

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids staff, at 1-800-423-KIDS, provide assistance on many safety topics and offer video tapes, activity books and warning decals. Give them a call, and make sure your chapter, school and family have a safe summer!



# National Officers On Tour '95

## Movin' On Down The Road

**Eight months into their term, the national officers say they're still lovin' every minute of it**

In the first five months of 1995, the national officers spent an average of about 12 days at home. "When we get tired, the ongoing joke is, 'We'll sleep next year,'" says National Central Region Vice President Jennafer Neufeld.

But all of that time trotting around the country is paying off. "We really feel like now we're beginning to make a difference as national officers," says Jennafer. Here's an inside look at the national officer's lives.

### What's Up

• **Coast To Coast Honors**—From Washington, D.C. to California to Rhode Island in three days meant Central Region Vice President Jennafer Neufeld spent 15 hours out of 72 in the air.

• **The Terminator**—Travel can be tough on you, your luggage and clothes. Death toll of FFA gear for National Secretary Travis Hagen: Two pairs of slacks, ripped in Japan. Two white shirts, "worn out completely. I have nine shirts that I wear. I poked a couple of holes in my luggage yesterday. I need a new set."

• **On Top Of Mt. Rushmore...** "I was impressed. I'd only seen it on postcards and in history books. It was amazing," says Southern Region Vice President Trisha Bailey of her visit to Mt. Rushmore near Keystone, South Dakota. While she was out West, Trisha also handed out awards at the Nevada state convention in Las Vegas.

• **See You On TV**—"CBS This Morning was a little nervewracking because I knew it was a live show, so if I messed up, I knew it went national," says National President Corey Flournoy who also appeared on the "NBC Nightly News."



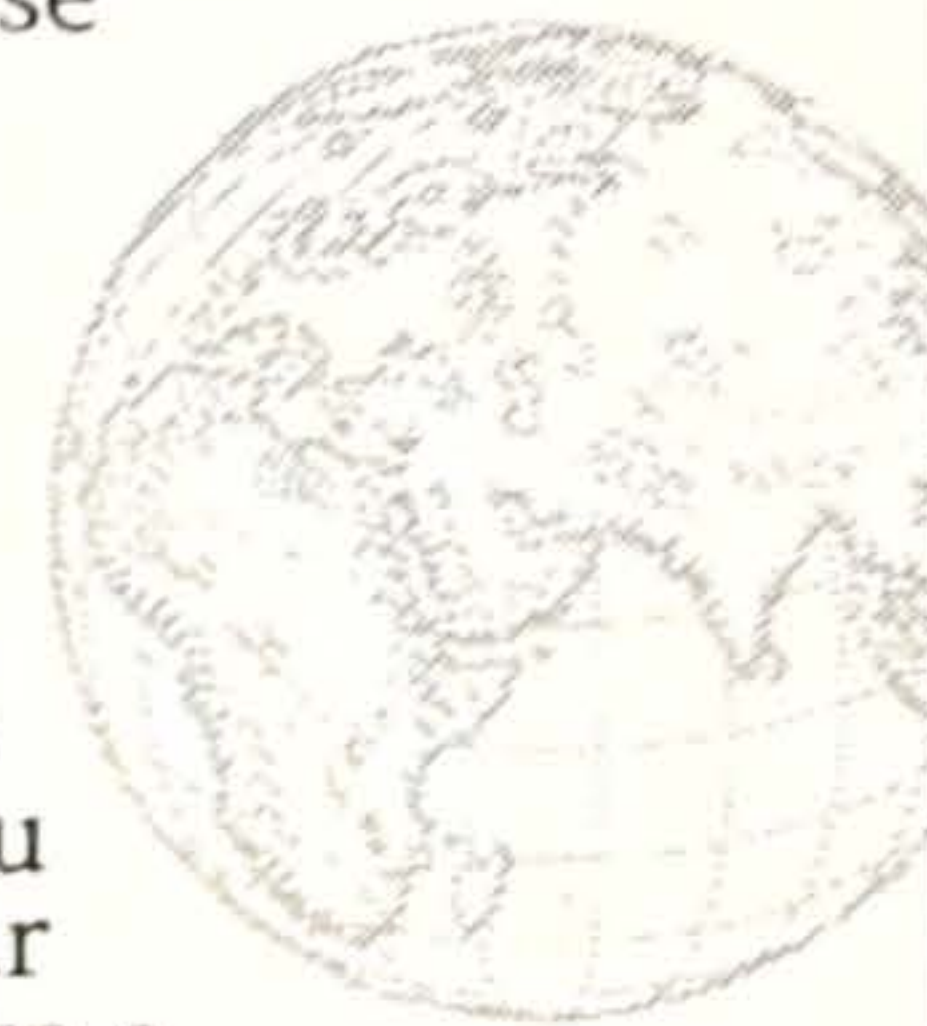
The serious work of the national officers is never done. National Western Region Vice President Greg Vetter (He's the one on the left.) hangs out with a Disney character during a national officer team retreat and work session in Orlando, Florida.

National Eastern Region Vice President Lee Schroeder and National Secretary Travis Hagen went behind the scenes to gain national exposure for National FFA Week. They gave NBC's "The Today Show" host, Bryant Gumbel, their business cards and mentioned the upcoming FFA event. The next day friendly weatherman Willard Scott announced the news on the air.

• **Career Tip**—"When we asked agribusiness people what they are looking for in the people they hire, they said they weren't just looking for academic success, they were looking for the skills FFA gives you," says National President Corey Flournoy. "They are looking for trainable and cooperative employees," adds National Southern Region Vice President Trisha Bailey.

## CONSIDER PEACE CORPS

In developing countries all over the world, people go hungry because they lack the farming knowledge you might take for granted. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you can share your skills and make a lasting difference in these people's lives.



Peace Corps offers two years of international experience, language training, paid living expenses, medical care, travel and more. It's an unforgettable opportunity for personal and career growth!

Peace Corps Volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years old. There is no upper age limit. Married applicants are welcome, but your spouse must also qualify for an assignment.

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

SSN # \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. CITIZEN: ☐ Yes ☐ No

AGE \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF FARMING EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE: \_\_\_\_\_

How LONG? \_\_\_\_\_ 772





## Questions Answered Here

# You Asked!

**Q:** I'm interested in teaching agriculture. How can I prepare?

**A:** Do you care? That's the first question successful agricultural teachers say you have to answer before you really decide to teach. Will you be motivated just by knowing you're helping students become better people, even if they don't thank you, even if your pay is lower than you could get elsewhere?

Do you love to learn? Staying on top of new technology is crucial to keeping "your classroom alive and up-to-date," says Sheila Barrett, who has taught for six years in Fullerton, California.

Once you've decided that making a difference in young people's lives is more important than say, being a millionaire, and that learning is your life-long passion, get busy teaching.

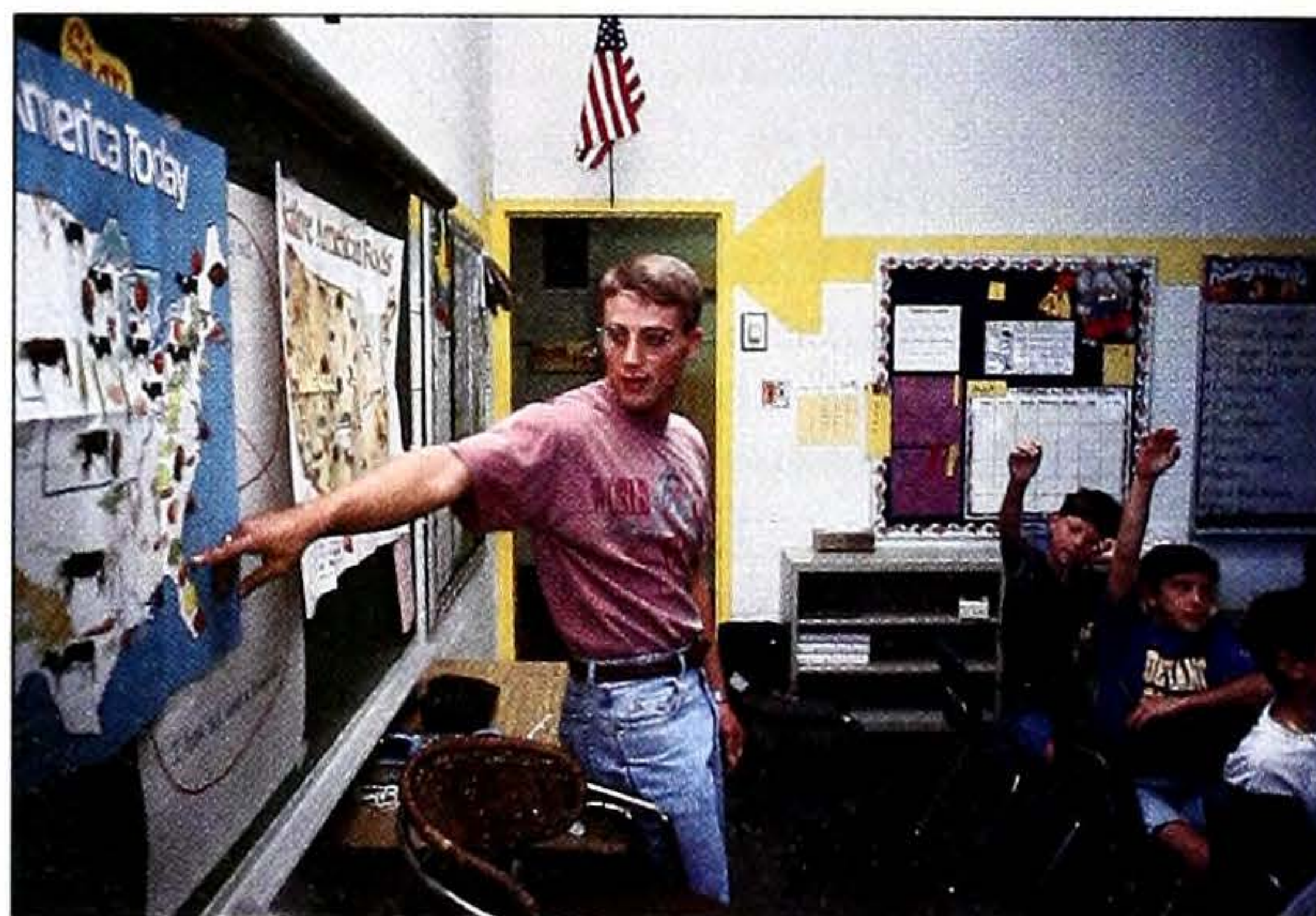
\*PALS (an FFA program in which you spend time with an elementary student); agricultural literacy activities such as \*\*Ag In The Classroom and \*\*\*Food For America; little league softball, baseball and basketball and 4-H offer all kinds of chances to guide young people.

If your community doesn't have any of these programs, volunteer to be a teacher's aide or tutor at your school. Be a summer camp counselor. Baby-sit

for a neighbor. Expose yourself to every teaching situation possible.

While you're at it, work on your leadership skills. Enter speaking contests, run for office, join judging teams, play sports—try anything that will teach you teamwork, how to meet people and how to present your ideas to others.

In between FFA and other leadership



**"Their attention span is about ten minutes," says Steve Weadick, Preble Shawnee FFA member, Camden, Ohio, about the fourth graders he taught during his chapter's Food For America program. He makes sure to constantly change the pace of his presentations about insects, proper nutrition, gun safety, the environment, livestock and other topics.**

events, take the tough classes. Then, keep your grades up. "I think you need to do well academically—period," says Marshall Stewart, executive director of the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association, Inc., (NVATA). "It doesn't mean you need to be magna cum laude or anything, but you need a broad perspective in science, English and math" he says.

Besides, keeping up with homework,

FFA judging, band or athletic practice, and your social life—all at the same time—is good practice for juggling the demands of teaching life.

Organizational skills can make or break you when you're training teams, teaching five or six classes a day, attending leadership seminars with students and, in your spare time, learning new greenhouse management, livestock record-keeping, computer or biotechnology techniques.

To learn more about the teaching life, find a mentor. Your agricultural instructor is a good place to start that search.

Next plan your formal education. You'll need a bachelor's degree in agricultural education. Check with your local library to see which state colleges offer teaching degrees. Write the schools you're interested in, or call or write the NVATA office at P.O. Box 15160, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160, 703-360-3600. They'll send your name and address to the right people in your state.

Don't let lack of money hold you back. FFA members were awarded 850 scholarships worth more than one million dollars through the National FFA Foundation Scholarship Program. Many of these dollars are available for agricultural education majors. For your application, phone Jennifer Woods at 703-360-3600, ext. 321.

### The Good News

Whether you teach for a few years or for the rest of your life, it's a great way to build skills. "If you can handle that (teaching) you can handle anything," says Stewart. ...

\*Call 1-800-PALS-FFA to find out how you and your chapter can participate.

\*\*Ag In The Classroom programs are usually handled by your local Farm Bureau staff. You can get details from: Ag In The Classroom, Room 317-A, Administration Bldg., U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-0991

\*\*\*Send your requests for a Food For America presenter's guide to Rod Duckworth, P.O. Box 15160, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.





## MAIL BAG

### A Winning Team

Most of you probably have heard the expression—"Winning isn't everything—it's the only thing." While some people associate it with coach Vince Lombardi, the quote actually was made famous by another football coach—Red Sanders. What Lombardi said was "Winning isn't everything—but wanting to win is."

While the drive to win Lombardi talks about helps make champions, Sanders' view suggests that winning is so important that nothing else matters. It's a form of "winning at all costs." Those of you who saw the movie "Wall Street," in which Michael Douglas played a corporate raider whose motto in life boiled down to "greed is good," watched an example of the kind of attitude and behavior Sanders was talking about—in the business world rather than on the football field.

That attitude—that winning is all there is—seems to be popular in some circles these days. You've heard the jargon—"Who says you can't have it all?" "Cheating is wrong only if you get caught." New York Knicks Coach Pat Riley call those who live by that attitude people who are sick with "the disease of me." They develop an exaggerated, blown-up belief in their own importance. They feel under-appreciated. They think they're being cheated out of their share of attention. They try to outshine everyone else around them and resent anyone who's good at what he or she does. Eventually, they cause their teams to lose.

As members of FFA, you're part of a team. (Not a business team or a sports team—but a team) made up of others in your local chapter and of more than a half million other young people in chapters all over the country. And just as with individuals on a basketball team, what each of you does reflects on the rest of your team—on how it performs and on what people think about it.

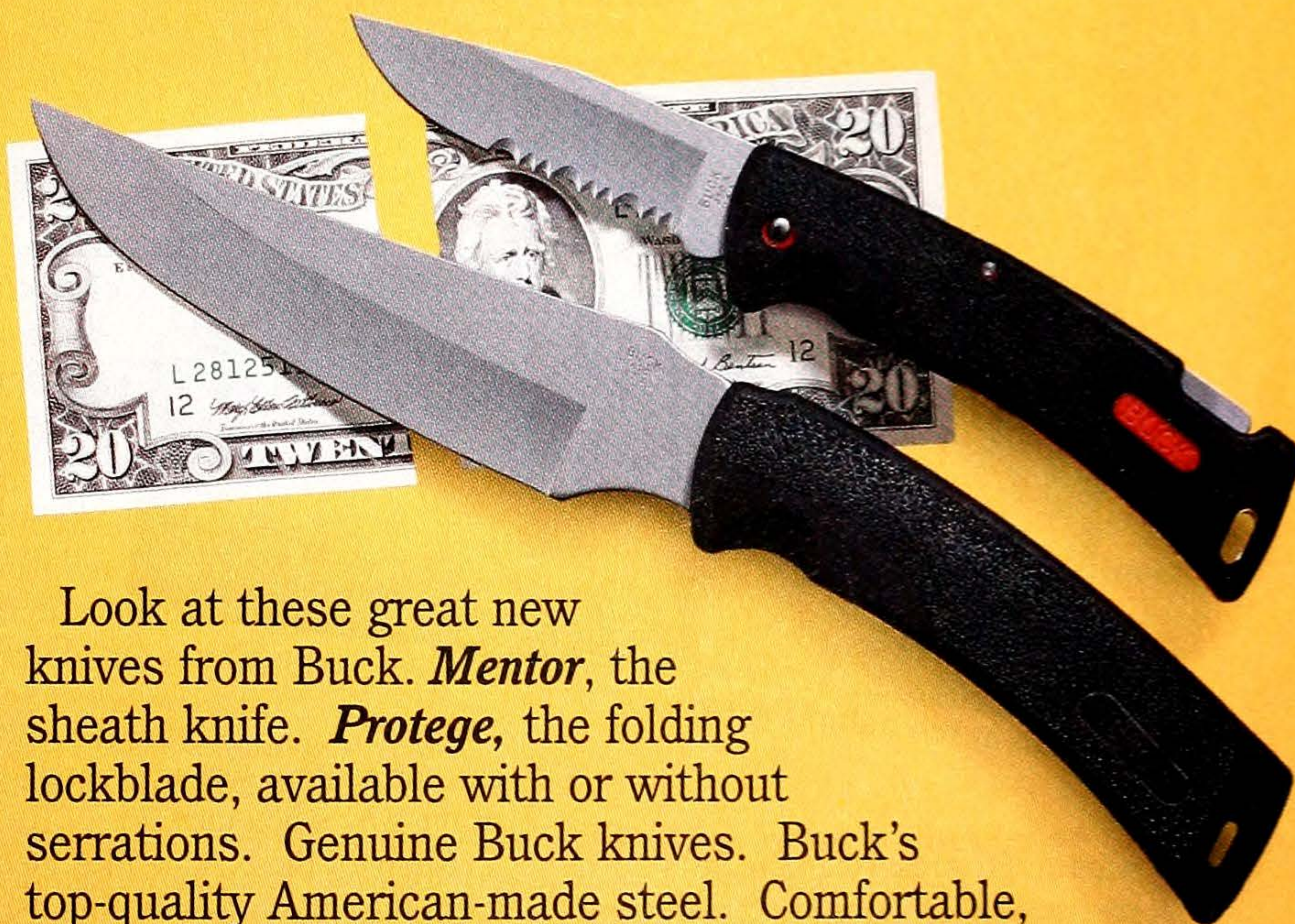
If one of you suffers from the "disease of me," is caught cheating or doing something wrong, your whole FFA team suffers. It doesn't take long for people to go from one person's misconduct to making assumptions about the whole group. One athlete takes drugs and suddenly all athletes are "on drugs." One government official is found to be corrupt and pretty soon, all of them are "suspect" in the public eye.

I hope that, as members of FFA,

you'll overcome the selfish temptation to go for a quick win, easy recognition or rewards at any cost. Rather, I hope you'll approach your projects with a full heart and a sense that what you are doing counts for something. I hope that, as members of FFA, you live and act in ways that help and support your team-mates and that foster their trust—in you and in FFA as an organization.

H. D. Cleberg  
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# Get Out Of

**See how you can have fun outdoors while you teach elementary students about the environment**

*By Lawinna McGary*



**Fun at the fishing derby.**

I want to go where the fish are—where Will is!” says kindergartner Nikki Benford. Fifteen minutes of sitting quietly, while the fish ignore her bait has made the six-year-old restless. Especially since, just a couple of poles down, her classmate Will Hawn is

helping the little ones cast, or making sure everybody gets out of the way when they do.

Many of these same FFA members spent their morning teaching the preschoolers about the environment.

“We had a wildlife track station where they could learn to identify tracks and then make their own,” says chapter President Megan Howard. Kids also

reeling in fish right and left. Few other students are catching anything alive. (Water-logged twigs don’t count.) But there’s lots of action. Elementary students are whipping their poles back to heave their hooks into the water. FFA members are either

watched erosion sweep away soil, ran a relay race where their goal was to keep the most water in their cup, counted the rings on a log (to tell how old it was), planted and took home their own flower and put grass clippings in a compost bin.

“Today, when we were outside, we let them have fun,” says freshman FFA member Beth Nabors, who explained composting (fermenting yard and other waste material to make organic fertilizer) to the kids. “We let them go pick up grass clippings and dirt and pretend like it was a kitchen. I said add your ingredients such as your grass and leaves and then stir it up.

“We let them sit down and tell us stories (about what their parents and grandparents do for the environment), but then we would get back on track with learning...and ask them ‘What are you going to do next time you’re cutting the grass?’”

Beth says the kids got a kick out of talking to high school students. “It makes them feel important. When I talked to them their eyes were all big and wide open. They listened and paid attention to you. They felt like somebody older cared for them. It made





# The House!

them feel important, really special.”

“I think everybody got something out of it,” says Megan. “The ability to talk to the kids, how to teach them. Not only did FFA members learn about what they were teaching, but they also learned how to communicate better with younger children the importance of protecting the earth.”

Earth Day is a perfect time to hold these environmentally friendly events, but it’s not the only time these Madison-Morgan, Georgia, FFA members have natural resources on their minds.

“We bring the students out here for a tour on our nature trail.” And “We put on a Mother Earth play in the picnic area...” says Megan. Members also hold an annual all-day fishing derby.

Just four years ago the lush nature area and fishing pond “was an old deserted piece of land covered with trash,” says Megan. “Our chapter formed a group called RSVP—Recycle Soon It’s Vital To Our Planet—and we opened up a recycling center in our parking lot. We cleared this area...and installed a pond and stocked it. We put up bird houses and bat houses and all sorts of things to attract wildlife.”



Photos by Author

**“I learned how to deal with little kids,” says Beth Nabors, who, along with chapter President Tucker Webb, explained composting to the preschoolers.**

## Open 24 Hours A Day

All of the trees on the nature trail that runs to the elementary school are identified with signs. “The teachers ask if we can give a tour maybe once a month, but the classroom is open to anybody in the community at any point in time,” adds Megan.

“I think that even though we are kind of in a rural area, that a lot of kids who have grown up in the country have taken things for granted,” says advisor Blane Marable. “They’ve seen the trees and farm animals from a distance. So this kind of gave us an excellent opportunity for our students to become

involved with the environment with hands on activities.”

The chapter’s nature work didn’t keep them in the woods though. Megan recently won a trip to the White House to accept the Presidential Environmental Youth Award from Vice President Albert Gore. ...

***“If we don’t protect the earth today, we’re not going to have anything left for future generations.”***







# Careers in Horticulture Just Keep Growing

By Bob Bruce

**N**o openings, no future, no luck. The job outlook for some industries is downright bleak. Not so for horticulture.

The pay is good, initiative and hard work are typically quick to be recognized and rewarded and it's easy to get started.

Almost 25 percent of the temporary seasonal workers in the nursery and landscape industry are high school and college students. Wages, which start at around \$4.75 for a beginning part-time laborer, can easily reach \$30,000 to \$35,000 in a couple of years.

## Plant Power

Although Angie Jackson is still in high school, at the Warren Occupational Technical Center in Golden, Colorado, she's already worked for two nurseries.

She started her first job not knowing much about horticulture, but willing to learn. "I did a lot of things....," she recalls. "I planted, I watered and I learned. They had many different things there, from tropical plants to trees and shrubs, perennials and annuals. It was

the first place I realized what I really wanted to do. ..."

Now she works at a small garden center. On Tuesdays, she pretty much runs the place. "I sell plants and tell people how to take care of their trees."

Of course you have to be sharp, but

as Angie points out, nurseries and garden centers are hungry for hard-working employees who have some knowledge and confidence.

"To get my second job," she says, "I just walked in there and asked them if they needed any help. The manager said



Rick Michalak didn't plan on a career in the green industry. "I was looking for something in ag business at first," he says, "but this will be my fourth mowing season and I may change my mind."



'yes, but only part time.' I told her a little bit about what I was doing and what I had learned, and she was so thrilled she hired me right there on the spot."

To do well in horticulture, it helps to have an interest in plants and an eye for form and design. Even nurseries have office workers, such as sales people, but the majority of horticulture jobs require outside work in all kinds of weather. In most parts of the country, the work is also seasonal.

Take Rick Michalak, for example. He does grounds maintenance for a 16-acre townhouse development. It started as a summer job when he was a freshman. Now, as a senior, he's going into his fourth year with the crew.

"I was looking for something in ag business at first," he says, "but this will be my fourth mowing season and I may change my mind. There's a lot of opportunity in landscaping. I've even been thinking about starting my own landscape design company. There are a lot of companies here doing that and it seems to be needed."

Working outdoors with plants can be physically demanding, he says, but nearly anyone can be successful at it.

"You need some physical ability for putting in trees and lugging around hoses. It's a lot of mowing, trimming, edging and other outdoor work like cleaning gutters."

The main thing, he says, is to have a positive attitude. "You have to be able to keep going in the summertime when it's really hot out and you've still got at least 50 miles of walking to do for the mowing."

You also need to know how to figure things out for yourself and to set your own goals, especially in the smaller nursery and landscaping operations. You have to realize what needs to be done and then have the motivation to



**While it's easy to get an entry-level job right out of high school—Jeremy Dasinger even snagged his job before graduation—there are significant opportunities for workers with a college education.**

go out and do it.

It's like Golden, Colorado, FFA member Jeremy Dasinger says: "There's a lot of cleanup and watering you have to do to get ready for the sale days. And there's always projects to do—like we got a lot of bare root stock in and we had to pot them all."

Working with the customers means recommending products.

"Last year I had no experience whatsoever and I didn't do a lot of that," admits Jeremy, "but this year, I just go out there and answer questions and be friendly. You need to have some knowledge of plants, like growth habit and flowering and height and what things are."

One of the best ways to get the knowledge and experience you need is to work part time while you are still in school. There's always a strong demand for part-time seasonal work.

"Labor," says Bill Stalter, executive director of the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association, "is an ongoing problem. Landscapers especially have difficulty finding quality people." ●●●

### **Where to find out more**

Feeling all tingly about a career in the world of plants? Here's a bouquet of resources to get you started.

- *Careers in Floriculture and Grow A Great Life*, Society of American Florists, 1601 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Free.
- *American Horticulturist*, American Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121. Monthly, \$20 subscription.
- *Rewarding Careers In The Nursery Industry*, American Nurseryman Publishing Co., 111 No. Canal St., Suite 545, Chicago, IL 60606—\$20.
- *Careers in Botany*, Botanical Society of America, Office of Publications, 1735 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210. Free for up to 3 copies, additional copies \$.25 each.



# Big Time Trading \$\$\$\$\$\$

## Play the commodity market with FFA

**T**he TV news said cattle prices were good and investors might want to sell some of their shares. So that's what Carl Christensen did.

After consulting with his partners, Tony Miller, Will Christensen and Gene Adams, Carl called his broker and struck a deal.

What's new? Big bucks are at stake every day when farmers and others in agribusiness invest, wheel and deal and speculate with commodities.

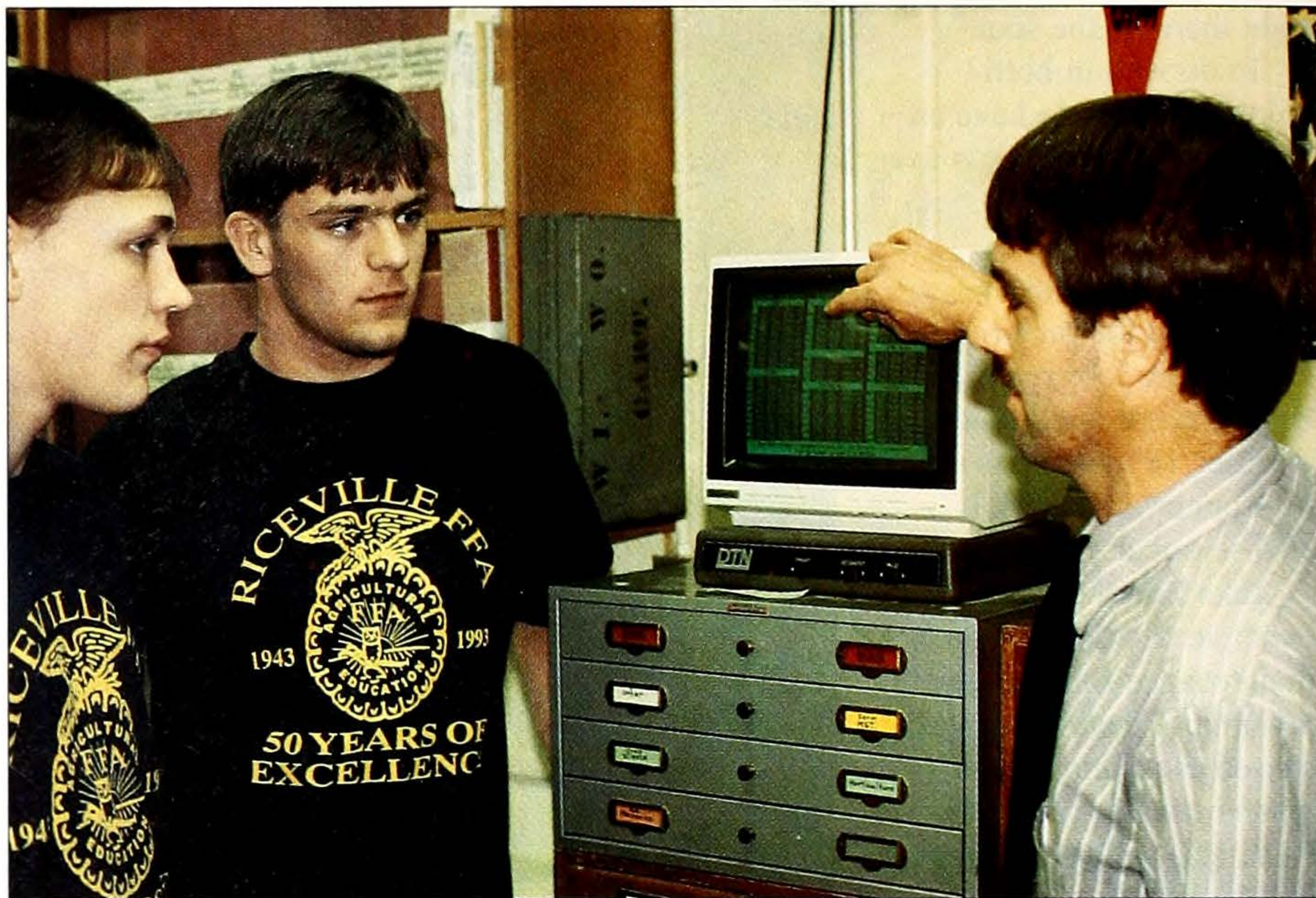
But when's the last time you traded on the market? These FFA members at Riceville, Iowa, called a broker any time they wanted as part of the Commodity Marketing Activity. By trading imaginary commodities, just as anyone would in the real world, Carl, Tony, Will and Gene learned the risks and rewards of agricultural marketing.

Carl's cattle hunch was dead on. The group won first place in this year's state contest. They took home \$300 and a plaque for their efforts.

More than 120 teams from 60 high schools entered the Iowa contest. Riceville's other team, Matt Beran, Jon Dundee, Brad Friedrich, Chat McCarthy and Kelly Minnis, won fourth in the state.

"This class will benefit me when I start farming because it showed me how to actually sell," says chapter President Tony Miller.

Each team started with a simulated model farm with 125 head of cattle, 250 hogs, 10,000 bushels of soybeans, 10,000 bushels of wheat and 25,000 bushels of corn.



FFA members Gene Adams, left, and Carl Christensen checked the agricultural commodity futures' prices every day in class from October through December. FFA Advisor James Green (right).

When the group decided to make a move, one member would call a broker, announce they were making an FFA order and placed their order, just as if it were a real transaction.

During their semester with the imaginary farm, the first place team earned a gross value of \$214,165.60, says agricultural teacher James Green.

"It felt pretty real," says first place team member Carl Christensen. "We got to do a lot of marketing activities that you don't get to do at home." Carl often discussed investments with his father, who runs a farm of his own.

Each school day, Carl and the gang met to discuss marketing strategies, update market prices and make transactions. Each team member specialized in one of the commodities, then talked with the group before making a call to the broker.

"It was real because we were calling in to the Chicago Board of Trade," says Tony. At first, making calls to brokers was slightly intimidating, say group members. But it became easier after the first call.

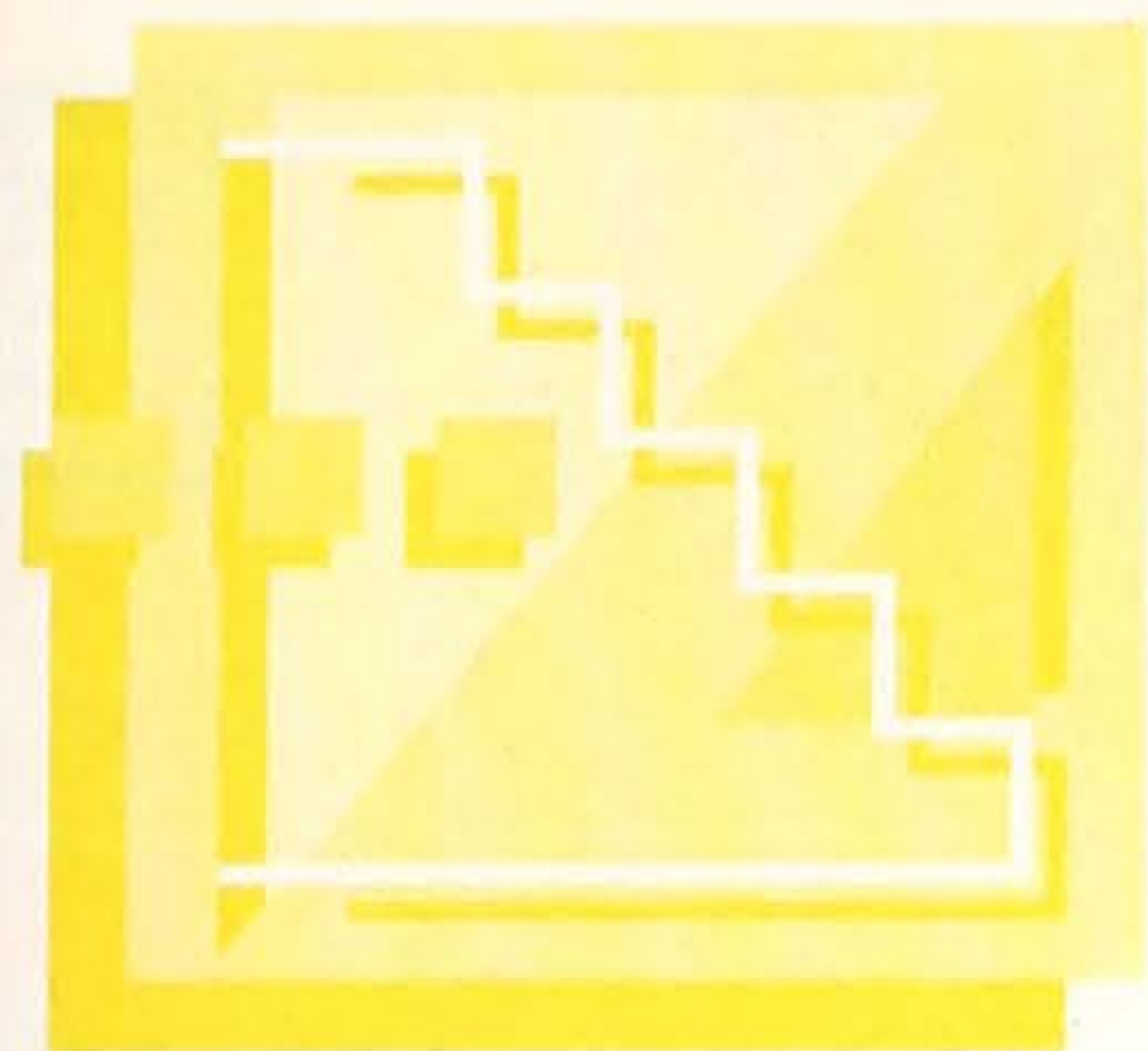
"Once we started getting into it, we had an interest in it. Then it became pretty easy," says Tony. "We just watched the markets and tried to set up the best price."

While the marketing contest dealt with a pretend farm and money, the marketing techniques were put to real use. "Every year the seniors run the experimental farm (48 acres at the school)," says Carl. "We make all the decisions on what to plant, when to plant it and when to sell the grain. We've already hedged some corn for next year."

**Contact Greg Egan at:  
703-360-3600 ext 264  
to find out how to play  
the market through FFA.**

The Agricultural Commodity Marketing Activity is sponsored by the Stewart-Peterson Advisory Group, Data Transmission Network and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.





# Bold New Age of Awards

By Lawinna McGary

## Extra Choices Give You Added Ways To Excel

**N**ow there are more ways than ever before for you to compete in the National Proficiency Award Program.

Forty award areas will be open to each FFA member in 1996 (that's up from 29.)

And that's just the beginning.

You can apply as an entrepreneur or as a placement participant in many of the areas. Entrepreneurs are those FFA members who own an agricultural production or agribusiness enterprise. Placement programs are for those who work for others to earn wages or to gain experience.

The number of award areas may vary each year, depending on sponsor funding.

### Check out the award areas coming in 1996!

Agricultural Communications-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Agricultural Mechanical Technical Systems-  
Entrepreneurship

Agricultural Mechanical Technical Systems-  
Placement

Agricultural Processing-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Agricultural Sales and/or Service-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Beef Production-Entrepreneurship

Beef Production-Placement

Cereal Grain Production-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Dairy Production-Entrepreneurship

Dairy Production-Placement

Diversified Crop Production-Entrepreneurship

Diversified Crop Production-Placement

Diversified Livestock Production-Entrepreneurship

Diversified Livestock Production-Placement

Emerging Agricultural Technology-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Environmental Science-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Equine Science-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Feed Grain Production-Entrepreneurship

Feed Grain Production-Placement

Fiber Crop Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Floriculture-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Food Science and Technology-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Forage Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Forest Management-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Fruit and/or Vegetable Production-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Home and/or Community Development-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Landscape Management-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Nursery Operations-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Oil Crop Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Outdoor Recreation-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Poultry Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Sheep Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Small Animal Care-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Soil and Water Management-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Specialty Animal Production-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Specialty Crop Production-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Swine Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement

Turf and Landscape Management-  
Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

Wildlife Management-Entrepreneurship/Placement\*

\*Entrepreneurship SAE program entries compete with Placement SAE program entries. There will be chapter-level medals available for entrepreneur and placement entries in each award category.

### What The Judges Look For

As always, be sure to communicate these key points on your award application.

- Career skills and competencies you learned that are related to the specific award area
- Financial achievements, including growth and scope
- Personal Growth and development through FFA activities
- Ability to keep complete and accurate records
- Supporting evidence of academic progress
- Well-developed writing and verbal communication skills
- Evidence of your accomplishments based on available resources and opportunities

### Whip Out Your Resume!

Overall, the new applications will

feature more essay questions and require less financial data.

You'll use your resume to display FFA leadership, school and community activities, instead of filling out the small tables and boxes from the 1990-1994 applications.

### Document Your Good Work

Photos will still play an important part of presenting your program. Although the photos are only worth 5 points out of 100, they help tie the entire application together.

- Include captions that go beyond describing the picture. Explain personal involvement, demonstrate the quality or size of your program and your extensive knowledge of your business.
- Show detail with close-up shots.
- Start early and take pictures of major accomplishments and highlights as they happen. Photos should reflect the growth and development of your program.

### Reap Rewards

A big part of the proficiency award program is making sure you're rewarded for your efforts.

- First place chapter winners in each award category receive a medal and a certificate.
- First place state winners receive \$100.
- National finalists get \$250 and a plaque.
- National winners receive \$250, a plaque and the opportunity to participate in the European Travel Seminar.

For more details check out the new Agricultural Proficiency Awards Handbook, sent to your chapter this summer.

You can buy computer software (to be delivered in September) through National FFA Distribution Team. Phone 703-780-5600 for your materials.

...



# You Can't Raise Just One

**Mmmm Mmm Good!**

*By Bob Bruce*



The large brown rat named Princess Leia and three of her 14 babies are comfortable climbing on Allison's shoulders.

Although Allison House's days are typically pretty busy—you might even say jam-packed—at least they are fairly predictable. All that changed when she got the call to provide a rat for a TV soap opera taped in New York City.

"It was One Life To Live," she says. "They needed a rat for a scene to come out of a wall and scare one of their actresses who was trying to break out of a room."

Being a talent agent for rats is just a sideline to raising mice—which is only a sideline to raising snakes—which is just a sideline to her favorite hobby of training her dog Madison for agility trials. Oh yeah, then there's school. Between taking care of her animal kingdom, she squeezes in enough time to conquer the books and pull in all 'A's.'

"I really want to do well for myself," she says. "I don't want to be dependent upon anyone. I've never been one for just lying around and watching TV. That's just not my personality."

While Allison has always had the

competitive spirit to succeed, she didn't always have a clear vision of how to channel her drive. That, she says, came about when she got in the agricultural program and FFA at her high school.

"That's when things clicked into place. The FFA really teaches students to understand what they're interested in and then target it and really go for it. That's what I'm trying to do."

Allison dabbled with snakes for years before she made it her business.

"I absolutely fell in love with them," she says, after researching a report on the reptiles in fifth grade. My parents got me one for my birthday, then friends started getting them for me, and it just kind of grew. I had a corn snake, a couple of ball pythons, a couple of boa constrictors."

## **Feed Me!**

By the time she was in sixth grade Allison had 16 snakes! Hungry snakes. "I didn't have much of an income," she says, "and you can do only so many odd jobs around the house, so I



decided to have a couple cages of mice—just to supply my own snakes' needs."

She started with five mice from a local pet store—three females and two males. In the six years since, she has raised and sold more than 20,000 little white squeekers.

When it comes to juicy, healthy, plump and appealing mousie meals for snakes, Allison has become southwest Connecticut's leading provider.

"I didn't plan on having a large operation," she says. But mice being mice, they have a knack for producing lots more mice.

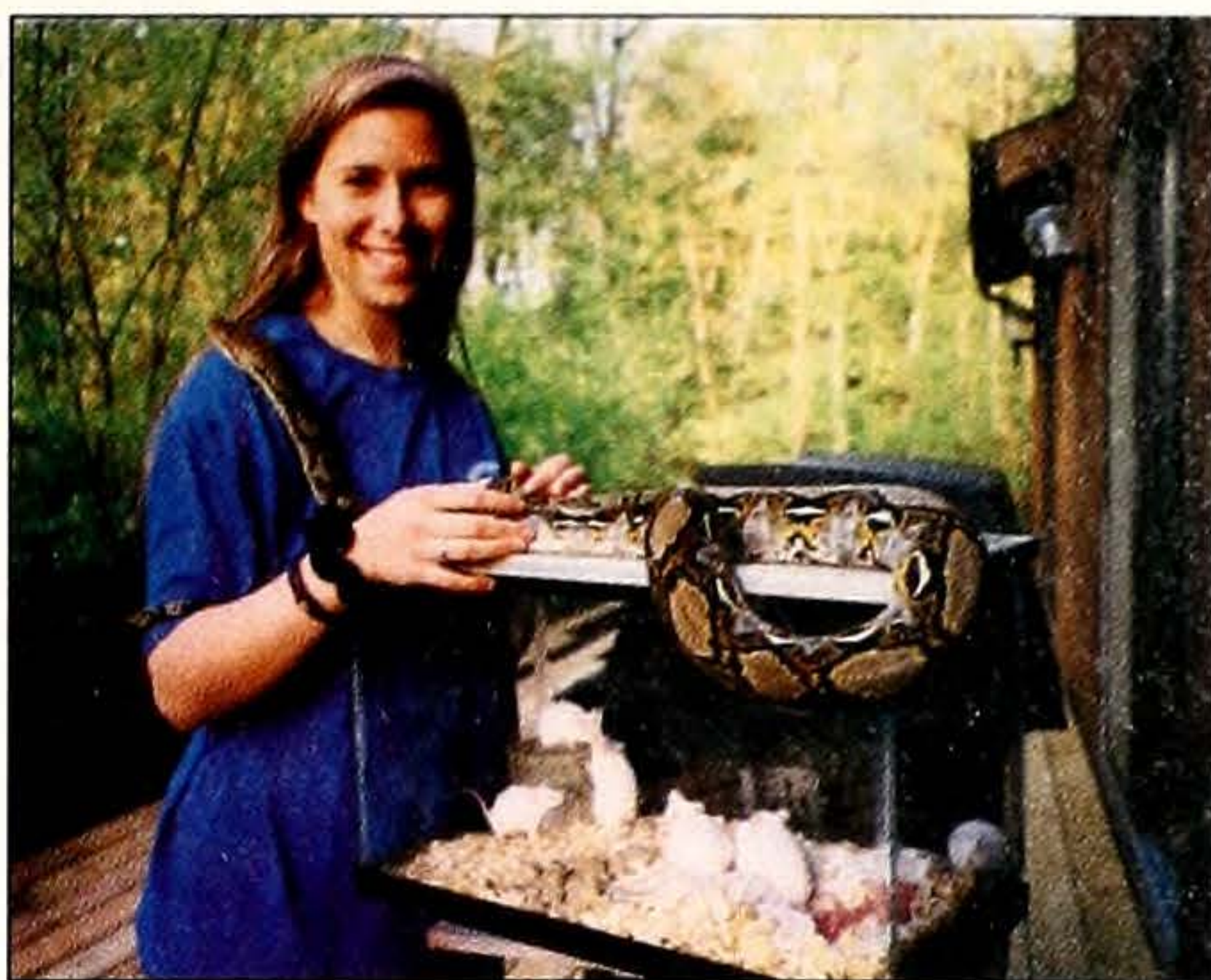
She added cages, and the mice quickly filled them up. She took some of the extras to a herpetological society meeting where she found willing customers and great information sources.

"Once I got into the mouse business," she says, "I started selling to a lot of big snake breeders in the area. I got to talking with them and they were a big help. A couple of them had tried operations of their own and told me what went wrong so I could avoid the same situations. A lot of it though was trial and error. The mice are funny as far as what age you can move babies, who you should put in the cage first—a male or a female... We lost a lot of litters at first and it was kind of frustrating."

Allison has 14 cages in her basement. Her rodents go through about 25 pounds of high protein mouse food and a big bale of pine shavings each week. She sells about 150 each week, with a bit less in the winter when many of the snake breeders put their snakes into hibernation.

Has it worked for her? Absolutely. "I do have another job that pays for my car payment and my insurance," she says. But, "...It gives me all the spending money I could ever want, plus gas money and clothes money. It does very well."

Sound like a gold mine? Maybe, but there are drawbacks. "It takes a lot of responsibility. I can't go to sleep-overs because I need someone to feed my animals. When I go away on vacation I have to have someone come in



Allison's pet python "Chewy."

and feed my mice twice a day, which is expensive.

"My life is very different from other people. I haven't really missed it, though."

Instead, being a young entrepreneur has given her the confidence to tackle just about anything. She sees friends of hers getting ready for college and being very nervous about being truly on their own, with no one looking over their shoulders, telling them what to do. That doesn't bother Allison. "I'm mature far beyond my years," she says. "I'm ready."

## Life As A Veterinary Technician\*

If you enjoy working with animals, have a strong stomach, a scientific aptitude and the ability to follow orders, check out a career as a veterinary technician.

### Education and Training:

Associate degree in animal technology or applied science

### Where veterinary technicians work:

- Animal hospitals
- Humane societies
- Animal shelters
- Sanctuaries
- Private veterinary clinics
- Horse farms
- Zoos
- Kennels

### Career Tips

- Look for internships at zoos, animal shelters, humane societies and sanctuaries.
- Search for job openings in the classified section of the newspaper under "Veterinary Technician," "Animals," "Small Animals," "Zoos," "Animal Shelters," etc.

\*Source: *100 Best Careers For The Year 2000*, published by Prentice Hall. Author, Shelly Field.

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# PRIME TIME FOR AG PRODUCTION?

## Many signs point to positives

**F**arm support programs are being slashed. Environmental regulations are limiting farmers' options for controlling pests. With NAFTA and GATT agreements, international competition will be tougher than ever before.

Because of recent changes in agriculture, you may be convinced now is not the time to farm. But Ohio State University Agricultural Economist Luther Tweeten, says these changes are all positives. Here's why he is so optimistic:

- **Not enough new farmers**

Tweeten's research indicates that there will be a shortage of young people to take over farms with operators who die or retire in the 1990s.

- **Bye Bye**

### Government Programs

"I think farm commodity programs are more on the ropes than they've ever been before since they were initiated. In real terms farm programs have been cut 50 percent since 1985," says Tweeten. He expects the 1995 farm bill will cut the program at least another 15 percent.

Tweeten says farmers with less subsidies will not pay as much for land. Lower land prices make it easier for young producers to get into farming.

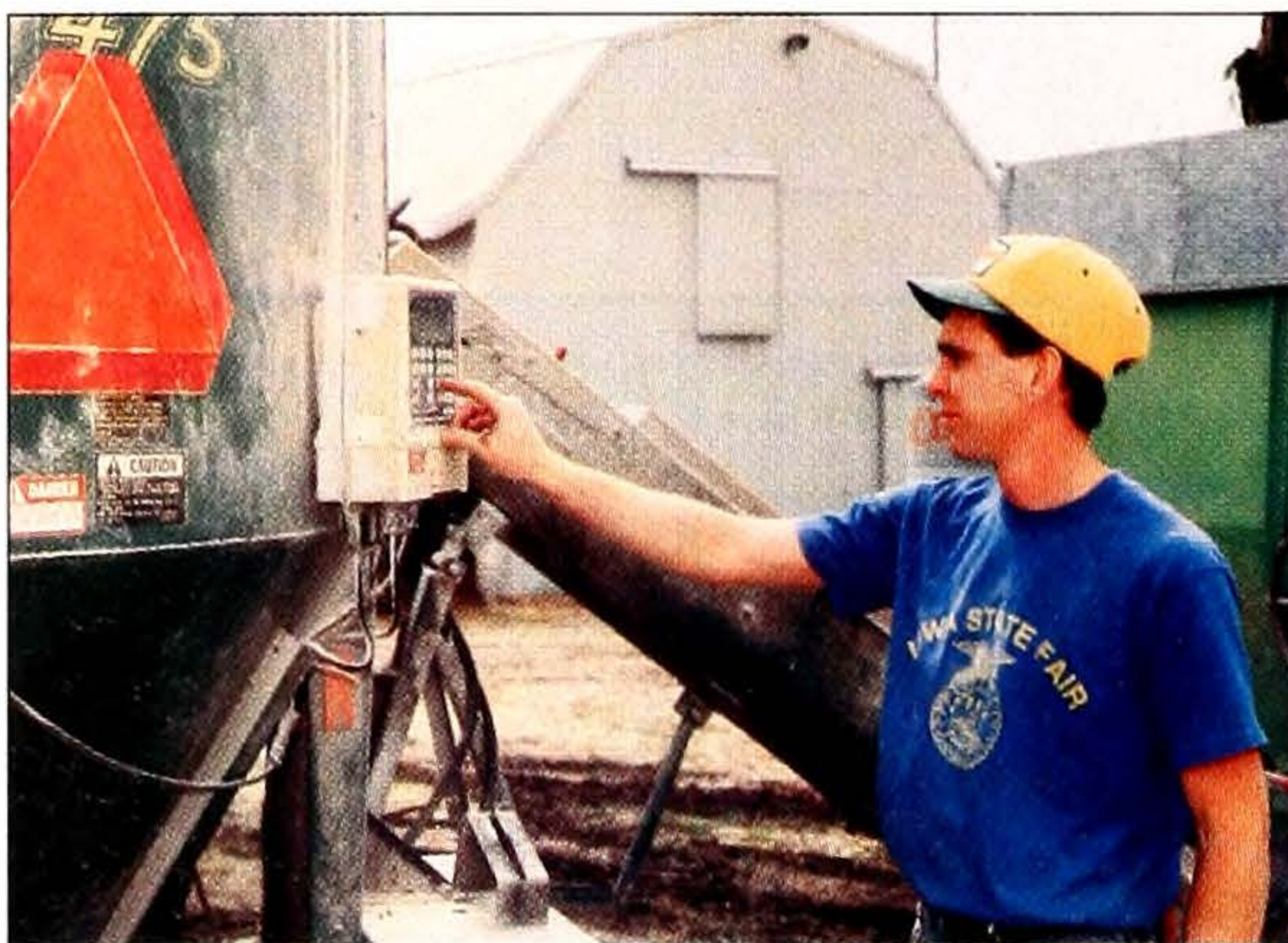
And, "the good news is farmers have done well in these last ten years. What I think is happening is markets are taking over and farmers are no longer depending on commodity program," says Tweeten.

"You've got to be a good manager," he adds, to be successful without the support of government money. "Be attentive to marketing. There are no

gimmicks, there is only good, solid management."

### Go International

- "Exports appear to be promising," says Tweeten. For example, he explains, China is expected to expand their food needs three or four percent a year and "there's no way they can keep up with that kind of demand."



**Former FFA member Brendt Warrington, West Bend, Iowa, seems to be following all of Tweeten's tips for success in his quest to own a farm. While operating a small purebred swine operation with his father and two brothers he also worked for neighboring farmers. And he managed the college farm lab while attending Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo, Iowa.**

### Working With The Environment

- "I'm very optimistic about that (the environment). I think we've already made a lot of progress and I think we will continue to do so," says Tweeten.

He believes conservation tillage and other methods of lowering chemical use will allow farmers to earn a profit while they meet government regulations.

Let's assume regulations take a

drastic turn and all chemicals are banned in ten years. Tweeten still isn't worried. "I've worked out what would happen to prices and farm incomes if we ban chemicals and my analysis is that farming would be much more profitable if we ban chemicals." If we cut the production the receipts would go up. Organic yields are 30 percent below those of conventional agriculture. Food prices would be far higher and farmers would actually have more net income not less, in that sense."

### Smaller Farm Families

- When parents have fewer children going into farming, they can afford to help those who do. "It really is tough to get started in farming nowadays without assistance from parents. That's not just in capital, but also advice in many cases," says Tweeten.

### Tweeten's Tips For Success

"The chances are better for getting into farming today than any time in a long time," says Tweeten. Still, "there are barriers to entry. It does take management. It does take capital. It's not easy to get over these barriers."

- **Education**

"I really like to see people who go into farming have some kind of agribusiness training, maybe two-year and possibly four-year. It may not be essential but it's increasingly important." Tweeten also advises "working with extension, listening and carefully evaluating the advice not only of extension but, farm input supply firms."

- **Cash Flow**

"At least in initial years some family members need to work off the farm. Very few operators have a large enough operation to use all of their family labor on the farm all times of the year.

"Surveys indicate they're (young people) are very optimistic," says Tweeten. "They think they're going to do better than their parents did. I think they may be right."



# Never, Ever Give Up

## FFA taught this former member to hang tough and succeed

By Chester Peterson Jr.

**W**hen he was 14, former FFA member Jeff Peterson suffered a paralyzing injury in an automobile accident that confined him to a wheelchair.

His injury didn't stop him from doing the things he loved though. On the way home from the hospital he asked, "Dad, can we first make a special stop?"

What he wanted, and his father bought, was a four-wheeler that he could substitute for legs. This way he figured he could continue doing his chores and feeding cattle almost as before.

"I also had a really great FFA advisor, Gary Crawzow. And I got really excited

about a farrowing program he helped me design so that I could still take part," Jeff remembers. "Thanks to him I could still be involved in FFA and do the things I wanted to do."

His father then modified an old wheelchair so Peterson could make his way around the crates in the farrowing

barn to do the chores by himself, and rigged all of the farm's pasture gates so Jeff could open them without leaving the four-wheeler's seat or a pickup cab.

Jeff earned the state swine proficiency award while a junior, was a district FFA diversified livestock award

winner and received his American FFA Degree in 1991. "FFA is a learning experience, one that teaches you to do your best and to not give up," says Jeff. "I found that an FFA background helps bring out these qualities. Meanwhile you're educated to set

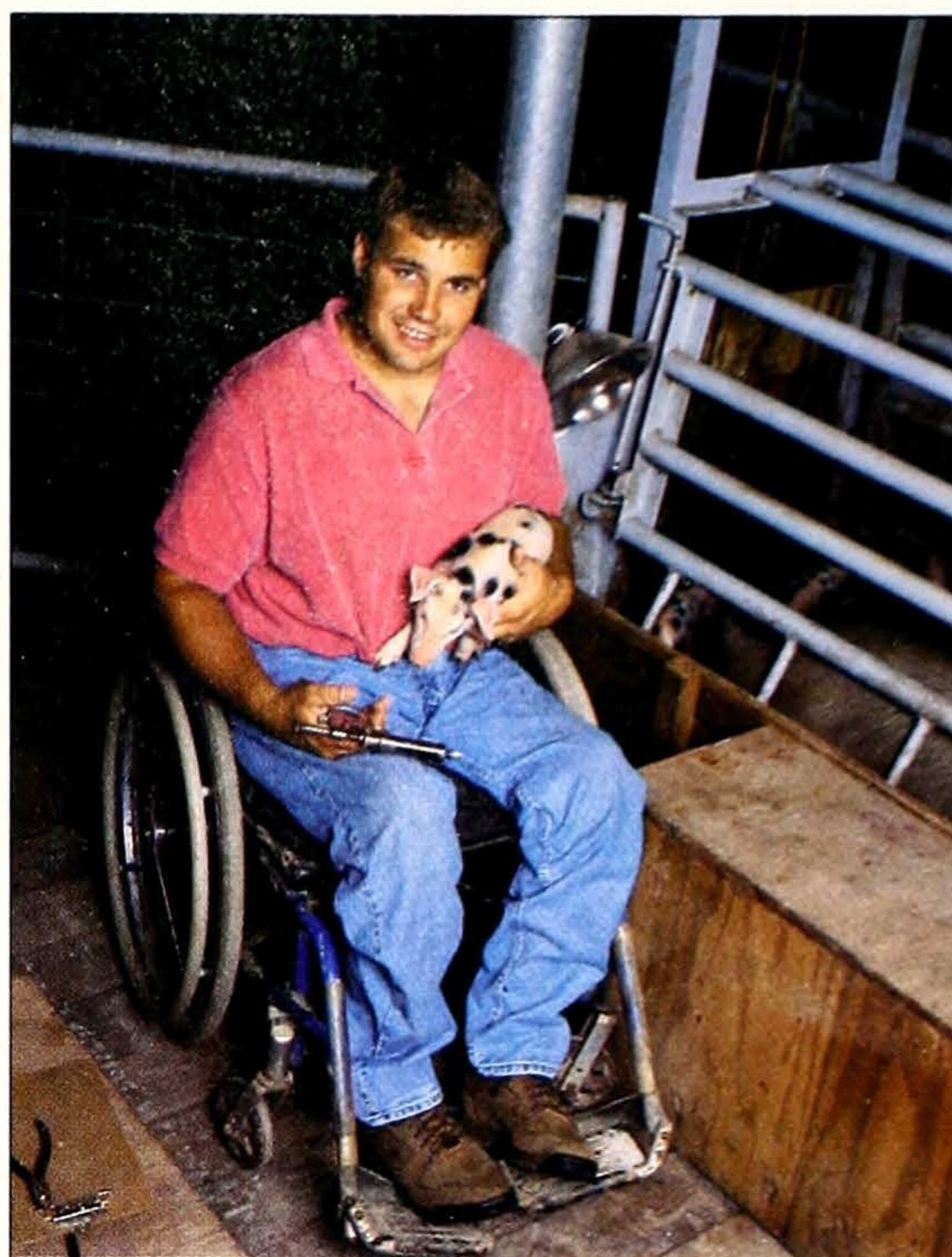
and then reach your goals."

"Probably the most important fact of all the many I learned in FFA was to have determination and the persistence to get things done.

"Of course, everything doesn't always work out the way we originally plan. But, if you continue to work and

***"Probably the most important fact of all the many I learned in FFA was to have determination and the persistence to get things done."***

***—Jeff Peterson***



Photos by Author courtesy of Successful Farming Magazine

**All it takes is a wheelchair, some facility modifications and determination for Jeff to take care of his farrowing and feeder pigs. His career goal is to conduct swine nutrition research for a feed company.**

try you'll eventually get the results you wanted."

So far, college is one plan that's coming together perfectly. Jeff is completing a Master of Science degree in swine nutrition at Kansas State University while serving as student body president.

"What I learned in my FFA work certainly applies here, too," he says. "Whether or not you're the most polished speaker isn't as important as what you have to say, how you present your intentions and the sincerity of your message.

"From my FFA experience I also learned how to work with people, to make decisions, and to communicate better. This is important no matter if it's a big group or you're one-on-one.

"What FFA really does," he says, "is to train you for your life! And, that's so valuable whether or not you later return to the farm. FFA cares that its members have the opportunity to reach their goals—no matter what."



# How To Be Heard

Gain respect and people's attention when you follow these tips

By Lawinna McGary

**T**ick, tick, tick, tick tick... Five seconds. That's all it takes—whether you say a word or not—for you to make a good or bad impression. Just a minute more and people will have decided whether or not they want to listen to you.

Sounds harsh. What if you're having a bad day and five seconds just isn't enough time to get your act together?

Better luck tomorrow. People can't seem to help sizing you up automatically. They instinctively notice your body language: whether you're

slouching or standing up straight, staring at the floor or seeking eye contact; fidgeting with your glasses or calmly reaching out to shake their hand. Their eyes scan your clothes to see if they are clean and wrinkle-free. All visual data the eyes record goes straight to their brain to create an image of who they think you are.

Some people are experts at projecting a positive image: take a look at your state and national officers for example. They always look professional. They walk, talk and make eye contact with confidence. When they speak their message is to the point. They seem to know what they're talking about.

And when

much more.

Follow these steps if you want people to be "all ears" when you're around.

## Listen Before You Speak

You can talk until you're blue in the face, but if everything you say only deals with you, many people will tune you out.

"People don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care," says Harvey B. Mackay in *Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive*.

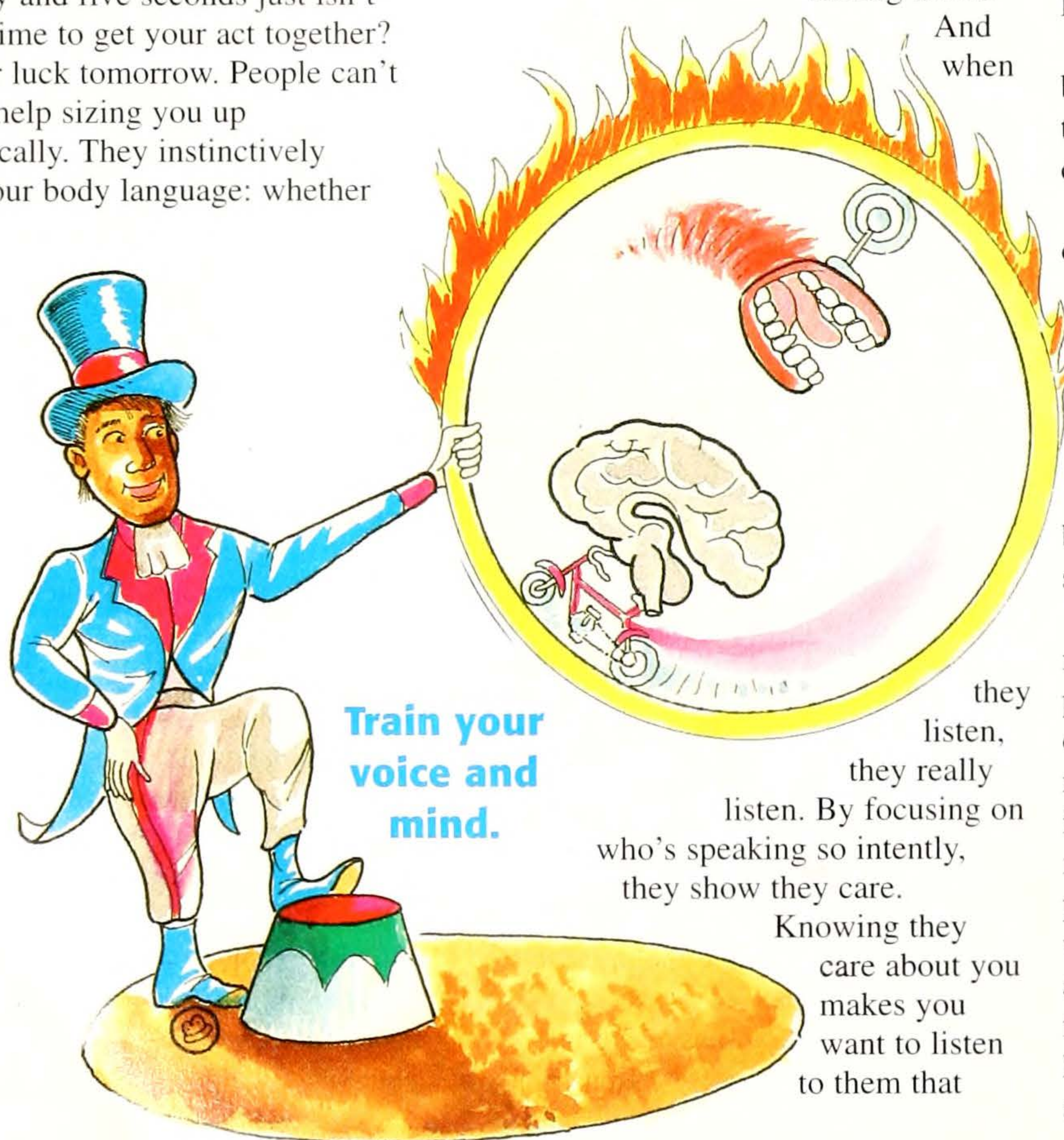
Be the first person to ask others how they are and what they're doing. Then listen to their answers.

Focus on people when they're being introduced so you remember their name. Say their name during conversation.

If you are sincerely interested in others comments, chances are they will want to listen to yours.

Show how your message equals good things for the person or people you're talking to. For example, if you're trying to convince chapter members to invite a professional speaker to your banquet, first figure out why having the speaker will benefit them.

Make a list of these benefits and make sure you cover them in your presentation. For example: 1. Political officials will attend to get the chance to meet the speaker. Having local officials is good publicity for the chapter. It means the local newspapers will probably run a story about the banquet which will include names and photos of award winners. 2. If the speaker is a former FFA member, we can learn how he or she used FFA to help them succeed. 3. If the speaker is really



Illustrations by Bill Fricke



entertaining, people will remember your banquet, in a positive way, for years to come.

These impressed banquet visitors are likely to support other FFA activities.

Ears are bound to perk up when members realize they'll benefit from your idea.

### **Make Your Body Talk**

Appear confident, even if you're not. If you look timid and self-conscious it will be harder for most people to believe they should listen to you.

Instead, "Animate yourself...use gestures," says Tony Kaufman, 1994-1995 state FFA secretary, Newman Grove, Nebraska.

Stand up straight. Never slump. Keep your chin up. Look people in the eye. Smile. And lean forward a little to show interest.

Always avoid crossing your arms over your chest. It signals you're trying to protect yourself instead of being open to conversation.

Stay away from distracting movements. "Don't be scratching your nose or scratching your head. It takes away from your speech," says Tony. "Talk to people and listen to people who are confident," he adds. "If you want to be good in sports, you want to be around people who are good athletes. It's the same thing if you want to be good speaker or a good listener. You want to hang around people who exemplify those skills."

People usually believe your body language more than your words. So it's worth your time to perfect it.

The most powerful statements come from well thought out information combined with unwavering, direct and



### **Animate Yourself.**

focused body language says Susan Bixler, in her book *Professional Presence*.

### **Expand Your Vocabulary**

Neat. Cool. Wow. Awesome.

These are nice words when you use them every once in a while. But if they're all you know, get set for glazed eyes when you speak.

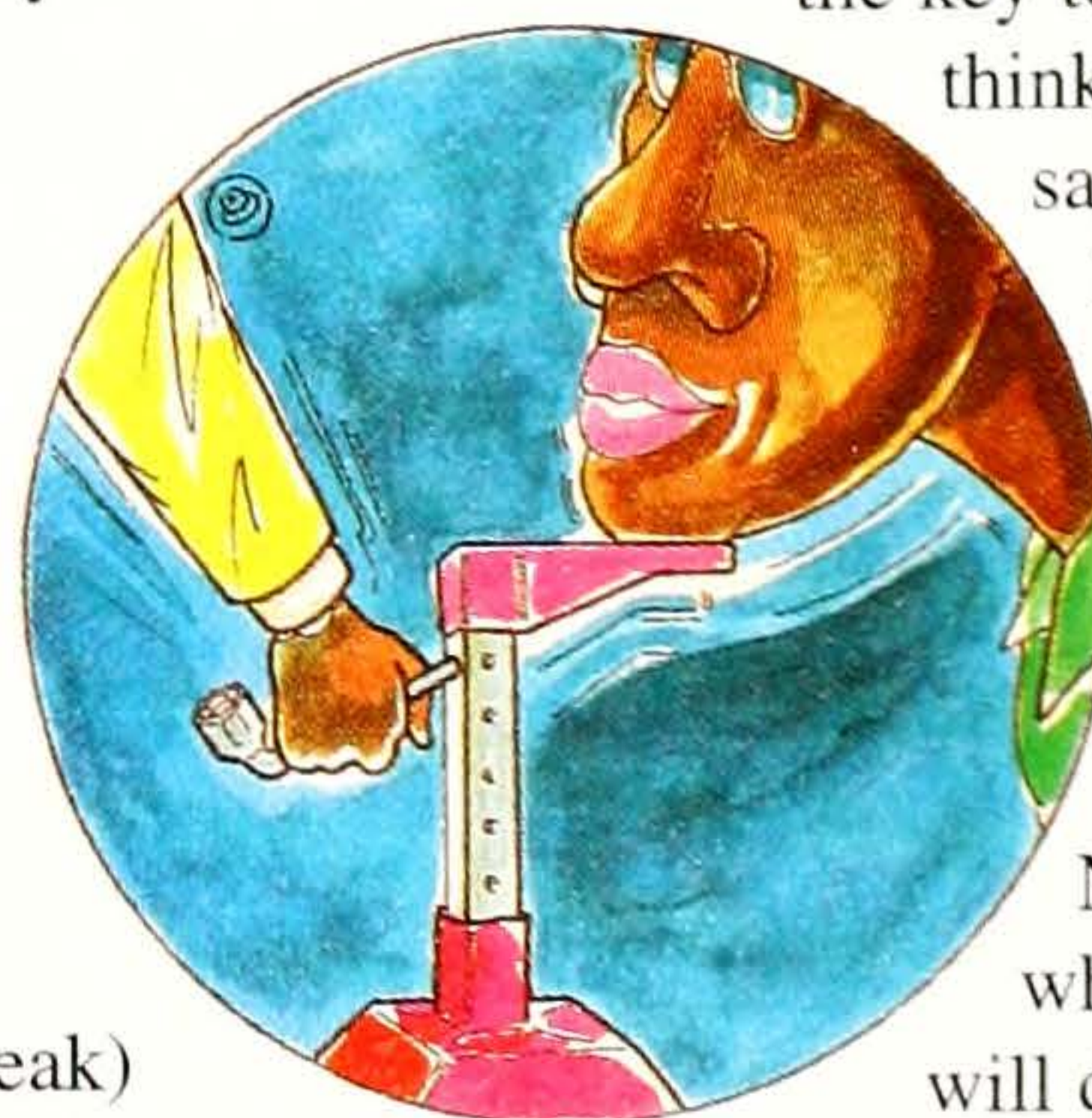
"Remember, the average business person has a working vocabulary of fewer than 4,000 words. Add five new words every day. Study your dictionary," writes Joseph Callanan in *Communicating, How To Organize Meetings And Presentations*. "Use original, lively and interesting vocabulary," he adds. And "Avoid slang."

Stay away from those sounds that really aren't words: "anda," "ah," "eh," "um." Tape a conversation or a speech and listen for these sounds that get in the way of your message.

### **Train Your Voice And Mind**

While you're at it, listen to the pitch, volume and speed of your voice. Are all of your words understandable? Does your voice shake walls or barely register? Do you sound enthusiastic, sincere and friendly? Are you using different tones and speaking at different speeds, depending on your topic? Speaking in a monotone is the fastest way to lull people to sleep.

Pause between sentences (and sometimes before you speak) to build suspense and to keep things interesting.



### **Keep your chin up.**

**The worst thing you can do is not maintain eye contact. You have to be attentive.**

### **Tune Into Your Environment**

It's tough for people to focus on you when there's a lot of action going on around them. Try to find a quiet, out-of-the way spot to air your thoughts.

Does the mood or location of the person or people you're talking to fit your message? If not, wait until it does.

And remember, "You can always joke around but never get too personal with it," says Tony.

### **Keep It Short And Simple**

Know what you want to say, before you open your mouth. Then, like a verbal commando, introduce your point, state your case and get out of there.

"The first thing that makes me want to listen to people is if they sound professional," says Tony. "I think that's

the key to anything, is to think it out before you say it."

Research your topic if you have to.

"Know what you have to say is meaningful," adds Tony.

Never use big words when simple words will do. And stick to the facts. People will sense if you're exaggerating. ...



# Can You Get There From Here?

Forget cars and trucks—these FFA members take tourists into the mountains the old-fashioned way—on horseback

By Chris Feaver

If away from it all is where you want to be, then surely the Teton Wilderness camp site is the ultimate destination. It is further from any road than any other camp in the continental United States. It takes 10 hours on horseback just to reach it. When you're so far away from

The only sign of man that can be found on the wilderness area are steel bear boxes at camp sites designed to prevent bears from getting at food belonging to campers.

The Quick brothers work hard to take care of the areas they tour. At a "Light of the Land," conference sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, they learned different methods of low-impact camping.

"We learned that if we want to keep living up there in the mountains, we've got to keep it just the way we've found it," says Adam.

The conference displayed products such as light tents that stand up on their own, without

having to be tied to a tree or have stakes driven into the ground, and special transportable showers.

The brothers, who received the Junior Ranger Trails Award from the National Forest Service for their work maintaining the forest, now pass on the knowledge of the environment to campers who use their service.

"We give them the rudiments," says Adam. "Most of them are fascinated by it. ..."

Adam was the first of the Quick family to join Teton

Wilderness Outfitting. "I was really a shy kid when I first started," he says. "I think working here has helped me open up."

He began doing odd jobs, such as shoeing horses, cleaning out corrals and painting, when he was 12. The next year, Andy joined the outfit, along with their mom, Virginia, who was a cook on many of the expeditions.

Gradually, the Quick brothers' responsibilities increased. They now go on all the summer camping trips. They are in charge of packing the mules and horses (it takes a team of 30 to 40 horses for a standard trip) and are also fishing guides.

They help tourists pull 14- to 23-inch trout out of Teton National Forest streams. "You've got to know the holes," says Andy.

The outfitting service also runs hunting trips in the fall, but school usually prevents the Quick brothers from participating.

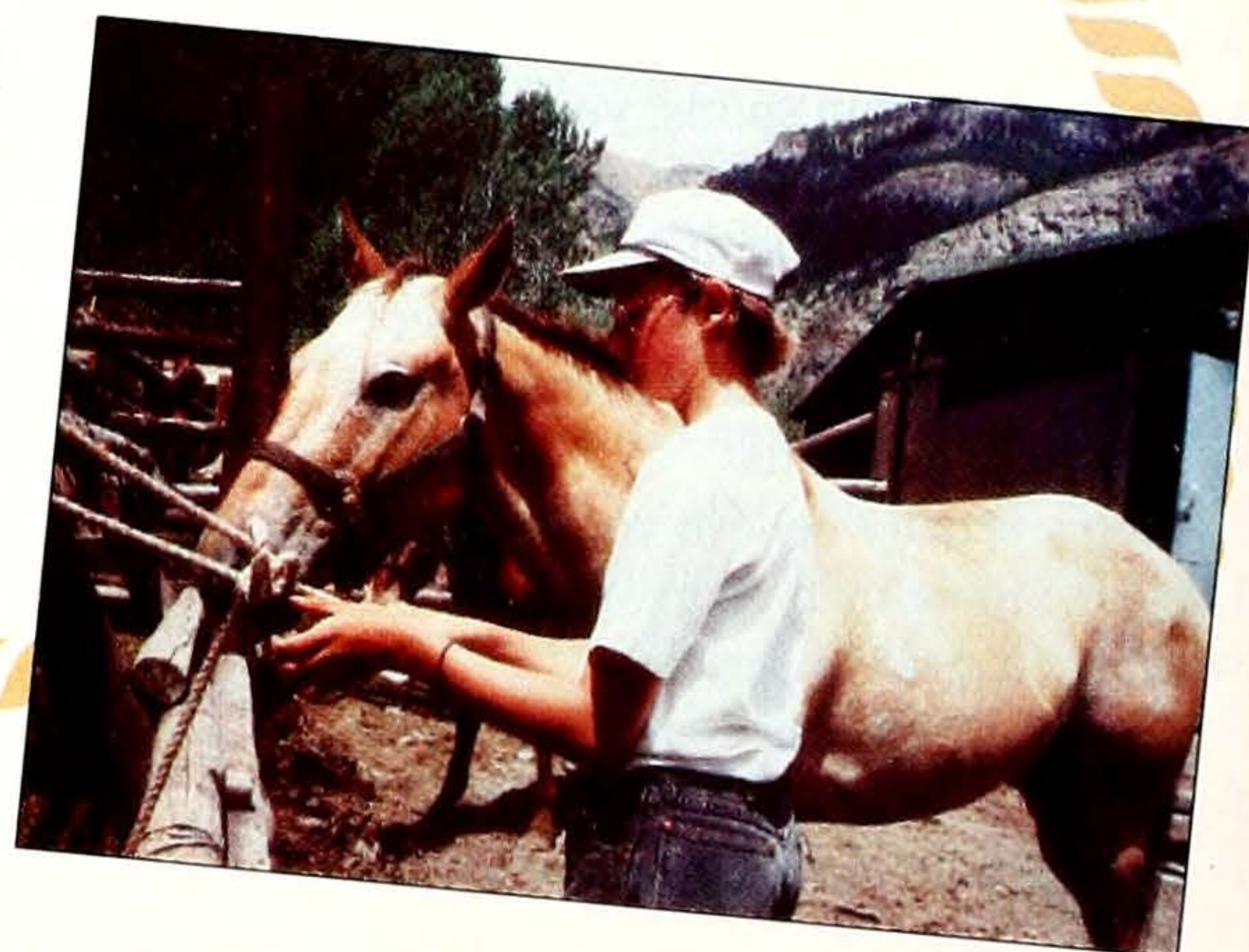
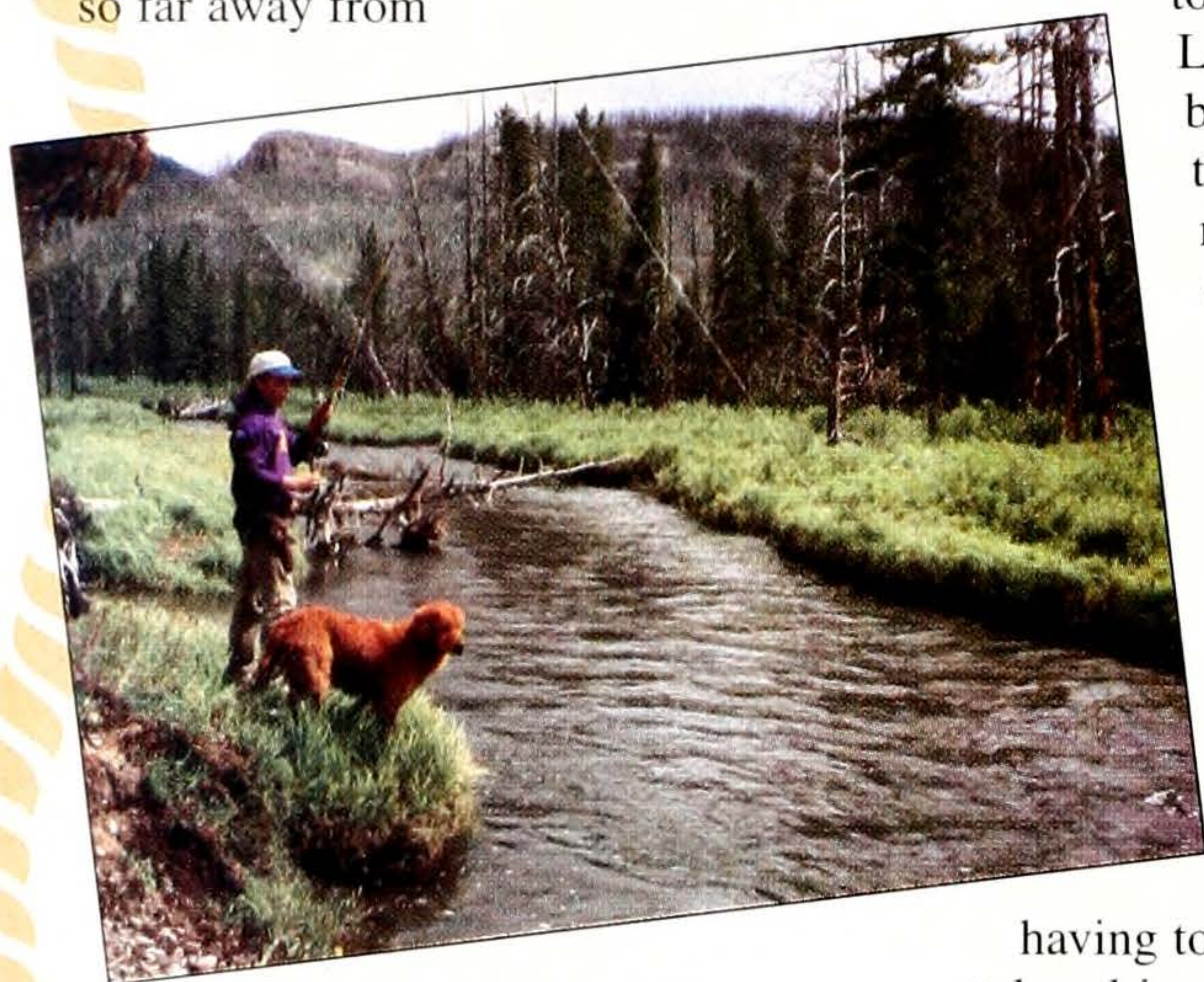
Next year, Andy, who placed second in the state Outdoor Recreation Proficiency Award Program for three years in a row, will attend Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming. He plans to major in Wildlife Management and become a full-fledged guide. ...

doctors, phones and any other type of civilization, it's best to have people around you who know what they're doing. That's where brothers Adam and Andy Quick come in.

Between them they have seven years of experience working for Teton Wilderness Outfitting where they help guide week-long camping, fishing and hunting trips into the Teton Wilderness in Northwestern Wyoming, just south of Yellowstone National Park.

The site is also in a designated wilderness area, meaning, no motorized equipment allowed, and every scrap of paper must be packed back out. "We cut our own wood (with either an axe or a hand saw). It's hard work, but that's what people pay and come up for," says Andy, a member of the Buffalo Bill FFA chapter in Cody, Wyoming.

**Tourists pay outfitters and FFA members Adam, top left, and Andy, right, Quick to take them on a 34-mile horseback ride over the 10,880-foot-high Deer Creek Pass to a Teton Wilderness camp site.**





# Cabin Fever

Vacationers are charmed by this FFA member's rustic lakeside hideaways

By Chris Feaver

**C**had Harston built it. And people came, and then just kept on coming.

It was almost as simple as that for Chad, an FFA member from Allen County, Kentucky, to become a real-estate whiz. Chad and his family built a lakeside cabin one summer, and quickly turned it into a thriving business that is only getting bigger and more profitable.

A few years ago, Chad and his dad, Jimmy, built the cabin along Barren River Lake in a secluded section of South-central Kentucky. At first, the cabin was a family vacation spot. But the Harston's were soon renting it out on weekends.

"When we first started out, it was just to earn some extra money," says Chad. "But now it is all we can do to keep the place clean for the next people to move in."

The Harston's used a simple strategy to start their business boom (which funded three more cabins). They offered a good product in a good location.

All of the Harston Hideaways are constructed with solid wood and have a rustic feel. They all boast complete

isolation, each cabin is more than a mile away from other dwellings, as well as lakeside views. And each of the sites are within easy driving distance of major cities such as Nashville, Tennessee, and Louisville, Kentucky.

Although the cabins are stocked with antiques, they also include modern comforts of home such as satellite television and complete kitchens. The two-story vacation spots all have boat docks, which are attractive for boaters and for people who like to fish.

Much of the Harston's business comes from repeat customers. But Chad does not rely solely on word of mouth



Chad and his father did most of the construction on each of the cabins.

and past clients.

"We do a lot of advertising and that has really helped. We are in newspapers, boat and vacation



Chad, who says he plans to take over the business when he graduates from college, believes his FFA experience helps in dealing with customers and in operating the business. "It helped me cooperate with other people to work towards my goal."

magazines and the Kentucky Travel Guide, among other things."

They even have a slick brochure, featuring photos of the inside and outside of cabins and information about rental costs and location, that they send to people who call or write about the cabins.

Chad and his father did most of the construction on the cabins themselves to keep costs down. Although they did contract plumbing and electrical wiring to other workers.

No one in Chad's family had experience in the cabin rental business before Harston Hideaways took off. Dad, Jimmy, worked in a print factory, and the family raised tobacco, which provided the initial income for the first cabin.

Despite the lack of experience, the Harstons have always kept in close contact with their customers to see what they were doing wrong or right.

"We've always had a questionnaire and that has given us a lot of ideas for improvements," says Chad. For instance, people recommended things ranging from new chairs on the deck to bug-zappers to TV remotes that beep to help you locate them, and all have been added to the cabins.

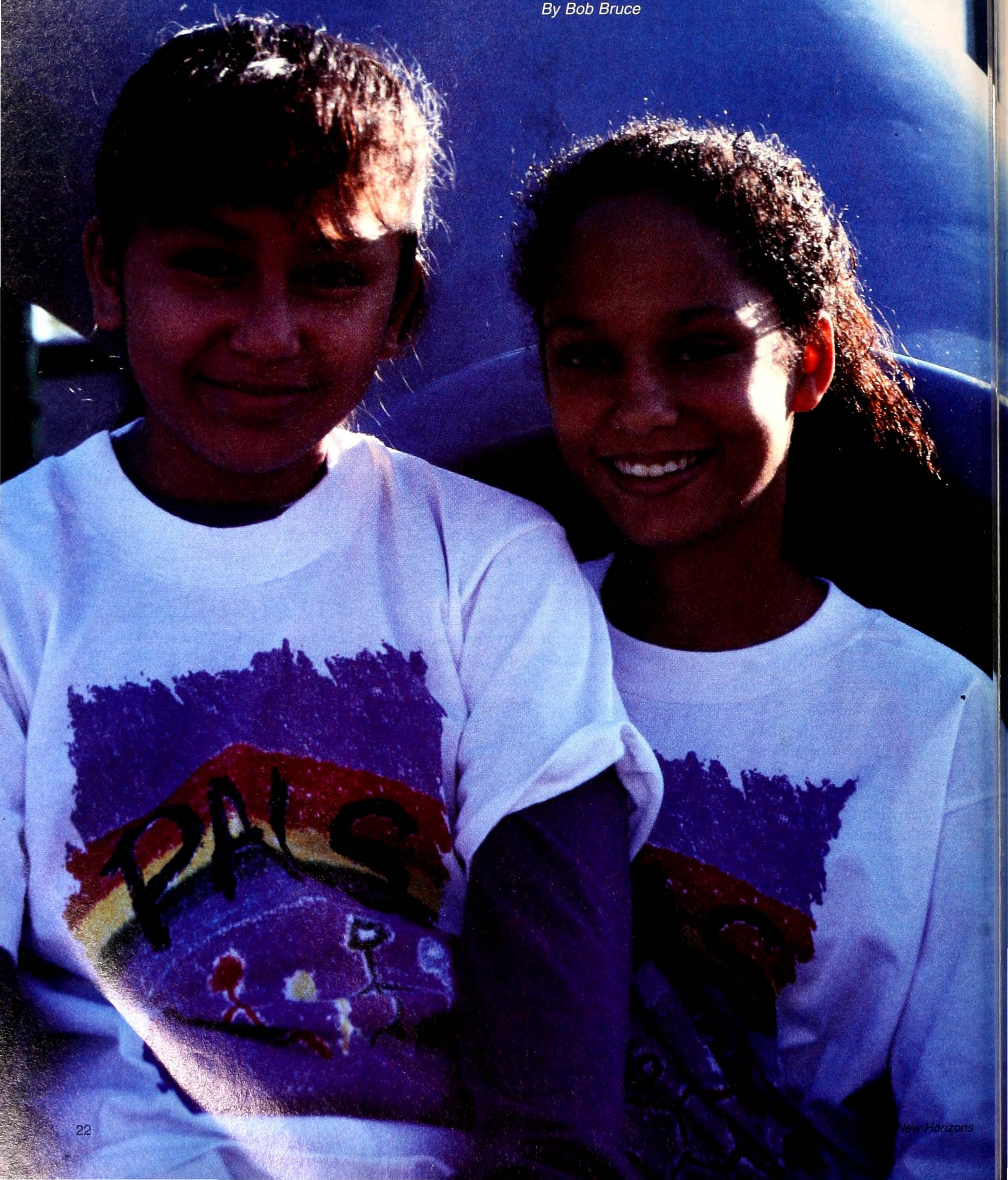
Little tricks like supplying all the firewood for guests makes people's stay more comfortable says Chad.

"People keep on coming back, so I know we're doing something right,"... says Chad.



# The Buddy System

*By Bob Bruce*





# Make a positive difference by working hand-in-hand with PALS

**S**ophomore Diana Obeso, of Phoenix, Arizona, was all set to learn about the life cycle of corn when she found herself helping fifth graders get more involved with their families and feel better about themselves.

It was an eye-opening experience for the Carl Hayden High School FFA member. "I've always thought of being a veterinarian," she says, "but once I went through this class and started working with the kids hands on to help them raise their self esteem, it got me a lot closer to some of their problems. Now I think I might want to go into child counseling instead."

PALS, Partners in Active Learning Support, a program that pairs FFA members with elementary students, changed Diana's lifetime goals.

Through taking field trips to the zoo, the Maricopa County Research Farm, the Arizona State University science facility and a pumpkin patch—so the fifth graders could get pumpkins to carve for Halloween—Diana, and other chapter members, become friends with and role models for their PALS.

The FFA mentors work with teachers before they meet with PALS in class. They find out if their little friends need help with math, for example, or a special project. Other times they serve as guides on field trips or as recreation leaders.

## Direct Impact

At first "I was a little nervous about how the kids would react," says David Charby, "but they got along fine. We had a lot of fun and we played a lot of games. Everybody learned a lot. I

Photos by Jennifer Conway



**Pals in Active Learning Support, PALS, pairs FFA members with elementary students. These PALS from Phoenix, Arizona, became friends through taking field trips to the zoo and a research farm and by working on special projects together.**

learned to get along with little kids a lot better."

At first, says 17-year-old Marcella Saenz, "I just wanted to be in it because my teacher said I would get credit for it." But, "I started liking it because I could communicate with the

students, (who, like Marcella, speak Spanish). It made me feel better about myself." Students had to apply and show they could be

patient, open minded and flexible before they were assigned a PAL. Since most of the FFA members didn't speak Spanish and most of the PALS spoke Spanish before they knew any English, patience was crucial. "Just talking with the kids was the hardest part," says David. He learned to listen more closely though, and soon began to understand his new friend.

"The students have all had a lot of personal growth," says agricultural

teacher Trish Davis. "I had them run a field day for 60 fifth graders the other day. It was incredible how well it worked out. With the experience they've had all year in FFA, on planning projects, doing record keeping, organizing responsibilities, they just went boom, boom, boom... 'This is what we need to do.' This is how much time we've got.' And they put it together."

Since they've kept records on community service, the FFA members have proof of their positive work to put on their resumes. "When they apply for jobs, this kind of skill in working with younger students will be very impressive to potential employers," says Trish. ...

## PALS Now

**FFA members from 20 chapters in Arkansas and Michigan pioneered the first PALS program four years ago. Now there are 1,300 chapters from almost every state involved.**

**Call 1-800-PALS-FFA to find out how you can be a PAL.**



*Partners in Active Learning Support*



# SAE's In The City



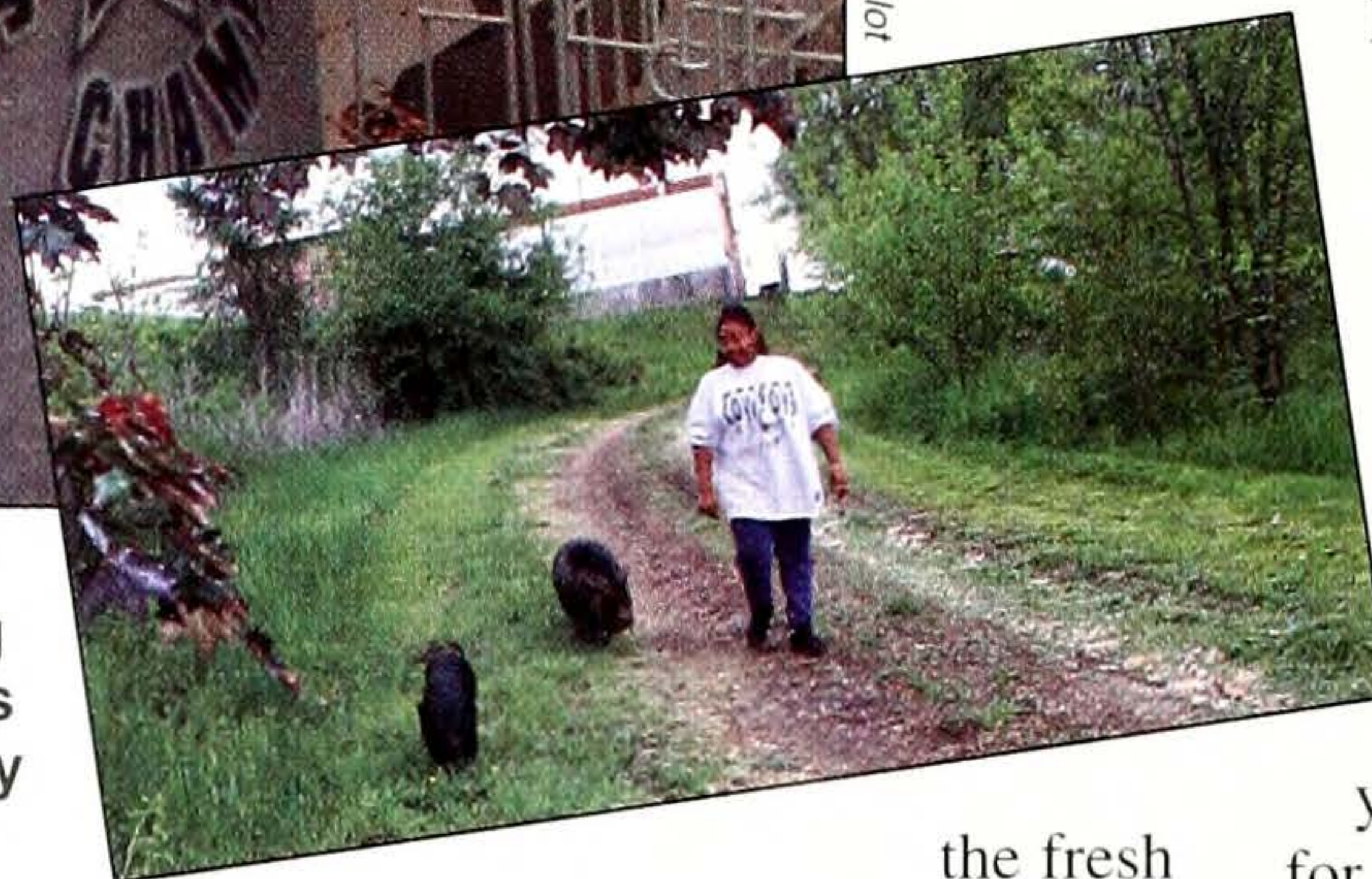
## See FFA members triumph in urban areas

By Chris Feaver



Photos by Tom Mollot

Sparkle Williams, who plans to be an oceanographer, has an SAE taking care of abandoned and donated pets such as doves, a rabbit and pot-belly pigs named Rudy and Miss Piggy.



**Y**ou may think of towering skyscrapers, clogged highways, concrete and crowded conditions when you think of cities. That's no place for agriculture—is it?

Yep. High schoolers in city agricultural education and FFA programs are knee-deep in SAE's (Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs).

Some of these members' FFA chapters thrive thanks to a communities' agricultural roots, despite

the fresh concrete poured over the land. Others are smack dab in the heart of the city. Even Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and New York City host FFA chapters with SAE programs.

Let's take a closer look at two success stories. The first is in League City, Texas. The second is in the heart of Kansas City, Missouri.

### **Houston—Clear Creek High School**

League City was once a rural community with lots of vegetable growing and cattle production. But

Houston and Galveston gobbled up most of the agricultural land years ago. The agricultural heritage of Clear Creek High School lives on though, thanks mostly to 50 acres of school land.

Jill Suhre, a junior at Clear Creek High, knows first-hand the clash of agricultural and urban cultures. She raises a lamb each year at the school farm and takes it for walks around the city—a sight about as common as snow in south Texas in mid-August.

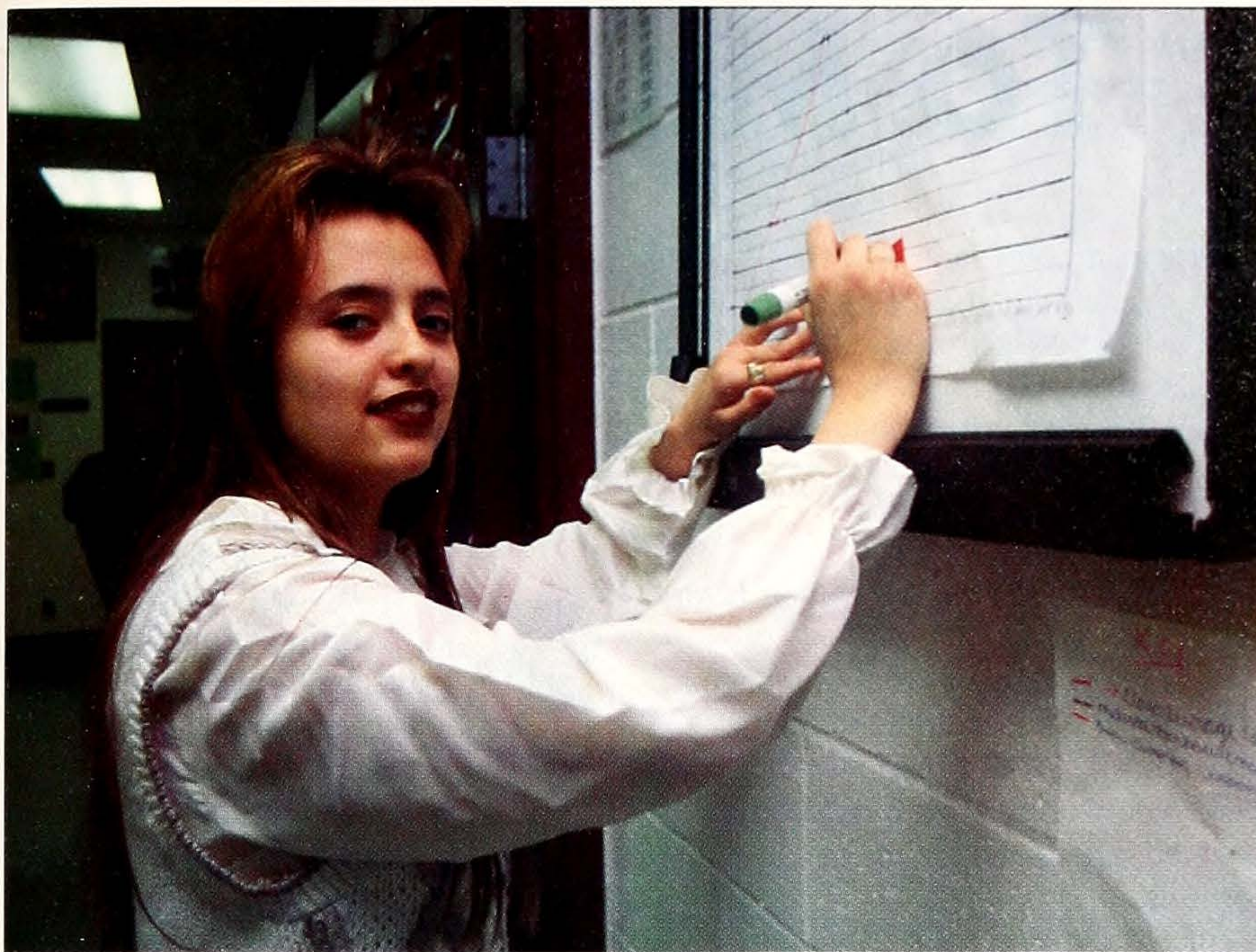
"At first, people look at you kind of funny," Suhre says. "But when I explained to them what I am doing they loved to see the lamb around."

Suhre also uses the new school greenhouse to landscape and plant fruits and vegetables.

Jenny Thompson, a senior, raises poultry on one acre of land in League City. It's the closest thing to a farm in town. "This area has just been taken over by concrete," she says.

Horticulture, landscaping and plant





**During an internship with Farmland Industries, Spanish and English speaker Moraima Hernandez will study meat consumption and the economics of selling meat in Mexico. Working with Farmland is a perfect introduction to her career field: international agri-marketing.**

production classes, "...taught me how to grow the different varieties of plants and the proper conditions to do so. We learn what the plants like the best, the location, the nutrients. This will definitely help me later on (while pursuing her bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering at Texas A & M)."

Jeremy Bills, a junior and a self-described "city boy who knew nothing about animals," when he first came to Clear Creek, raised swine in a corner of the school's farm as part of a 40-pig group project.

"When I told my parents I wanted to raise a pig, they thought I was nuts," Bills says. "But I think it was one of the best experiences I've had in high school. Caring for the animals has helped me learn about respect, as well as responsibility and leadership."

His new project is raising hybrid striped bass with some other students. The entrepreneurs started with 75 singlets and raised them while learning about diseases and treatments, water quality testing and management of the water systems.

### ***Kansas City, Missouri—East Magnet High School***

Sparkle Williams, a junior at East Magnet High, loves animals. And now she has plenty of them. As an SAE, Williams takes in stray, abandoned and donated animals and nurses them to health to study and then perhaps to sell.

Ralph the boa constrictor, two guinea pigs, four doves, a rabbit, and of course, Rudy and Miss Piggy, the pot-belly pigs, get tender care each day.

"I love working with animals. I just love animals period. Reading about them and writing reports on them is not enough for me.

"Working first-hand with animals has taught me how to take care of them, and how they respond to different environments."

"Unfortunately, most people have a really bad opinion about snakes," says Williams. "But snakes are more afraid of you than you are of them. I want to be able to spread the truth about snakes."

Williams' classmate, Billie Parmenter, prefers greyhounds at the Woodlands, a dog track in

nearby Kansas.

There, she had a job taking the dogs to position for each race, changing muzzles and bringing the dogs back to the owners after races.

Parmenter, along with her sister Heather and their grandmother, rent 80 acres of land about 45 minutes from downtown Kansas City to raise livestock.

She has seven heifers and three steers. In the summer, Parmenter hopes to have about 20 head.

"It is a challenge going to school in the middle of the city and raising cattle," says Parmenter. "Sometimes people look at us differently when they find out we are from the city. But we know just as much about ag as they do."

Parmenter will be going to North Central Missouri College this fall and hopes to major in farm or equine management.

Moraima Hernandez, a sophomore at East Magnet, has a summer internship for Farmland Industries, thanks to her bilingual abilities and her entrepreneurial talents.

She was born and raised in Kansas City and learned to speak Spanish before she spoke English because her mother is from Mexico. Hernandez will get to see her mother's homeland when she works in Mexico City as part of her internship.

...





# Ten Ways To Make Money This Summer



By Lawinna McGary

**R**eady to get rich? If you raise cattle, your potential to make money is unlimited. All you have to do is rescue gallstones from your cattle's gall bladders. Dry the stones and send them to Hong Kong now!

This is no joke. People are standing by, ready to send you hundreds of dollars for each quality stone.

Yeah, right. Spend-no-time, make-no-investment, get-rich-now schemes can turn into money-hungry pits that steal your hard-earned cash away.

Starting your own business doesn't have to be a nightmare though. And there are lots of ways to earn extra money while you learn about what interests you, make college and career contacts, expand your résumé and skill portfolio, develop leadership skills, gain confidence and, best of all, have an incredibly good time.

The road to riches isn't entirely painless though. First, you've got to research your skills and interests and potential markets.

Do you like sports, being outside or in, working with people or alone, with animals or plants?

Next think of what goods or services people in your area may need and figure out how you can profit from those needs using your skills and interests.

Here are some ideas to get you started.

## Homeward Bound?

**1** If you're stuck at home this summer, think of all the ways you can cash in on vacationers' needs. Walk and groom your neighbors' dogs. Feed their fish. Empty



their cat's litter boxes. Mow their lawn. Water their plants.

Put flyers in mailboxes announcing your name, number, address, fees, services, skills and experience that make you worthy of fluffing people's beloved felines and taking Rover out for runs.

Include several names and numbers of references, such as your agricultural teacher or people you've pet sit for before, to reassure the wary customer.

Extras count. Offer to bring in the mail and turn lights on and off. Leave notes explaining what you did with the pet and how things went.

If you live in an urban or suburban area, you may not have to wait for pet owners to go on vacation. Many apartment- or house-bound dogs and cats need attention during the day when their owners are at work.



**2** If you want to deal with pets, but don't have access to transportation, start a dogwash service.

You'll need flea shampoo, rubber gloves, a water source, hose and nozzle, tub and brushes.

## There's More Than One Way To Grow A Garden

**3** Nothing beats a home-grown tomato. If you or your parents have land that's close to an urban or suburban area, but isn't being used, chances are people will pay to grow a garden on your land.

Ask business owners if you can post notices about your service.



**4** If you'd rather do the tilling, grow veggies, fruits and flowers and let customers pick their own produce. If you have wheels, offer to deliver produce to customers' doorsteps (for an extra fee).

Elderly people especially, who can't take care of their own gardens and who don't always have convenient transportation to get to the grocery store, may appreciate this service.

Or, if you'd rather have the customers come to you, set up a roadside stand on a well-traveled route.

**5** Start a garden co-op. Members dues (which can be based on number of people in a family) should cover your cost of seeds, water, fertilizer, any pest control and your salary. In return, you grow the garden and provide people with a steady supply of various summer vegetables. People can either pick up their allotted food on assigned days or you can deliver.



## Tips For The Land Deprived

Don't let your lack of acreage get you down. People in your school or community may let you use their land for free or for a small fee. Check with your agricultural advisor and with staff members at your local chamber of commerce. Ask around to see if anyone in the area has a little extra land they'd like to donate to the cause for the summer.



## Sell Your Expertise

**6** You don't have to own or rent land to start your own business. Sometimes all you need is brainpower, time and a few dollars. Start a garden, lawn care, waste management, pet care or home plant care newsletter. Have your local extension agent write a column. Interview local experts, like your agricultural teacher. Xerox copies to keep costs down. You can either charge readers a subscription fee or sell ad space and offer the publication free to readers.



**7** Find out what local farmers, agribusiness people and youth need more information about and organize a seminar on the subject. You can research the subject by talking to experts (such as university professors, politicians, professionals in the field you're looking into) and reading publications.

Present sessions on topics you already know about through FFA and agricultural class. For example, if you've been on a Commodity Marketing Activity Team, you could teach about risk management by using forward contracting and other marketing options.

Advertise through local papers, radio stations, youth clubs and public bulletin boards in libraries, community centers and businesses.

Set a fee that covers expenses (for advertising, food, drinks, renting a room and guest speaker expenses) and gives you a profit.

Possible topics for youth are: how to speak in front of crowds, search for scholarships or get internships.

Farmers and agribusiness people may be interested in Farm Bill results, trends in commodity programs or a field day tour of cutting-edge farms.

City dwellers may crave rustic tours of old farm homes.

**8** Hold a taste of the region dinner. Have producers, restaurants and businesses donate the best of their products.

**9** Work with your FFA chapter to organize an agricultural career day. Charge business and college exhibitors for space in your high school gym. Invite students from around your region to attend.

## **10** Your Future Is In Film

Everyone

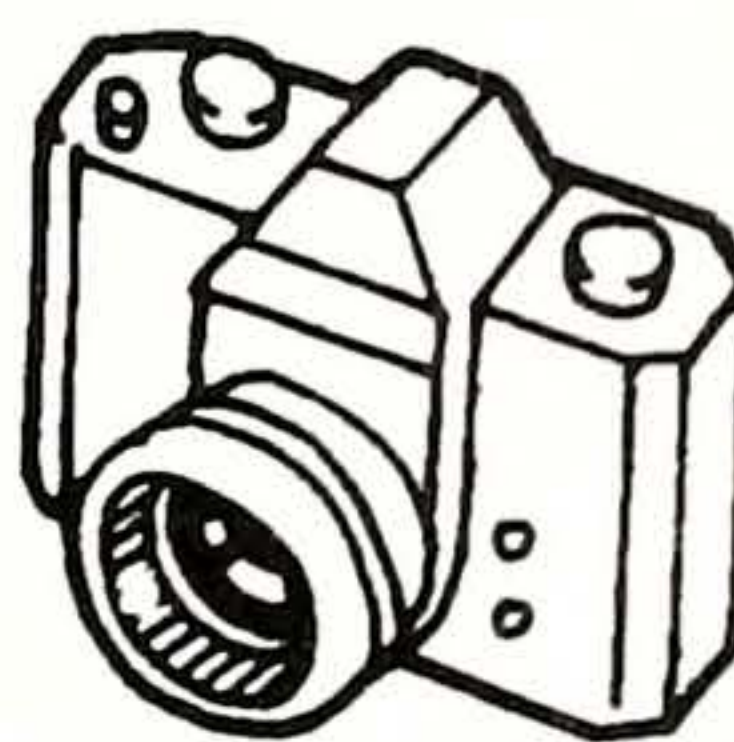
who enters a proficiency award program needs photos. The problem is, if you're in the photo it's tough for you to take it. And, many people aren't very creative when it comes to composing a photo that will show off the best parts of their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program.

Display your best photos on your agricultural class bulletin board. Talk to chapter members to see if they're interested in your service. Find out how much they would be willing to pay. Figure your expenses for gas, film and time and see if you can make a profit. (Try to save money by riding with your advisor on scheduled SAE program visits.)

Expand your business. Take photos of FFA members and other students with their favorite steer, a pet or high school awards or keepsakes.

Offer to take photos of chapter events so you can show your skill. Volunteer to organize your photos into a slide show for the chapter banquet. Be sure to include one slide that states who took and produced the show.

**THERE'S MORE!** Raising earthworms for bait and for aerating soil; cutting and selling firewood; designing advertising flyers for agribusinesses on your home or agricultural class computer; mowing lawns and then setting up and maintaining compost bins to recycle clippings; running day camps for youth interested in forestry, wildlife, horse



## Look Here First

When it comes to big-time business tips, you can't beat your:

- parents, who will definitely dole out moral support, (and advice if you want), but may also back you with bucks, supplies or use of equipment, land or other resources;
- FFA advisor, who can help you evaluate your skills, interests and business people who may be interested in being your partner;
- local chamber of commerce staff, who know what other businesses are in the area;
- small business administration employees, who will be able to tell you about evaluating your market, writing a business plan and getting a loan;
- extension office agents, for loads of how-to agricultural information (ask these folks how to raise earthworms);
- and library (check their database for books and magazines that cover these topics: entrepreneur, small business).

riding or how to raise or show livestock; make bird feeders...

Evaluate services or products in your community. Find out what's missing, or what could be done more cheaply, quickly or with more quality; and fill the need—for a small fee of course. ...





## My Turn Greg Vetter

Western Region Vice President

A few years ago, I had one of the hardest jobs of all time. I worked for a dairy operation just south of our house in Carpenter, Wyoming. My job "assignment" was to clean manure off walls!

The place was huge. I had to scrub every inch of the 80 feet wall that was covered with dirt and manure. The walls were so bad that you couldn't even see the white

paint underneath.

Once I got started, I learned to push myself to do the best job possible. The walls were always spotless after three hours of pushing the brush up and down. At the end of the day, I didn't get my name in the paper or any award. I got a small pay check



12-year old Greg with his dog.

and the satisfaction of doing a great job and getting the approval of my supervisor, which was my mom.

Those walls presented a challenge to me, and provided a lesson in life. Before that job, I thought you had to do things that were never done before to be successful. That's not true. The satisfaction of seeing a clean white wall and the approval from my mom was success to me.

What is success to you? Success can be putting in a hard day at work, or helping your community build a stage for their park. It can be the satisfaction of doing a great job when you didn't have to. It doesn't take money or power to become successful. It's doing those little things that make a difference. So next time you're doing something you really hate to do, or you think its not important, stand back and smile, because you are a success!

*Greg Vetter*



## My Turn Jennafer Neufeld

Central Region  
Vice President

Sparky, Fido, Spot, Benji, Rover, Muffy and Odie—each with four legs, fur and a slobbery mouth—all man's best friend. My family, over the years, has had quite a few "best friends," and at the top of the list is the one we called "Snuffy." Unfortunately, Snuffy has passed on, but his memory will live in the Neufeld family for generations to come.

Snuffy was not your ordinary dog. In fact, he was probably a natural phenomenon. His mother was a Shitzu (about the size of a guinea pig) and his father was a very tall Collie. (We all know what Lassie looked like.)

We don't know how it happened, but our puppy had a front end that looked like a Shitzu and a rear end with hair like a Collie.

Poor little Snuffy, he was the weirdest looking dog in the county! To make matters worse, a Shitzu is supposed to be clipped every summer and a Collie is not. So every spring, my sister and I did our own clipping job with mom's sewing scissors. The end result was a dog that received more than his fair share of ridicule over the years.

What most people didn't realize was that Snuffy still had all the qualities of a great best friend. If I called his name, he came running. And when I went for walks, he came trotting along.

Snuffy was truly one of our family's best friends. His ragged coat and mixed up family tree didn't matter. It was all about what was on the inside.

It's a good thing outward appearances do not determine worth, because, like most of



us, Snuffy could never meet supermodel standards. We are hurting ourselves and others if we don't look inside to find a heart of a "best friend."

Hoping to be your friend,

*Jennafer Neufeld*

P.S. I think the saying "You ain't nothing but a hound dog!" should be considered a compliment!

Time to clip the Shitzu half of Snuffy.



# FFA IN ACTION

Oklahoma

## Big Time Entertainment

Amber McEntire,  
Reporter, Kiowa FFA,  
Kiowa

Forget standing in line at a Reba McEntire concert hoping to catch a glimpse of the star. Kiowa reporter Amber McEntire gets a front-row seat each time her aunt comes home to visit.

Amber wanted to let other FFA members have the chance to meet Reba too. So she invited her to speak at her state FFA convention.

Reba's response? An immediate "yes."

Unfortunately, the convention was canceled due to the bombing in Oklahoma City. Autumn hopes her aunt will get to share more of her advice at next year's state convention.

Until then, Reba offers these tips: "The only way to live life successfully is to grab it by the horns, take calculated risks, keep two steps ahead of your competition and never,



Autumn and country music star Reba McEntire, who also happens to be her aunt. See the family resemblance?

ever stop striving for excellence."

Reba was born and raised in Oklahoma and although not an FFA member herself, her brother, Autumn's dad, did wear the blue and gold. ...

South Carolina

## Hog-A-Mania

Latta FFA

They call it "Hog-A-Mania." It's not necessarily good clean fun, just try staying spotless while chasing a greased hog on a football field, but FFA members at Latta High School proved you don't need drugs or alcohol to have a good time. In fact, their first Hog-A-Mania, was so popular, they brought it back for National FFA Week.

In keeping with the hog theme, students barbecued a hog, donated by member James Hyatt, on a grill made by the advanced agricultural students.

Latta FFA members plan to make Hog-A-Mania an annual event. ...

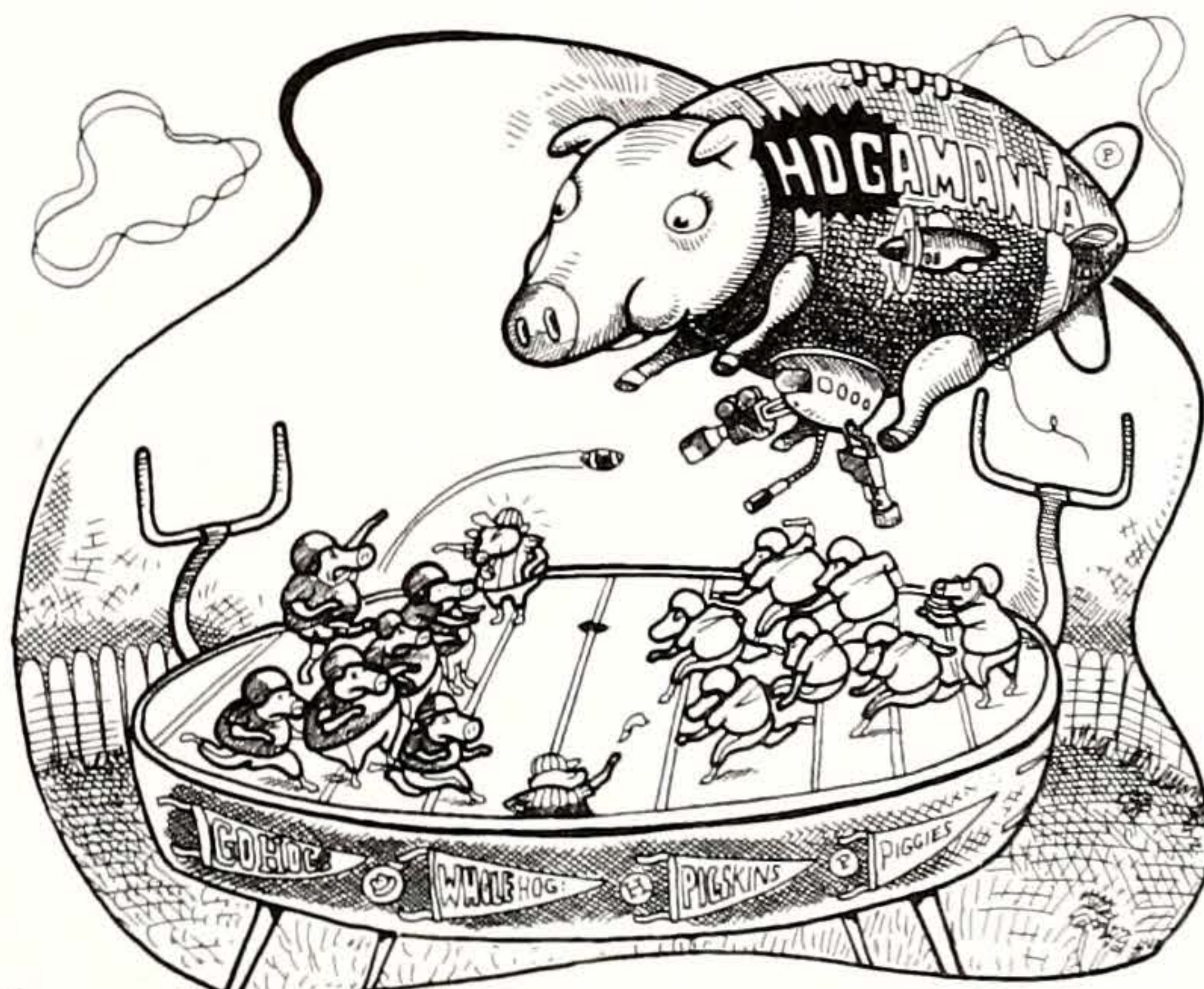


Illustration by Bill Fricke

Alabama

## Dancin' The Days Away

Mike Speake, Reporter, Wetumpka FFA

Clog dancing, started as a neat way for Tonya Dennis, Brandi Hobbs and Kay Fondren to entertain kids waiting for buses at the Kids Day On The Farm. Then FFA students added a line dancing group to their show.

The cloggers perform at FFA and community fund-raising events in Wetumpka such as Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Christmas.

The Chapter is so popular within their community, it only took them three and a half weeks to raise \$9,000 to send 15 members to the national FFA convention. ...

(Action Continued on Page 30)



# FFA IN ACTION

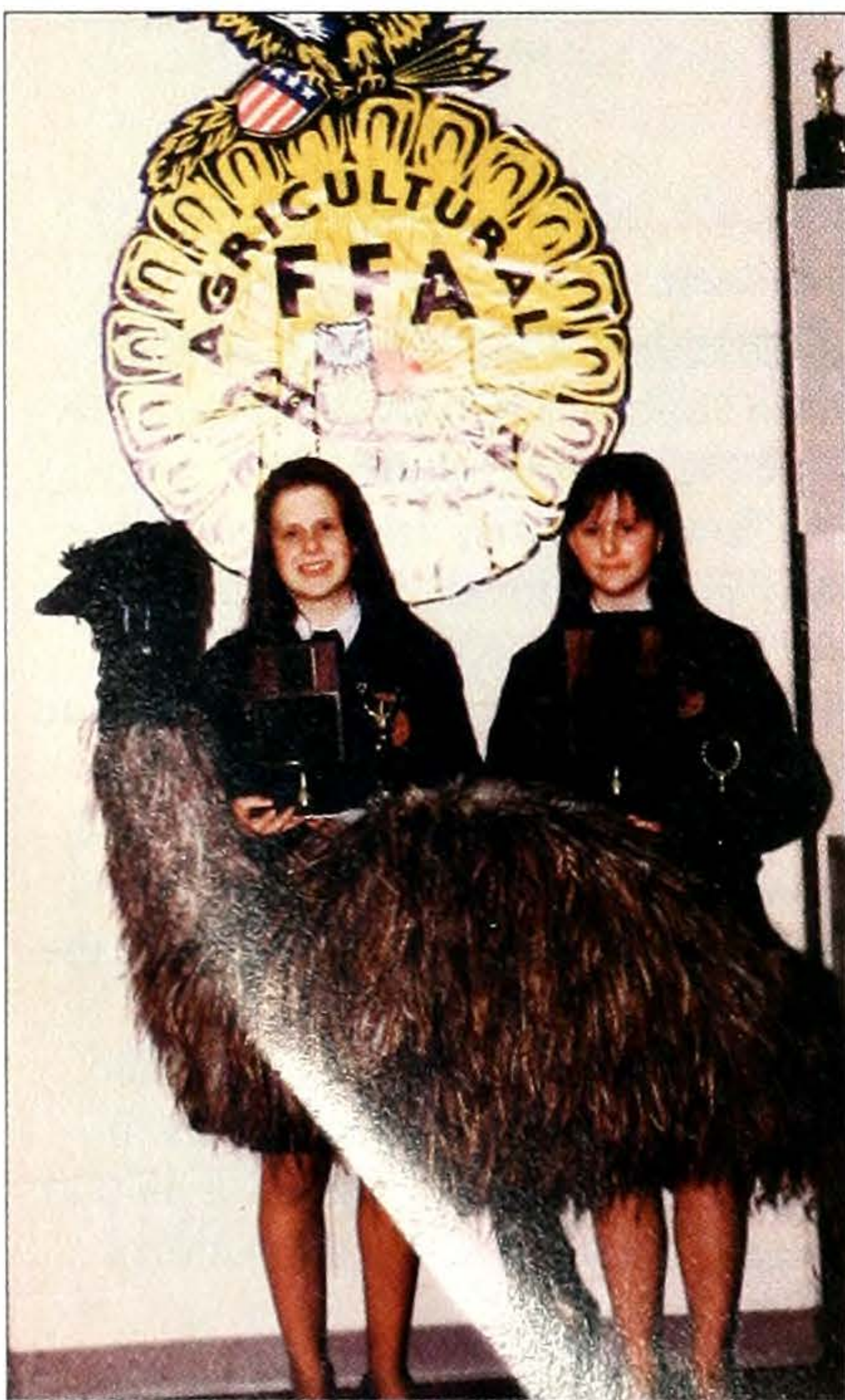


Justin Gibbs, left, and Joanie Strom, who says the broadcasts provide "expanding opportunities." The two prepare to tape the closing market reports.

Michigan

## An Emu Story

Shari Grieser and Carrie Hubbarth, Lowell FFA



It hatched from an idea and not an egg. Lowell FFA members Shari Grieser and Carrie Hubbarth carefully prepared posters, photos, a floral and feather arrangement using Emu feathers and an empty shell as a "vase," and a necklace from egg shell for their speech "Emu-The Livestock of the Future." They even made and gave the judges samples of Emu oil.

Then their advisor suggested they build a bird to enhance their speech.

Friends donated Emu feathers and Shari and Carrie began the tedious task of hot gluing every feather to the emu's body.

Their industrial arts teacher helped them to carve the bird's Styrofoam body. Complete with head and neck of yarn, the Emu was truly larger than life.

More than 30 hours of work really paid off when they won both the regional and state speech contests. They received requests to speak at local FFA and 4-H fairs this summer, accompanied of course, by their friendly Emu. ...

Shari Grieser (left) & Carrie Hubbarth.

Illinois

## On The Air

Williamsfield

Tune into a WGIL AM radio station, Galesburg, Illinois, at 6:15 each week night and you'll hear Williamsfield FFA members broadcasting the closing livestock and grain market reports.

The members tape the three-minute segment in their recording studio/agricultural classroom each day. Radio station staff record the FFA broadcasters' tape over the phone, so they will have the report for later broadcasting.

Teacher Dennis Harper first suggested his students send a tape of a sample broadcast to WGIL. The demo tape "was almost as good as the (professional) people who do the markets for us," says Jon Raymond, the station's general manager.

In addition to the market reports, each FFA broadcaster devotes 20 to 30 seconds to an educational message such as tractor safety tips or a comparison of annual pork exports. Members even wrote and taped 30-second commercials for their program sponsors.

To help reporters organize the market information they gather from their class computer (that is tied to the Data Transmission Network) chapter President Joanie Strom developed a computerized form. ...

By Diane Beetler

Oklahoma

## Pitching In

National Blue and Corn Gold now brighten the city park in Mustang, Oklahoma, in the form of ...trash cans. Noticing that the park lacked trash cans the members set to work on creating some from donated 55-gallon drums. ...





## FFA IN ACTION

Tennessee

### Play it again Boyz!

Beech FFA



Thomas Carr-Shandy (left) and Cory Gray fill the air with sound at the Tennessee state convention.

Using profits from its greenhouse operation and fruit and vegetable sales, Beech FFA purchased sound and band equipment. Now they provide sound for the entire Tennessee FFA state convention, including the main auditorium and a separate stage for the dance. ...

Arizona

### Dating Do's and Don'ts

Natilie Bautista, Reporter, Antelope FFA

Cibola, Yuma, Antelope and Copa FFA chapters participated in a dating workshop. Chapter officers made two videos, one of a really bad date in which a boy dressed as a girl for the girl's part and a girl dressed as a boy for the boy's part.

Another more serious "good" date film was shown also. Following the movies, members of both sexes told each other what they do and don't expect on a date.

Guys say they could do without: Girls not eating on date to try to impress them. Always going to the bathroom in pairs. Wearing too much makeup.

If you're going to do these things, stay at home say the girls: Look at other girls when you're out with me. Chew tobacco. Be late. ...

(Action Continued on Page 32)

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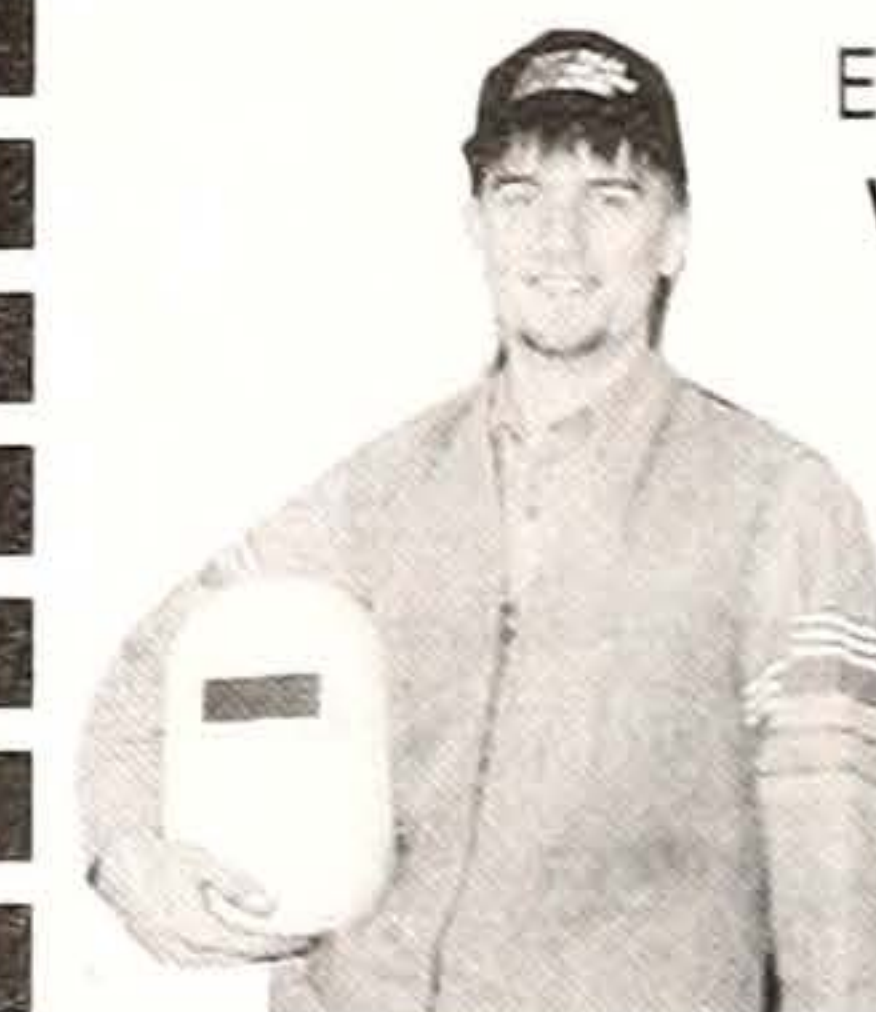
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## FFA IN ACTION

# WISH YOU WERE HERE!

Imagine you or your chapter featured in your *FFA New Horizons* magazine. Think how proud your school, your friends and your family would be.

**To make it happen**, write down details of interesting, fun chapter events; about members who have great Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs, or who have done well with leadership or community involvement activities.

Be sure to note who was involved, what happened, when and where things occurred and the reason for the activity.

Then send these details to us at: *FFA New Horizons*, "FFA in Action," 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

(You get bonus points for including a good color photo.)

We want to make sure you get credit for your entry, so don't forget to send us your name, your chapter, school address and phone number including area code, and the name of your FFA advisor.

The last step is easy. Watch this space to see your name in print.

### The Rest Of The Prom Story

By now many of you have enjoyed, or endured, your school prom.

We want to hear any funny or unusual things that happened at your prom.

- Did your date take you to the prom on his or her tractor?
- Did your goat chew your prom dress or tuxedo?
- Was the whole event a dreadful disaster or a stupendous success?

You get the idea. Send color photographs with your story if possible.

### RESCUE That Chapter!

If you're fighting to either save or re-open your chapter, or to start a new one, help is available. Contact the Teacher Services Team at the National FFA Center at 703-360-3600 ext. 264 or 228.

Illustration by Bill Fricke

### We're Looking For A Few Good Laughs

**The Place:** "FFA in Action" Pages

**The Time:** Now

**Your Mission:** Seek out, capture and send us your funny stories, your humorous photos and your original jokes.

We also want your What's Hot, What's Not choices, and information and articles on topics such as livestock, agriscience, forestry, natural resources, wildlife management and your stories from either the national FFA convention or your state convention.

**REMEMBER! YOUR FFA NEW HORIZONS NEEDS YOU.**

### FFA Stars—We Need You

Have you or someone you know done something special, such as overcome physical or other challenges, organized or contributed to a community project, courageously stood up for what was right or excelled in sports? A new section in *FFA New Horizons* will recognize deserving members.

Nominate FFA members to be featured in the "FFA Stars" section of the magazine by sending: your name, address and phone number; star nominee name, age, color photo and description of why you consider your nominee to be a "FFA Star" to: Jim Scott, Editor, *FFA New Horizons*, National FFA Organization, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

Alabama

### Wetumpka FFA Salutes The Wetumpka Herald

Mike Speake, Reporter, Wetumpka FFA

During National FFA week, every year for the past 28 years, the Wetumpka Herald Newspaper has included a special FFA insert. This year it included eight articles related to FFA programs, 73 photos and 62 advertisements purchased by local businesses and individuals.

This is a wonderful way to inform your local community about FFA chapters in your area.

Why not contact your local newspaper and see if you can get them interested in putting together an FFA supplement?

Start sending them news releases and photographs about things of interest going on in your chapter, especially of FFA community projects. Then let us know about your results and tips for success.





# FFA IN ACTION

Maryland

## Can't Get Away From Ag Day

Mary Ellen Seraydian, President, Francis Scott Key FFA

"A really great day out for the whole school," is how chapter President, Mary Ellen Seraydian describes Francis Scott Key FFA's Ag Day. Members have held



Tim Albaugh (left) and Richard Airing at Ag Day. The pigs wish to remain anonymous.

this event at the beginning and end of the past four school years.

They bring in their tractors, farm equipment and animals and set up demonstrations to give all the students a day away from class and an appreciation for agricultural education.

FFA earns recognition and respect from the other students and teachers thanks to Ag Day says Mary Ellen. Members even gain support from local business people who participate by giving away items such as posters, magnets and stickers. ...

Texas

## A Really Wild Barbecue

Dawn Srubar, Reporter, East Bernard FFA

Philip Fajkus promised his classmates in East Bernard FFA's Wildlife Recreation Class an unforgettable barbecue. But he didn't serve them burgers and steaks. The menu consisted of deer, dove, duck, goose and rabbit. The biggest surprise though was that everyone enjoyed this unusual, wild-game barbecue. ...

New Jersey

## What's Hot...and NOT at East Brunswick FFA

East Brunswick FFA members pride themselves on being a diverse bunch of people. One of their more unusual, but rewarding, FFA activities is horticulture therapy with residents of local homes

for the elderly. Students do horticultural work with their older companions as a way of getting the elderly outside, active and interested in life. ...



Jonathan Pechow (left) and Topel Sweeney experiment with hydroponics using recycled soda bottles.

### Category

Movie  
Actor  
Actress  
Singer/Group  
Album  
FFA Activity  
Place to Go  
Thing To do  
Book  
Magazine  
Sport  
Social Cause  
FFA Event  
Clothes  
TV Show  
Music Videos  
FFA Fundraising Activities  
Career Choices  
Games  
SAE Programs

### Hot

Forrest Gump  
Jim Carrey  
Whoopi Goldberg  
Bryan Adams  
Hootie & the Blowfish  
Horticulture Expo  
Parties  
Video Games/Sports  
The Stand(Stephen King)  
Seventeen  
Softball  
Horticulture Therapy  
End-of-the-year Banquet  
Baggy  
Sliders  
The Water Runs Dry  
Apple Picking  
Landscaping/Horticulture  
Super Nintendo  
Home Improvements

### Not

Brady Bunch  
Gilbert Godfried  
Madonna  
The Cranberries  
New Kids On The Block  
Poultry Contest  
Bowling  
Clean  
Hamlet (Shakespeare)  
Family Circle  
Golf  
Adopt-A-Highway  
Greenhand  
Tight  
Family Matters  
Snoop Doggy Dog  
Bulb Sales  
Fast Food Restaurant  
Board Games  
Putting Green



# J O K E P A G E



Q: What are the hardest beans to raise on a farm?  
A: Jellybeans.  
*Pat Juenemann, Clements, Minnesota*

Q: When does Friday come before Thursday?  
A: In the dictionary.  
*John VanDerHart, Pella, Iowa*

Q: What do you call a thirty-six inch two-by-four?  
A: A lumber yard.  
*Toni Gough, Kilgore, Texas*

Farmer John: Young man, what are you doing in my tree?  
Young Man: Your sign says, "Keep Off the Grass."  
*Jameel Karim, Scotland Neck, North Carolina*

Q: Where can you find a lot of cows?  
A: At the m-o-o-vies.  
*Kelly Mason, Hickory Flat, Mississippi*

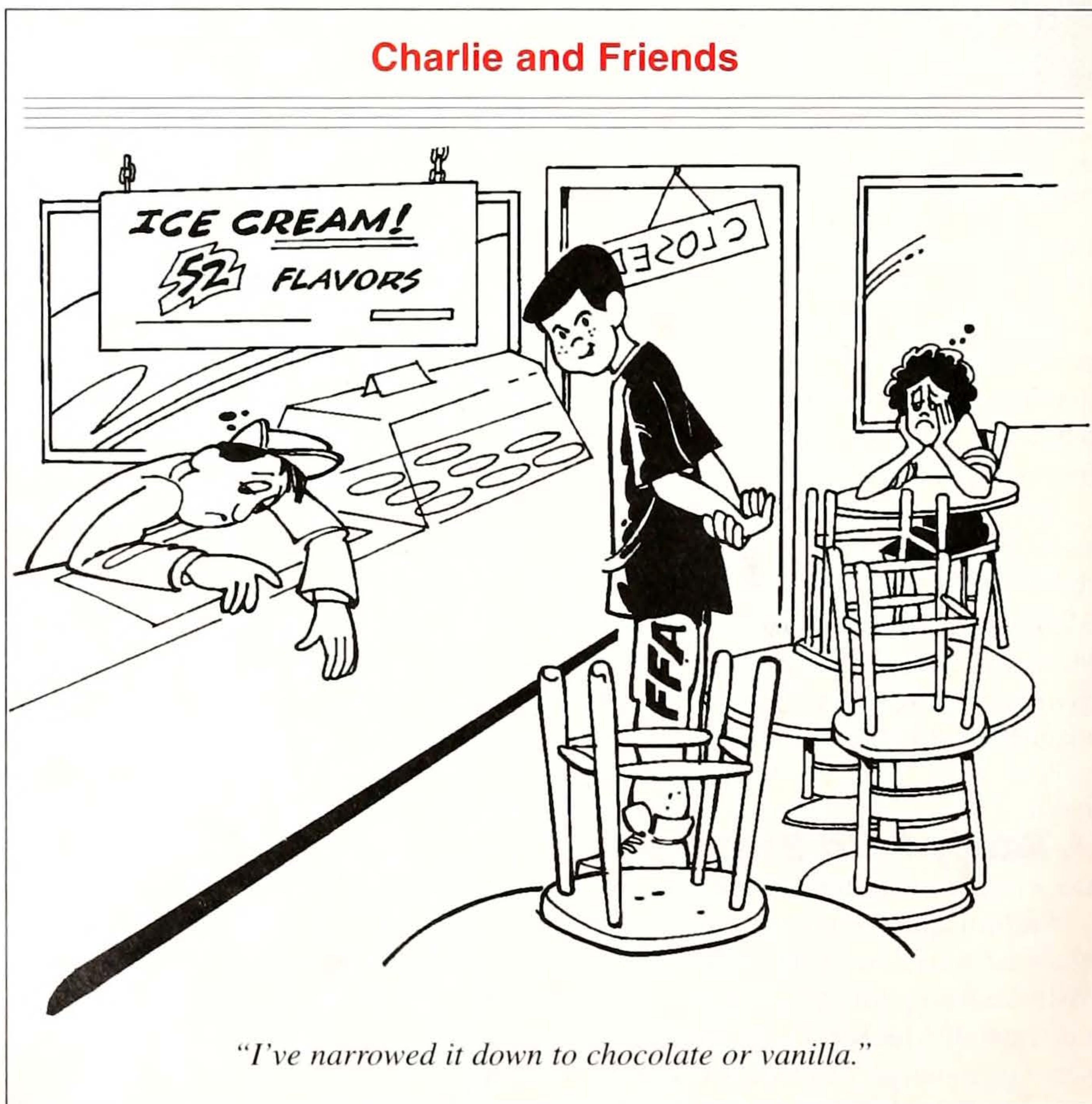
Farmer Brown's Wife: "When are you going to mend that front fence?"  
Farmer Brown: "Next week when our son comes home from college."  
Farmer Brown's Wife: "But what does our son know about fixing a fence?"  
Farmer Brown: "He ought to know a lot. He wrote me that he was taking fencing lessons."  
*Jameel Karim, Scotland Neck, North Carolina*

Q: How do you stop a bull from charging?  
A: Take away his credit cards.  
*Ruthann Snyder, Modesto, California*

Q: What kind of horses frighten ranchers?  
A: Night-mares.  
*Laverna Fields, McKee, Kentucky*

Q: How do you communicate with a fish?  
A: Drop it a line.  
*Wilma Fields, McKee, Kentucky*

Q: What do you call ducks standing in the rain?  
A: Soggy quackers.  
*Audrey Johnston, Lynchburg, Ohio*



## NOTICE:








FFA NEW HORIZONS will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for this page. Jokes must be addressed to FFA NEW HORIZONS, 5632 Mt. Vernon Mem. Hwy., P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

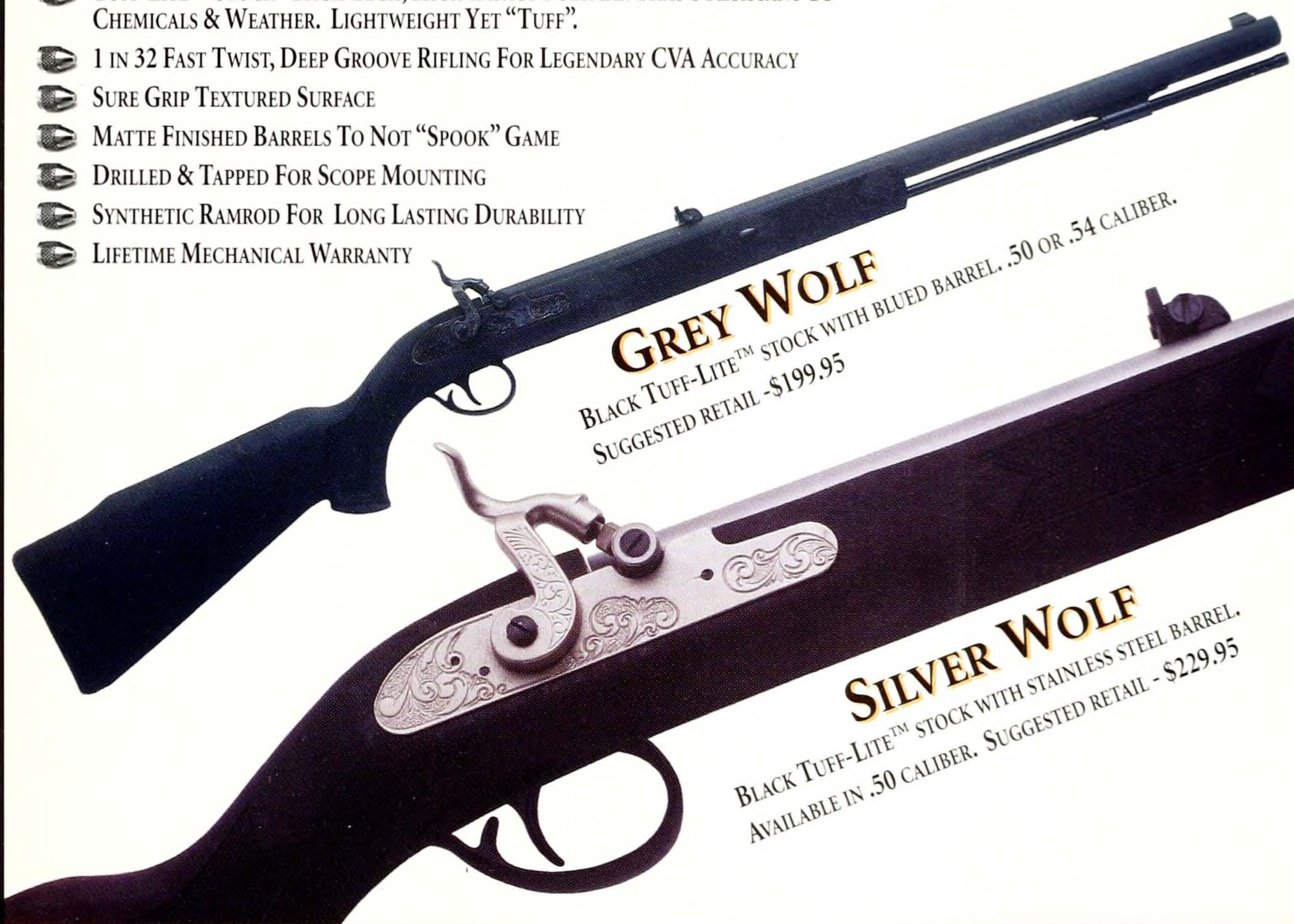




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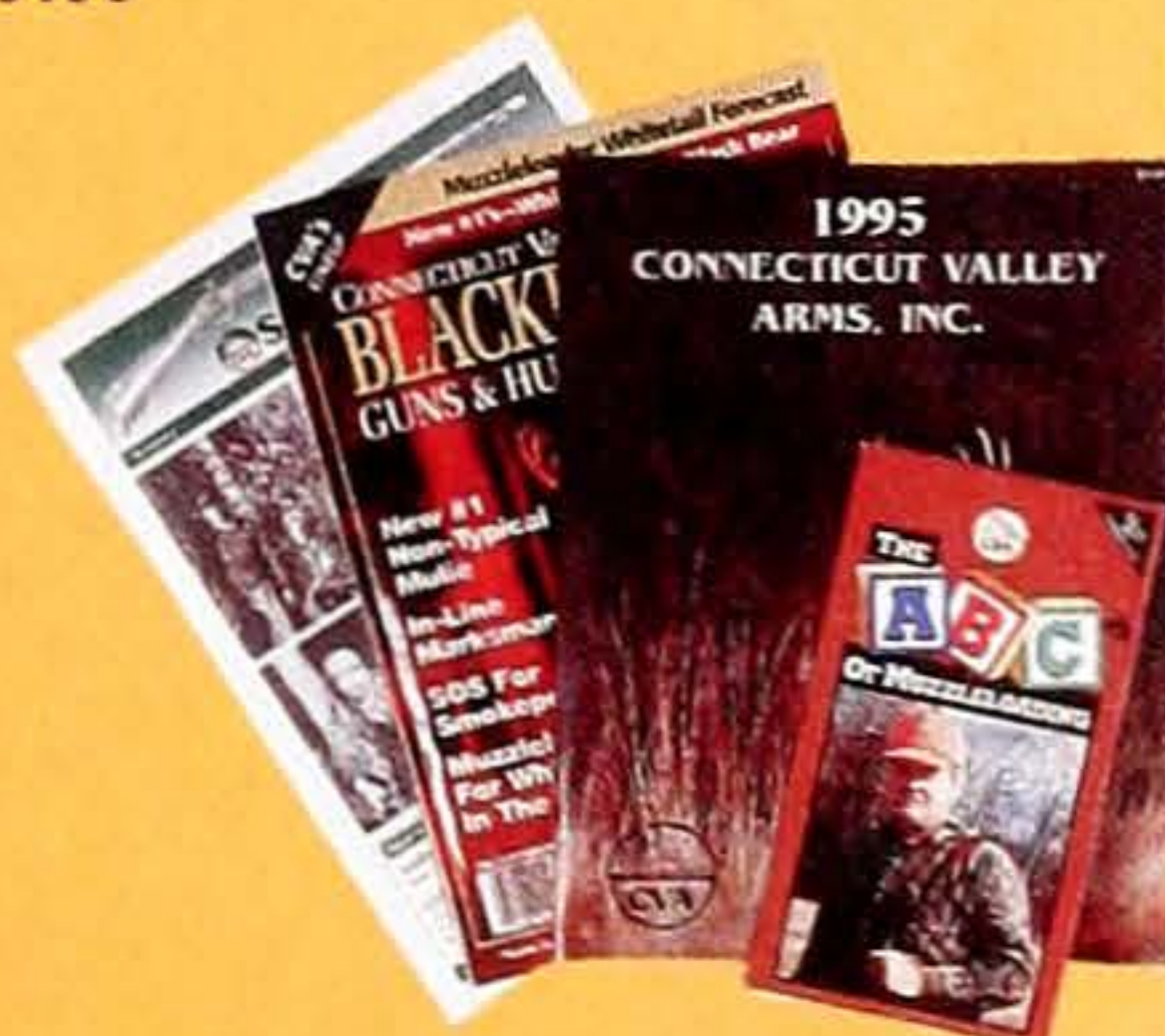
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