



The National

December-January, 1980-81

# Future Farmer

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## A Word With The Editor

They came from the north, east, west and south—by the thousands. Dressed in their blue jackets, they invaded a city that welcomes them with open arms. They walked the streets, participated in judging contests, perused the career show, watched the convention in session, listened to big name speakers, made new friends, received awards, went on educational tours, and on and on it goes. This is the National FFA Convention—53 years old and still going strong.

There is no other meeting in the world like it. Students have been inspired there, some have been disappointed there only to come back and try again. To try to describe it all challenges the imagination.

It would be difficult to assess the National Convention's value to FFA, the program of vocational education in agriculture it represents, or to the nation's agricultural industry. But the convention keeps on going strong and this year was no exception. The curtain came down on one of the best conventions ever and now it is onward to next year—and the best convention ever. In 1981, it's a Thursday, Friday, Saturday convention. Dates are November 12-14.

Former FFA members did not fare so well in the recent election. The only successful candidate we know of was Idaho's Larry Craig, pacific region vice president in 1965-66, who won a Republican seat in the House of Representatives. In addition to the president of the United States, two other former members did not win in their bid for public office. Bill Gunter, national president in 1954-55, and presently Florida's Insurance Commissioner, lost a tight race for the senate in that state. Nels Ackerson, national FFA president in 1963-64, was not successful in his bid for a seat in the House of Representatives from Indiana.

FFA lost one of its leaders in the death of T. L. Faulkner, the retired director of vocational education in Alabama, on October 27. During Mr. Faulkner's career, he was a vocational agriculture teacher, state FFA executive secretary, and state FFA advisor before becoming state director of vocational education. He served on the National FFA Board of Directors and was on numerous national advisory committees that help chart the course of FFA.

*Wilson Carnes*

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## Our Cover

It is not easy to find a windmill in the Netherlands today but Pam Roy of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and her host mother, Ria Van Wijk, located this one built in the 1700's near Rotterdam. Add Pam in her FFA jacket, an armful of flowers, a pair of wooden shoes, and you capture some of the country's beauty. The only thing missing is the black and white dairy cattle that dot the landscape. They were grazing in a green pasture to our right.

*Cover photo by Wilson Carnes*

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## The FFA

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## FUTURE FARMERS OF JAPAN

held their 30th anniversary national convention in Tokyo last month. In attendance were eight Future Farmers of America, accompanied by William Paul Gray, retired national FFA executive secretary, and Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Canada. Canada is considered a "founding father" of the FFJ, having organized the association in the 1940s. Canada is a retired teacher educator from Colorado State University.

## THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY Chal-

lenge, won last year by the Alamosa, Colorado, FFA Chapter, is continuing through 1981 as an official FFA program. Coleman Harris, national FFA executive secretary, says new materials are developed for the program, including an illustrated "how-to" booklet. Rich Bennett, information intern and developer of the booklet, says profiles on winning chapters, an application form and addresses for information on services are included. Every chapter will receive a booklet.

**FFA RECORD BOOKS** are now available from the National FFA Supply Service in three editions: ownership, placement and basic. Sold on a need basis only for FFA members without a workable record book, the ownership book is geared to FFA members with projects of ownership (e.g., livestock, agribusiness). The placement edition is more suited to the member in a non-ownership project situation. The "basic" record book provides a ledger for leadership and other FFA activities.

**FFA JACKET SALES** have now surpassed the 2,500,000 mark, according to Harry Andrews, manager of the FFA Supply Service. Andrews predicts the 3 million mark will be reached in the next five years. Nearly 100,000 jackets will be sold this year, 75 percent of which are ordered between September 15 and the end of November. Supply Service officials urge chapters to "think ahead" and order banquet supplies and awards near the first of the year. Check with your advisor about the newest supply catalogue.

**NATIONAL FFA WEEK** is set for February 21-28, 1981. Thousands of FFA chapters nationwide celebrate FFA WEEK each year with special events, media campaigns, banquets and ceremonies. A free how-to-do-it booklet, an order brochure describing materials available for use during FFA WEEK and an order form will be sent to each FFA chapter. Supplement these materials with your original ideas to make FFA WEEK a success in your community.

**DOUG RINKER**, last year's national FFA president, joined such notables as Bob Bergland, U.S. secretary of agriculture; Robert Delano, president, American Farm Bureau Federation; Ed Anderson, master, National Grange; Dr. Richard Lesher, president, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others in producing a cassette of National Farm-City Week spot radio announcements. You may have heard Doug when the spots aired November 21-27.

## FFA'S HORSE PROFICIENCY

award will be sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association in Amarillo, Texas, during the 1981 program year. Other new sponsors of FFA programs through the National FFA Foundation include the Atlantic Richfield Foundation and FMC Foundation, both Star sponsors. The d-Con Co., Burroughs Wellcome Company and Stone Manufacturing & Supply Co. also join the list of FFA supporters, according to foundation directors Bernie Staller and Kim Havens.

**REMEMBER LEADERSHIP** this summer and plan to attend a National FFA Washington Conference program. Early planning calls for two sessions to run concurrently during each of eight weeks. Dee Sokolosky and Teresa Tesnohlidek will direct one conference each. The 1981 dates are June 8-12, 15-19 and 22-26; July 6-10, 13-17, 20-24, 27-31 and August 3-7. Each conference features leadership training by past and present national and state officers, national FFA staff and outstanding active and alumni FFA members.

**FFA'S BOAC** (Building Our American Communities) program has taken on a fresh, exciting look under the sponsorship of R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. A new BOAC media kit is now available from the sponsor that features BOAC stationery and a BOAC Idea Book. Each chapter should have received information on the program and how to order the kit. BOAC is a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

# Youth and Santa Gertrudis



## Partnership for the future

For the Murphys of Scurry, Texas, Santa Gertrudis is a family affair.

Bobby Murphy's first FFA project, a Santa Gertrudis heifer, won 15 grand championships, including the National Open Show in 1977.

This year, exhibiting a daughter of that heifer, Bobby's sister Jessica won Grand Champion at the prestigious National Junior Heifer Show.

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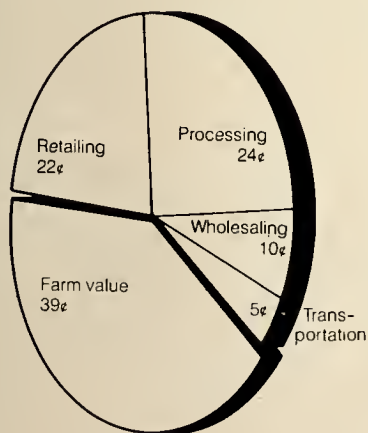
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## Agriculture

# LOOKING AHEAD

**FARMERS CANNOT AVOID** some costs that lie ahead in 1981, says John T. Scott, a University of Illinois agricultural economist. He does suggest a few ways for farmers to fight inflation: Save small amounts of fuel by using minimum tillage. Higher costs of fertilizer may mean reducing the amount applied. Soil tests help determine where fertilizer is needed most. Finally, doing your own maintenance and repair work, and avoiding needless new machinery purchases, will save money.

**HIGH MARKETING COSTS** in 1980 accounted for much of the rise in retail food prices, according to USDA's *Farmline* magazine. As can be seen in the pie chart below, the biggest part of the food dollar covers the costs of marketing foods after they leave the farm. (Based on 1978 figures.)



**FARMERS** in the year 2025 could be America's "energy heroes," report agricultural researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Twenty-first century farmers will be energy self-sufficient, and many will produce energy for others. Some farms will be tied into cities so municipal waste can be returned to the land for food and energy production. "Society," concludes the report, "will not compromise agricultural production in favor of less essential types of production."

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**TEXAS** leads the nation in number of cattle operations with 155,000. Next high is Missouri with 108,000. Wisconsin leads with milk cow operations numbering 45,000, followed by Minnesota with 28,000. Iowa claims 65,000 hog farms, with second place North Carolina way behind with 41,000. Iowa leads in sheep with 12,000. These states are predicted to maintain their standing through 1981. *From Meat-facts, 1980, by the American Meat Institute.*

**SQUARE TOMATOES?** Yes, they're in store along with food bars and non-fat meat. Many changes will occur in the years ahead of farming. American agricultural researchers say computers, windmills and solar energy will prevail in the future's farm scene. New kinds of hens will lay low-cholesterol eggs. Certain cows will provide certain kinds of milk—not chocolate, but all protein, for instance.

**EFFORTS TO BAN NITRITE**, a food additive used in curing meat products, have been dropped by the USDA and the Food and Drug Administration. Two years ago, a comprehensive research project concluded nitrite caused cancer in laboratory animals. Over 900 compounds were tested to replace nitrite but researchers say none were better, safer or cheaper. To date, no scientific study links consumption of cured meats and cancer in man or experimental animals.

**EVERY HOG** in the Dominican Republic has been killed in an effort to battle a looming threat of African swine fever in the western hemisphere. The Dominican Republic's diseased swine population was eliminated as a prelude to restocking with healthy pigs. Because of uncontrollable travel to America by persons from countries that have had the disease (Cuba, Brazil and Haiti), the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is closely monitoring the menacing situation.

**"AGRICULTURE DAY,"** purposed to communicate the story of what agriculture means to America, is a nationwide observance with the theme, "Agriculture: It's Your Heartbeat, America!" Legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Carter proclaims March 19, 1981, as the first national Agriculture Day. Programs are now being planned by regional, state and local groups around the nation. If your chapter wants information on how to get involved, write: Agriculture Day Foundation, P.O. Box 23421, Washington, D.C. 20024.

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## Readers Report

# MAILBAG

### Custer, Michigan

It's been some time since we received your magazine. I don't know what rates are, but am enclosing \$5 for whatever that will purchase.

Our school hasn't had a vo-ag department or FFA chapter since I was there years ago, but I now have children in high school who would like to see your magazine. Besides, I have to admit I miss it also. We have saved all old issues that go back to early 1950's. It's fun to reread some of these.

I was a state officer of Michigan and American Farmer. My children (we have eight) have missed the experience because of lack of vo-ag, but are active in 4-H. Yet they are always reading about FFA and having me tell them of my experiences.

*James Shoup*

### North, South Carolina

It is my desire to begin again my subscription to *The National FUTURE FARMER*.

Since I do not know what inflation has done to the subscription price, please put me on the mailing list and send me the bill.

*Fred U. Wolfe*

*Agriculture Teacher 1920-1963*

### Mt. Prospect, Illinois

The Northwest Suburban District 214 FFA Chapter would like to thank you for taking an interest in our chapter activities at Americana Health Care Center. It was a good experience for both the residents and students. We have spent a lot of time working with the patients there and we appreciate your recognizing our project in our magazine.

*Tina Pieczko*

*Secretary*

### Bellevue, Tennessee

The Bellevue Chapter of Nashville, Tennessee, would like to thank you for the nice write-up on William Foster, the southern Star Farmer, of our chapter. We are very proud of Bill and the standards he has set for our chapter.

*Stanley Shanks*

*Advisor*

### East Lansing, Michigan

It seems that if the students in the photo on page 34 of the August-September issue need head protection, then the instructor does also! Teaching by example is a most powerful teaching technique in the area of safety and personnel protective equipment. Conversely, for the national FFA magazine to print a photograph that illustrates the complete opposite of standard practice is a very poor example for our young people.

*George M. Brown*

*Agricultural Engineering Department  
Michigan State University*

### Scobey, Montana

I want to get in touch with the company that builds the windmills that are on the cover of your June-July issue. Please send me their addresses or give mine to them. In any event, please inform me.

*Kenny Hellickson*

### Chancellor, Alabama

I would like information on the mill and pumping head, particularly the pumping head shown on the cover of the June-July issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. Please send address of the company that manufactures these windmills or has parts. I am a peanut farmer and would like this windmill for my livestock pasture. I enjoy your magazine.

*Jerry O. Goodson*

**Don Martin, the photographer who shot the June-July cover, put us in touch with M. I. "Ras" Rasmussen at New Mexico State who is in the picture with FFA members. He was able to get us firm names for these two readers.—Ed.**

### Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

I was very impressed with your quote from Doug Rinker in your column in the August-September issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. His comment that he has "gained a yet greater appreciation of what vocational agriculture and the FFA can do for a person interested in a career in agriculture, agribusiness or natural resources" is especially true.

But the statement omits another great service vocational agriculture and the FFA can provide America's youth. A sizeable portion of today's young people have no feeling at all for what agriculture actually is, much less its importance to our nation. This is especially true in urban areas.

Vocational agriculture programs in these areas have a great opportunity to show these youth what agriculture is all about—even if their goals in life have little to do with agriculture. Perhaps all the student may learn is how to care for a garden, lawn or a flower pot in an apartment window, but some understanding of agriculture is likely to be included. The student then knows his food doesn't grow in cans lining a grocer's shelves.

*T. Henry Buchanan  
Associate Editor*

*The Farmer-Stockman Publishing Company*

### Cromwell, Oklahoma

Recently, I witnessed a remarkable experience which I feel I should share with my fellow FFA members.

In May of this year I participated in a program called Boys State. While there I was selected as one of the two delegates to represent Oklahoma at Boys Nation. I learned that out of the 100 young men at that there were only two of us who were members of the FFA.

For the whole week, we felt pretty much alone. That was until we were at the Jefferson Memorial where we saw the 100 or so FFA members who were in town that week for the leadership conference program. It was a happy sight.

*David Cox  
Chapter President*

*The National FUTURE FARMER*



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Your new national officer team for 1980-81. Standing, left to right, are David Pearce, Glenn Caves, Susie Barrett and David Alders. Sitting are Mark Herndon, left, and Bob Quick.

# Six Elected to 1981 National Offices

**A** WEEK of screening at the 53rd National FFA Convention preceeded by years of preparation by 30 candidates yielded six Future Farmers who will commit their lives to a one-year term as National FFA Officers. For 20-year-old Mark Herndon of Oklahoma City, the coming year holds many challenges for the new national FFA president. A member of the John Marshall FFA Chapter, Mark gained his farming experience through a cattle and sheep breeding program. He says his presidency will demand skills learned through his farming background as he travels widely to represent FFA members.

"My urban background from growing up in the city will help, too," Mark says, "as I meet FFA members of all kinds. And now that I'm ranching, I feel I also have much in common with FFA members who farm."

Due to his election, Mark must postpone studies in agricultural economics and take leave from his university's agricultural student council.

"I don't really know what to look forward to," admits Bob Quick, newly elected national secretary from Bennett, Illinois, "but I'm anxious to begin working for and with other FFA members."

Bob, 20, says his current farming operation consists of 42 head of sheep, reason enough for his pursuit of a career in

farm management. An FFA member of the Atwood-Hammond FFA Chapter in Atwood, Illinois, Bob's leadership activities include serving on the Illinois Nutrition Council and his college student senate.

David Alders, 19-year-old Nacogdoches, Texas, FFA member will serve as national vice president from the western region. David's FFA career is highlighted by the Texas state presidency and a win in the national prepared public speaking contest. These experiences, combined with David's 45-head crossbred cow-calf operation, and college studies in agricultural economics, are preparing him for a production agriculture career.

"We have many challenges facing us as officers," says David, "but we can meet those challenges by using creative leadership."

Joining David as vice president from the eastern region is 20-year-old Susie Barrett of Vincent, Ohio, FFA.

"I'm looking forward to serving FFA members at all degree levels," Susie says, "and trying somehow to help them attain their own goals in FFA."

An involved leader, Susie served as Ohio Association president, participated in the all Ohio vocational youth conference and directed public relations for the Ohio State Junior Fair Board. She owns half-interest in a flock of 115 breeding

ewes and 12 beef cows.

"I doubted I'd have enough confidence to get elected," reflects Northeast Jones FFA member Glenn Caves of Laurel, Mississippi. "But now I'm challenged to live up to the office and its duties." The southern region's new national vice president is an agricultural education student with a goal to teach vocational agriculture and farm.

Glenn, 20, served as president and secretary of the Mississippi FFA Association. He is in partnership farming with 75 commercial beef cattle and 155 acres of forage crops.

David Pearce of the Warrensburg, Missouri, FFA Chapter, joins the new officer team as central region vice president. David is majoring in agricultural communications and is pursuing a career in farm broadcasting. He says his communications skills will be tested during his term.

"I'll certainly tell the story of FFA," David assured, "and continue to inform people of the goings-on in agriculture."

David has worked as farm director of KOKO radio in Warrensburg and information specialist for the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Like his officer teammates, David's numerous awards and state FFA offices have launched a unique year of service to the nation's largest vocational youth organization.



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**Editor Wilson Carnes, right, interviews Jana Baxter in dining room of host farm.**

# Let's Farm Abroad

**FFA members are learning about agriculture and people in other parts of the world through Work Experience Abroad.**

*By Wilson Carnes, Editor*

**T**HE sun seldom sets on the Work Experience Abroad (WEA) program of FFA. Somewhere in the world, FFA members are working most daylight hours to learn about agriculture and people in other lands.

In August, I visited six of these students traveling over 10,000 miles by plane and train. My travel companion and guide was Gary Johnson, the WEA coordinator for Europe. We lived in the homes of host families, followed while they did the farm work and chores, discussed many subjects and compared our countries. The experience gave us some understanding of what it is like for FFA members to participate in the WEA.

You could say that WEA is FFA's contribution to world peace and understanding. FFA members who qualify for the program go to another country and spend

three months, six months, or a year working and studying on a farm or in agribusiness. It is not an easy challenge but it can provide new discoveries about yourself, and the world in which we live.

## **SPF Pigs**

In Denmark, we visited with Sheldon Witt from Altoona, Iowa, who is interested in hogs and at one time had built up his own herd to 25 sows. Some day he hopes to raise hogs for a living.

Sheldon became interested in the exchange program after working with someone who had participated. He did some reading and learned that Denmark is the world's largest exporter of pigmeat. About 13 million pigs are slaughtered there annually with over 75 percent exported to more than 100 countries. So Sheldon decided Denmark would be the

place for him.

Meanwhile in Denmark, Arne Nielsen received a phone call from Viggo Hansen, his friend and neighbor of seven kilometers away, who said he was getting an exchange student from the United States and ask Arne if he was also interested. Arne decided he was and informed K. B. Andersen, the country contact in Copenhagen.

Sheldon selected the six months program. To get the money he needed, he sold his livestock, worked and found four sponsors who paid \$250 of the cost.

The Nielsen farm is a SPF (Specific Pathogenic Free) pig farm of some 38 hectares (95 acres) and 150 sows. The pigs are sold as feeders when they reach a weight of 25 to 30 kilos (55 to 66 pounds). About 60 percent of the grain they feed is barley raised on the farm.

**Switzerland also grows tobacco and Molly Mitchell found herself busy with harvest on the Langhart-Zeller farm.**

**Farmer Viggo Hansen, center, tells Brian Siler, left, and Gary Johnson, right, how pigs are raised in Denmark. Photos by Author**







**Jana Baxter with host parents Arie and Nely Hoogendorn as they leave for an open air market to sell their cheese.**



*Photo by Gary Johnson*

**Not quite like riding a quarterhorse but Dave Johnson made the adjustment from a large ranch to a general farm.**

Protein usually comes from soybeans, mostly from the United States but some from Brazil.

SPF means the pigs are raised in a disease-free environment. You must wear protective clothing to enter the barn and there cannot be another pig farm within 100 meters. Arne is paid about 7 percent more because they are SPF pigs.

The Nielsens have had other persons stay on their farm but Sheldon is the first from another country. He had learned about SPF pigs in his vocational agriculture class but his work experience is giving him a much better understanding of the system.

#### **Farrow to Finish**

Brian Siler wants to be a veterinarian so he left the family's farrow to finish operation near Ashland, Ohio, to broaden his experience by working on a similar type farm in Denmark.

Brian is the first exchange student in the home of Viggo and Agnes Hansen. The Hansens have about 120 sows and market around 2,000 hogs annually. The farm contains 22 hectares (55 acres), 16 in barley and 6 in grass.

To get the highest price in Denmark, the pigs must be marketed when they weigh around 90 kilos (200 pounds). The pigs are carefully weighed and only those at premium weights are sold. After they are slaughtered, Viggo gets a report from the market giving the dressing percentage. He is then paid on that basis. If he meets certain requirements during the year, he can get a bonus.

Brian says his host parents, "remind me of my Mom and Dad." They both speak good English and that helps.

Brian said the experience makes him proud of FFA "because it has given me the chance to learn more. Brian is now at Ohio State University enrolled in animal science.

#### **Making Cheese**

A country in South America had been Jana Baxter's first choice but trouble there required her to choose an alternate. Her chance came when Ricky Kimble, a WEA coordinator, called to say he thought they could place her on an old-style dairy farm in the Netherlands. Jana agreed and was placed on the farm of Arie and Nely Hoogendorn at Woerden.

The farm is unusual in that they still

make cheese much as their ancestors did 500 years ago. Tour buses make stops there and much of the cheese is marketed directly from the farm. Nely sells some of the cheese at open air markets while Arie demonstrates home cheese making.

Jana was afraid she would not be of much help because she had no experience on a dairy farm. But she learned fast. She has full charge of the evening milking of 43 cows. Her days are spent making cheese, which pleases her because her family has a long tradition in the cheese business.

Jana is a member of the Columbia, Missouri, FFA Chapter and served a term

*(Continued on Page 17)*

**Sheldon Witt, right, learns by working closely with host farmer Arne Nielsen.**

*Photo by Gary Johnson*





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# Let's Farm Abroad

(Continued from Page 15)

as state vice president. She chose the "around the world" option and will not be back home until July, 1981. After six months in the Netherlands, she will go to Australia for six months before returning home by way of Hawaii. Jana will then enroll at the University of Missouri and major in agricultural education.

## Horticulture

The Netherlands was chosen by Pam Roy from Santa Fe, New Mexico, because of her interest in horticulture. She was placed with Nol and Ria Van Wijk who are "greengrowers" near Rotterdam. They produce vegetables, flowers and potted plants in their 1½ hectare (3½ acres) greenhouse.

The world-wide nature of their business is quickly apparent. Some potting soil comes from Russia and Finland, plant cuttings from South America, they heat with natural gas from Holland but some is imported from Hungary. The products of the greenhouse, mostly flowers, are exported to Germany, Sweden, Norway, France and England with a small amount to America and the middle East.

Land for the greenhouse is leased for 50 years from a farmer and could not be sold for another use. The flowers and vegetables are sold through wholesale auctions operated by co-ops. Van Wijk said the greenhouse operations and the markets in Holland are not found anywhere else in the world.

Pam was in college at Arizona State University when she signed up for WEA. She is taking 16 hours of college credit while in the Netherlands and will submit over 100 typewritten pages on various subjects to her professors.

## Rancher to Farmer

Dave Johnson found a new way of life when he left a 16,000-acre ranch running 1,000 head of crossbred cows in a cow-calf operation for a 75-acre general farm in Switzerland. Dave said it was really hard the first week.

**Molly Mitchell, right, visiting with friends and relatives of her host family.**



**Ulrich explains Swiss mountain view.**

Ulrich Wymann and his parents Gottfried and Verna Wymann are the hosts. They have 18 head of Brown Swiss milk cows and 20 head of young stock. Cropland included six acres of maize (corn) for silage and 15 acres of korn (small grains). Dave described the farm as being a little larger than the average Swiss farm.

Dave has been very active in the Belt Valley, Montana, FFA Chapter. Currently he is the state winner in extemporaneous public speaking and will compete at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. He is active in sports and quarterbacked the football team that won second place in the state. He also participates in rodeos and plays basketball.

Dave sees WEA as a two-way learning process. He says Ulrich is interested in learning from him methods used in the United States which Ulrich frequently tries.

Dave is now enrolled at Montana State University, majoring in farm and ranch management. After graduation, he expects to return to the home ranch.

## General Farm

It is a long way from Santa Maria, California, to Unterstammheim, Switzerland, but that's where Molly Mitchell is living and working on the farm of Hansruedi and Ruth Langhart-Zeller. They operate a 14.5 hectare (36.25 acres) farm that includes 14 milking cows, .8 hectares (2 acres) of tobacco, wheat, bar-



**Pam and her host father potting plants.**



**Jana turning cheese, a daily task.**

ley, sugar beets and maize.

Molly learned about WEA at the Washington Leadership Conference. She was attending California Polytechnic Institute and arranged her schedule so she could work to earn money for the trip. A couple of sponsors contributed \$500 for her expenses.

Molly is the fourth exchange student to stay at the Langhart farm and they expect to continue to serve as a host family. They see the exchange program as benefiting them in two ways. They get farm help and the opportunity to learn about another country.

## Similar Experiences

Most of the exchange students we visited learned about the WEA program from someone who had participated in the past. They had other similarities, too. Most take a lot of side trips to other cities, countries, agricultural fairs and similar events. Several mentioned their families as the one thing they missed most from the states. Each hopes to give talks and slide shows about their experience when they get back to the states.

(Continued on Page 21)



# You Should've Been There!

... a review of the action at FFA's 53rd national convention.

**K**ANSAS City, Missouri, welcomed home one of its own on November 12 as Future Farmers of America from Maine to Hawaii and from Alaska to Puerto Rico gathered for the largest youth convention in the United States.

Future Farmers claim "the agribusiness capital of the world" as its birthplace, the site that saw the founding of FFA on November 20, 1928. On that historical day, the founding fathers possessed much hope for the future of their fledgling organization but the highest hopes could doubtless match the reality of the 53rd National FFA Convention.

Over 22,000 FFA members, advisors, parents, sponsors and guests created the exciting pulse of this year's meeting, a fast-paced saga of adventure and discovery. Overseen by national officers Doug Rinker, Phil Benson, Elin Duckworth, Dee James, Jeff Kirby and Don Trimmer, the convention's eight sessions offered new experiences at every turn.

Official delegates from every state association, state champions in judging and speaking contests, officers and representatives from the nation's finest chapters comprised most of this year's attendance and the action never let up.

Noted speakers such as Art Linkletter, Hank Aaron, Bob Bergland and Bob Devaney challenged conventioners with their words, sending listeners home with more than just memories of new friends and fun.

"You are the future leaders of this country," stressed Linkletter to his blue-jacketed audience of thousands. "It's up to you to make the next leap to justify our glorious 200-year history. Set your goals



The auditorium filled to capacity as convention goers witnessed session events.

high and move slowly toward them. That's the 'high' in life to which you should cling."

"The whole world is depending on you," said Secretary of Agriculture Bergland. "The burden will be heavy because we have so very much."

Hundreds shed the heavy burden of year-long competitions in judging and speaking contests as the national finals yielded many champions, but no losers.

Competing within a 20-mile radius of Kansas City, 1,450 members of judging teams in all nine national contests called on their best abilities in their quest for the top. Early morning breakfasts at convention's end saw some teams reach the pinnacle in FFA competition, while others felt the tinge of disappointment—followed then by a craving to do it again, but do it better.

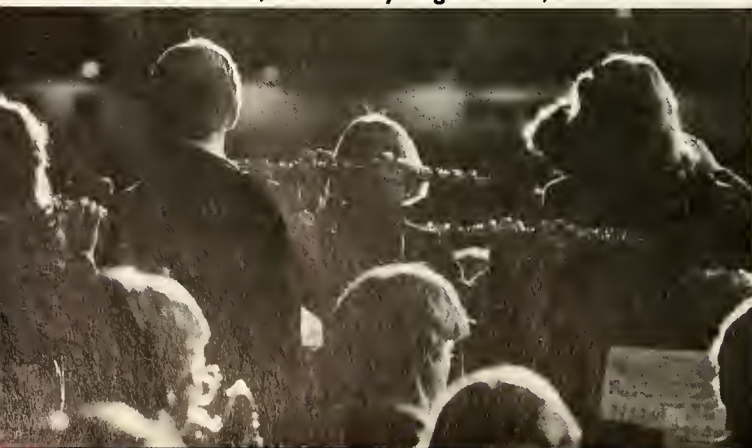
Sub-regional and regional contests narrowed the field to four in both extemporaneous and prepared public speaking contests. Literally years of preparation culminated in a shot at the national crown for all eight speakers. In the end, silence

set the stage for two lone announcements—respected by each of the hushed guests in the packed auditorium. From these four in each contest, only one could be named the best in FFA public speaking. For Dave Steakley of Grandview, Texas, and Ron Wineinger of Marion, Kansas, the announcement held special meaning—they were number one. But Doug Heins, western regional winner in the extemporaneous speaking contest, best captured the spirit of FFA competition when he said, with a peaceful smile, "I placed third, but enjoyed the whole event over this past year. I'm just thankful for the privilege to compete and for the opportunities it provides."

Competition also produced winners outside the spotlight in committee rooms all over Kansas City. Leading agribusiness leaders, educators and top officials in agriculture worked hours in selecting 22 national proficiency award winners from a field of 88 regional champs.

Committees also poured over applications of FFA's true "Stars," the eight regional finalists in Star Farmer and Star

The FFA Band, directed by Roger Heath, roused crowds.



Director Stan Kingma and the FFA Chorus gave joy in song.





Agribusinessman of America award programs. Both awards exemplify the FFA program as both agricultural and leadership skills are evaluated and recognized.

Following a climactic moment of anticipation on the convention stage, Ohio FFA member Steve Vaughan, a 21-year-old dairy farmer from Hartville, emerged as Star Farmer of America. Jack Baber, Jr., agricultural manager of Baber Farms, Inc., Colusa, California, is 1980's Star Agribusinessman.

Each of the eight regional finalists were chosen as outstanding recipients of the American Farmer degree, also awarded at the convention to 781 of FFA's highest achievers. The organization also bestowed the Honorary American Farmer degree upon a select group of 133 vocational agriculture teachers and FFA adult supporters.

But individual and team accomplishments weren't the rule at the 53rd convention. Winning chapters collected trophies and gained new inspiration through competition in safety, national award and Building Our American Communities programs. Many chapters placed high in all these programs, significant of a successful chapter's driving ambition.

Displayed throughout the convention, outstanding talent garbed in blue jackets entertained, inspired and set the mood for listeners. The 117-member FFA Chorus, under the direction of Stan Kingma, filled the auditorium and large banquet halls with musical voices. The stirring National FFA Band with 108 Future Farmers from 41 states, performed tirelessly during all convention sessions. Both groups joined periodically to produce what one listener called "sounds that normally require two years, not two days (the ensemble's practice time)."

Running concurrently with the convention, the National Agricultural Career Show afforded FFA members the opportunity to view their futures. Agribusinesses, federal agencies, professional associations and learning institutions sent representatives to man special booths and visit with FFA members. The Hall of States featured booths that told the story of each association's agriculture, FFA projects or history.



**"Giving it your all" in contests brought winning to some, learning to all. Left, a livestock judge sizes up a class. Right, Dave Steakley wins public speaking.**



**Convention '80: a time to meet others, a chance to share, a reason to smile.**

"Where are we going next?" became an oft-asked question as convention goers decided on their preference in a packed schedule. Along with the convention and career show, the national FFA Alumni Association hosted six motivational presentations and a public relations workshop. The association also completed its ninth annual national convention with President Floyd Doering of Madison, Wisconsin, chairing the event.

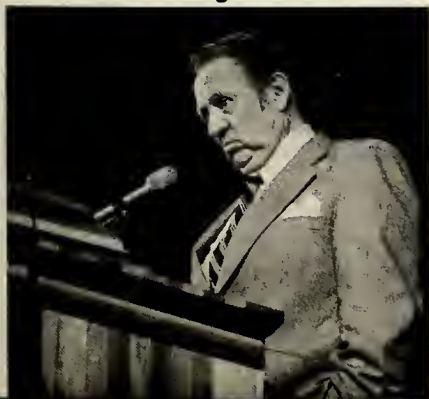
Educational tours through agricultural industries filled any void of time FFA members possessed. Work gave way to

play, too, as FFA members converged on the American Royal Livestock Horse Show and Rodeo for the annual FFA Day.

Whether members and guests took in a workshop, a speaker, a contest or a chance at meeting a new friend, these 22,000 assembled here were truly bonded with one purpose—to enhance the future of FFA through observance of achievers and experiences of learning.

Truly the national convention continues to be a vibrant setting where FFA members are "Building Tomorrows Today."

**Art Linkletter in a lighter moment.**



**President Rinker addresses a session.**



**FFA talent enlivened the convention.**





# The Winners' Circle

National winners in bold type.

Name of Award	Central Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Sponsor
Star American Farmer	Joe Mattingly Taleado, Iowa South Tomo County FFA	<b>Steve Vaughan</b> Hartville, Ohio Marlington FFA	William Foster, Jr. Bellevue, Tennessee Bellevue FFA	Bill Britoin Yuma, Arizona Yuma FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Star Agribusinessman	Andrew May Green Bay, Wisconsin Green Bay East FFA	Henry Goodnight China Grove, NC South Rowan FFA	Mike Tillman Morrison, Florida Grand Ridge FFA	<b>Jack Baber, Jr.</b> Calusa, California Calusa FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Prepared Public Speaking	Chris Ragland Hodgenville, Kentucky LaRue County FFA	Moria Jasper Hudson, New Hampshire Alvirne FFA Chapter	Suzi Sajack Dunnellon, Florida Dunnellon FFA	<b>Dave Steakley</b> Austin, Texas Grandview FFA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	<b>Ron Wineinger</b> Morian, Kansas Morian-Florence FFA	Morion Jepsen Middletown, CT Mattabeset FFA	Price Marshall Janesboro, Arkansas Nettlean FFA	Doug Heins Rupert, Idaho East Minico FFA	American Farm Bureau Federation

## Agricultural Proficiency Awards

Agricultural Electrification	David Stuvo Greenfield, Iowa Greenfield FFA	John Weese Fisher, W. Virginia Moorefield FFA	<b>Phillip Jenkins</b> Milan, Tennessee Milan FFA Chapter	Donald Edwards Warland, Wyoming Thermopolis FFA	Food and Energy Council, Inc. and Winpower, Inc.
Agricultural Mechanics	Edward Stump Kimmell, Indiana West Noble FFA Chapter	<b>Bob Rooks</b> Perryville, Ohio Loudonville FFA	Edward Cupit Oak Grove, Louisiana Kilbourne FFA Chapter	David R. Howen Everson, Washington Mt. Baker High FFA	International Harvester
Agricultural Processing	Corey Prink Dennison, Minnesota Cannon Falls FFA	Donald Good Ephrata, Pennsylvania Cloister FFA Chapter	<b>Roy Wagner</b> Jonesboro, Tennessee Daniel Boone FFA	Spence Killian Othello, Washington Othello FFA Chapter	Cargill, Inc.
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	Horlan Pundt Donnellson, Iowa Central Lee FFA	Randy Haning Athens, Ohio Alexander FFA Chapter	Randy Cabbler Scottsboro, Alabama Scottsboro FFA	<b>Clay Christensen</b> Thomas, Oklahoma Thomas FFA Chapter	Allis-Chalmers Corporation
Beef Production	James Boker St. Louis, Michigan St. Louis FFA	Card Hayes Kingwood, W. Virginia Central Preston FFA	George Clemmer Mosheim, Tennessee West Greene FFA	<b>Scot Lenhard</b> Deer Park, Washington Deer Park FFA Chapter	NASCO and Sperry New Holland
Crap Production	<b>Kevin Robinson</b> Eskridge, Kansas Mission Valley FFA	E. Farley Strickland, Jr. Tabar City, N. Carolina West Columbus FFA	Burle Ellison Robertsdale, Alabama Robertsdale FFA	Rodney Davison Guthrie, Oklahoma Guthrie FFA Chapter	Mossey-Ferguson, Inc.
Dairy Production	Roger Houth Springfield, Minnesota Springfield FFA	Kennard Henley, III Cochranville, PA Octoraro FFA Chapter	Mary Shull Mountain City, Tenn. Johnson County FFA	<b>Gregory Krush</b> Kersey, Colorado Eaton-Highland FFA	DeLaval Agricultural Division and AVCO New Idea
Diversified Livestock Production	Rod Murphy Eddyville, Kentucky Lyan County FFA	<b>Ted Litt</b> Lexington, Ohio Northmar FFA Chapter	John Sims, III Oak Grove, Louisiana Oak Grove FFA Chapter	Jason Wendler Bryon, Texas Bryan FFA Chapter	A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc. and Wayne Feeds, Div. of Allied Mills
Fish and Wildlife Management	<b>Rick Schmidt</b> Hutchinson, Minnesota Hutchinson FFA	Anthony Chandler Yanceyville, N. Carolina Bartlett Yancey FFA	Sam Curtis Rogersville, Tenn. Cherokee FFA Chapter	Ruth Sonnenchen Petaluma, California Petaluma FFA Chapter	Philip Morris, Inc.
Floriculture	David Graper Clintonville, Wisconsin Clintonville FFA	Frank Heinlen Nevado, Ohio Wynford FFA Chapter	<b>Clint Albin</b> Bush, Louisiana Covington High FFA	Kelly Parkinson Hyrum, Utah Sky View FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Forest Management	Louis Henkel, III Herron, Michigan Alpena FFA Chapter	Rohrs Keith Glen Allen, Virginia Patrick Henry FFA	<b>Scott Sullivan</b> Northport, Alabama Tuscaloosa Co. Blue FFA	Steve Stinson Toledo, Washington Toledo FFA Chapter	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production	David Miles Bowling Green, Kentucky Warren East FFA	<b>Kenneth Dalton</b> Meadows of Don, VA Corrall County FFA	Susan Williams White House, Tenn. White House FFA	Ronald Casimati Las Cruces, New Mexico Las Cruces FFA Chapter	Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Home and/or Farmstead Improvement	<b>Steven Hasper</b> Montrose, Iowa Central Lee FFA	Duane Adams Randolph, New York Randolph FFA Chapter	Scott Williams Friendship, Tenn. Dyersburg FFA	Eric Seeliger Perry, Oklahoma Perry FFA Chapter	The Upjohn Company
Horse Proficiency	<b>Mark Landgaard</b> Nielsville, Minnesota Climox FFA Chapter	Carroll Helrick Frederick, Maryland Lingonore FFA	Dwaine Rowe Paris, Tennessee Paris-Henry County FFA	Kenny Scott Elka, Nevada Ruby Mountain FFA	The American Morgan Horse Foundation
Nursery Operations	Tracy Shrayser Hillsboro, Illinois Hillsboro FFA Chapter	Todd Cosper Bridgeton, New Jersey Cumberland Reg. FFA	<b>Jeff Sibley</b> Mount Hope, Alabama Mount Hope High FFA	Erik Briones Santa Fe, New Mexico Santa Fe FFA Chapter	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Outdoor Recreation	Richard Eras Sycamore, Illinois Sycamore FFA Chapter	<b>John Garwood</b> Morian, Ohio Ridgedale FFA Chapter	Judy Ellenburg Midway, Tennessee West Greene FFA	Dwayne Oldham Lander, Wyoming Lander FFA Chapter	White Farm Equipment Company
Placement in Agricultural Production	<b>Jeff Schnipkowski</b> Stonewood, Iowa Lincoln FFA Chapter	Arlen Keener Elizabethtown, PA Elizabethtown FFA	Bruce Tillman Wouchula, Florida Hardee County FFA	John Darnell Elma, Washington Elma FFA Chapter	Hesston Corporation and Shell Chemical Company
Poultry Production	Tammy Lenig Rolling Prairie, Indiana New Prairie FFA Chapter	John See Criders, Virginia Broadway FFA Chapter	Roger Hurt Fort Payne, Alabama Sand Rock FFA	<b>Kent Christensen</b> Moroni, Utah North Sanpete FFA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Sheep Production	Michael Weiss Vinton, Iowa Vinton FFA Chapter	<b>Jill Schlichter</b> Washington C.H., Ohio Miami Trace FFA	Kimberly Willie Folsom, Louisiana Covington FFA	Lyle Roggow Gorber, Oklahoma Gorber FFA Chapter	American Sheep Producers Council, Inc., Carnation Co. and Y-Tex Corp.
Sail and Water Management	Jim Wertjes Buffalo Center, Iowa Buffalo Center Bison FFA	Bobby Peterson Washington C.H., Ohio Miami Trace FFA	<b>Joey Caldwell</b> Sharon, Tennessee Westview FFA Chapter	David Schnaithman Billings, Oklahoma Gorber FFA Chapter	Ford Motor Company Fund
Swine Production	<b>Jonathan Helvig</b> Truman, Minnesota Truman FFA Chapter	Daryl Beiler Mifflinburg, PA Mifflinburg FFA	Albert Adams Cloyton, Alabama Baker Hill FFA	Neal Saxton Yuma, Colorado Yuma FFA Chapter	Pfizer, Inc.
Turf and Landscape Management	<b>Bart Davis</b> Frankfort, Kentucky Franklin County FFA	Randall Harper Pink Hill, N. Carolina South Lenoir FFA	Anthony Vavasseur Belle Rose, Louisiana Assumption High FFA	Larry Haude Spring, Texas Klein FFA Chapter	O. M. Scott & Sons Company
National BOAC Citation	Denmark FFA Chapter Denmark, Wisconsin	<b>Monroeville FFA</b> Monroeville, Ohio	Franklin Senior FFA Franklin, Louisiana	Elmo FFA Chapter Elmo, Washington	Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Contest	Winning Team	High Individual	Sponsor
Agricultural Mechanics	<b>Minnesota</b> —Mark King, Bob Bunne, Mike Fjelland; Leroy	<b>Mark King</b> Leroy, Minnesota	The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company
Dairy Cattle	<b>Massachusetts</b> —Jim Pomeroy, Wendy Sherman, Robbie Wentworth; North Hampton	<b>Sherry Siemers</b> Kiel, Wisconsin	Associated Milk Producers, Inc.
Farm Business Management	<b>Iowa</b> —Mark Christenson, Quentin Franke, Dean Isaacson; Riceville	<b>Dean Isaacson</b> Riceville, Iowa	Deere & Company
Floriculture	<b>Washington</b> —Mike Loundagin, Spokane; Ron Spickler, Everett; Craig Birkild, Enumclaw	<b>Cathy Best</b> Mount Joy, Pennsylvania	The Vitality Seed Company and National FFA Foundation General Fund
Livestock	<b>Minnesota</b> —Ann Cameron, Eric Nelson, Matt Surprenant; Tracy	<b>Ron Hastie</b> Atascadero, California	Ralston Purina Company
Meats	<b>Oklahoma</b> —David Sassar, Jeanene Dodson, David Choney; Perkins	<b>Andrew Oehler</b> Fredericksburg, Texas	Farmland Foods, Inc., George A. Hormel & Co., Jones Dairy Farm and Oscar Mayer & Co.
Milk Quality and Dairy Foods	<b>Idaho</b> —Tony Tesnohlidek, Vicki Tesnohlidek, Kathy Olson; Fruitland	<b>Vicki Tesnohlidek</b> Fruitland, Idaho	Mid-America Dairymen, Inc. and Patz Company
Nursery/Landscape	<b>California</b> —Robert Shown, Bill Bailey, Brian Brenlinger; Fresno	<b>Leann Burnett</b> Bottle Ground, Washington	American Association of Nurserymen, Inc., Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc. and National FFA Foundation General Fund
Poultry	<b>Virginia</b> —Terry Armentrout, Vickie Keplinger, Nolan Biller; Broadway	<b>Scott Wilkinson</b> Springdale, Arkansas	Hubbard Farms and Victor F. Weaver, Inc.



# Let's Farm Abroad

(Continued from Page 17)

## Going Abroad

Gary Johnson, WEA coordinator and a former WEA participant himself, says language is the biggest problem the exchange students experience. Most say afterwards they wished they had studied the language more before going over because they would have gotten so much more out of the trip.

WEA has been growing since its beginning. In 1980, for example, 82 FFA members were placed on farms and in agribusinesses in other countries and 159 participants came to the United States.

The general age range for participation in the program is 18 to 24, which includes alumni members since active FFA membership ends at age 21. Normally participants live with a host family and are paid a small stipend, depending upon the country and type of placement. Participants also receive room and board.

"In the future we hope to be able to offer a number of scholarships to applicants for the WEA program through the National FFA Foundation," says Lennie Gamage, FFA's program specialist for international activities. "A new program just approved in 1980 will allow sponsorship by business and agricultural organizations to selected FFA members in participating states. We expect that it will take a few years to get the program fully established, however, a few scholarships will be available beginning in 1981," Gamage said.

Is WEA for you? That's a question that only you can answer. But if you are thinking about it, Pam Roy has some advice. Pam says, "Anyone planning to participate in WEA should be prepared to work and not expect everything to be like it is back home. You must come with an open mind and an open heart."

### How To Participate

#### Individuals

1. Obtain a copy of the new international program brochure from the state FFA office, or write directly to: National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

2. Complete the application form, obtain the necessary recommendations and mail to the state FFA office at least two weeks prior to March 1, for programs beginning in June.

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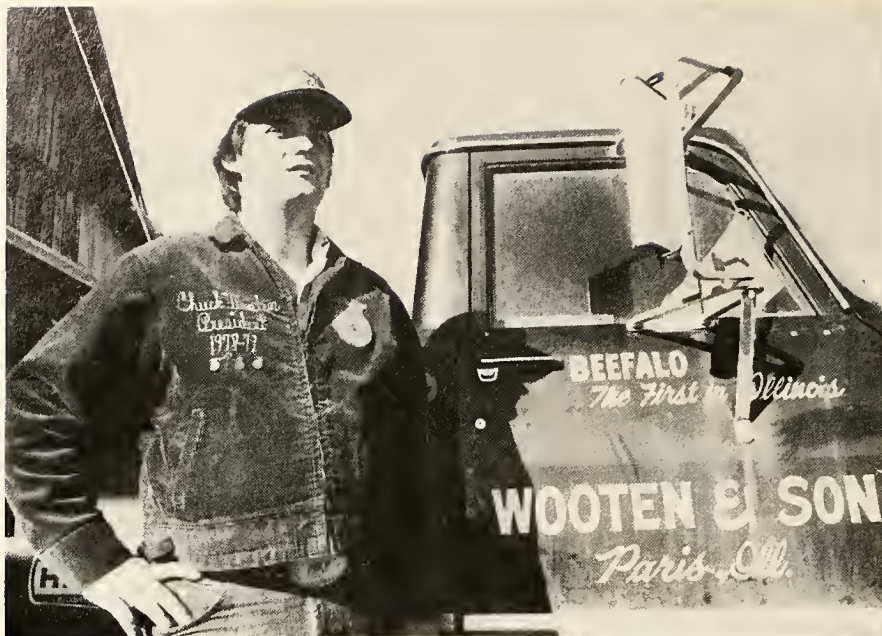
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Chuck saw the potential in Beefalo and cashed in on his hunch.

# Holding His Own

**Reliance on ambition and the desire to farm, along with calculated risk, led to early success for Chuck Wooten.**

*By Jeffrey Tennant*

**C**HUCK Wooten could "hold his own" with a large batch of today's cattle farmers. When it comes to experiences, making tough farm management decisions and a plain ol' love for cattle raising, Chuck's right in there with the best of 'em. Just one difference in Chuck and most of the farmers here in corn and cattle country—about 20 years.

The Paris, Illinois, FFA member celebrated his 19th birthday in July, marking his first year as a full-time cattleman. Chances are, sometime that day he was feeding cows. Or talking over his next management move with his partner, and dad, Larry. Chuck's 120 head of commercial cattle won't allow their owner a break on holidays and birthdays. And, to Chuck, that's a good sign.

"Wouldn't have it any other way," says Chuck, a cold north breeze jiggling his cap. "It keeps 'em warm, and makes 'em gain. My goal is to see how much meat I can put on other peoples' tables."

Chuck is half-owner of a 10-acre feedlot where up to 600 head of commercial feeder cattle are finished for sale to packers and other buyers. The crossbred herd displays high-yielding meat traits

of exotic breeds like Chianina, Limousin, Simmental, Maine-Anjou and Charolais, along with Black Angus and Hereford characteristics. Selective breeding on the Wooten farm and careful purchase of auctioned stock improves overall herd carcass yield, rate of gain, and ultimately, brings premium prices to the Wooten coffers.

"I have no use for purebred cattle," Chuck asserts, "as a feeder. They've either got too much bone or not enough. I think it's best to breed a hybrid from good production yield qualities of each breed."

**Repairing equipment on the Wooten place takes skills in agricultural mechanics and a general "knack" for making things run—particularly vital in a large-scale operation.**



Chuck's early success as a cattleman can be measured easily enough. He's obviously content with his career and takes an undying interest. He could "talk cows" all day. The Wooten farm—operated by Chuck, parents Larry and Darlene, and Dana and Diane—boasts a top-of-the-line Harvestore forage system, three Case tractors, a planter, plow, disc, cultivator, spreaders, loaders, balers, choppers, wagons. All the necessities of a farm with both a large scope and a minimal labor force (the family). Chuck claims ownership to much of the equipment.

The former president of the Paris FFA Chapter projects a seemingly unlimited knowledge of the cattle industry. Only to mention his admitted "bloopers," he says, "I've learned the hard way but I haven't forgotten my mistakes. I've had my share of hardships."

Those "hardships" came early in Chuck's life. He knew, back in junior high school, he wanted to try his hand at cattle feeding. His chance came early, an opportunity that would soon distinguish him as the third person in the nation to buy in to a new and different breed—the beefalo.

"My family and I drove to a ranch in California where American beefalo began," says Chuck, remembering the Christmas of his seventh grade year. "I didn't know anything about them except that they were big, mean and you'd better beware. I was saving my money to buy a solid, hardy, high yield animal and that's what I saw in the beefalo. I took some information from the ranch owner and wound up buying two half-blood beefalo heifers from him. Paid \$1,000 for them."

Chuck recalls being "the laughing stock of the county" when he brought home his two prize animals. Years of breeding bison with dairy and beef cattle had eliminated many of the genetic buffalo traits from the off-spring but appearance of the Hereford-Charolais-Buffalo cross was still unusual. Daring to be different often brings ridicule.

*(Continued on Page 27)*



A man in a cowboy hat and Levi's jeans stands in a field of smoke. He is holding his hat with one hand and a rolled-up piece of fabric with the other. The background is a hazy, smoky landscape with mountains in the distance.

# AUTUMN

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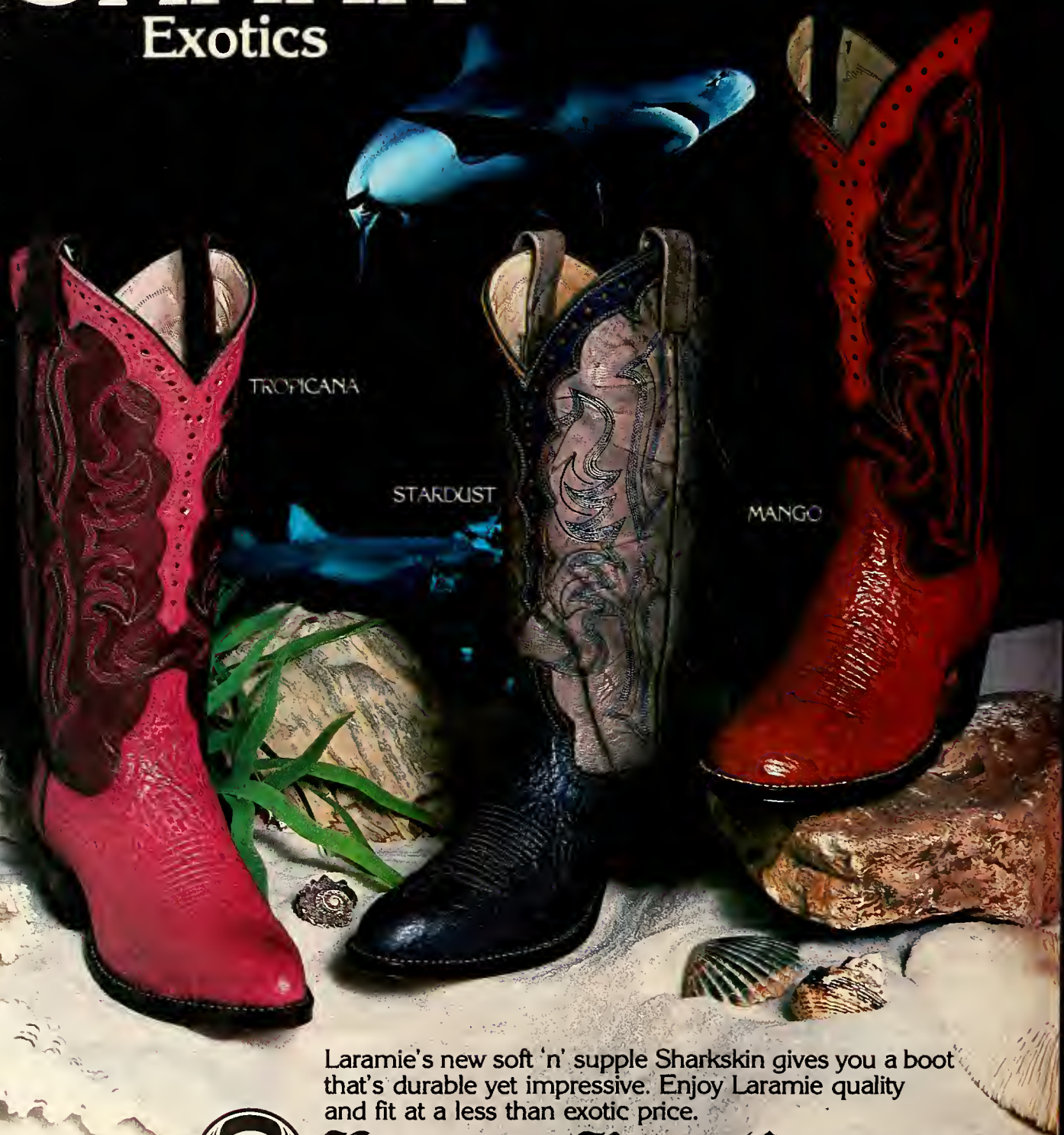


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# Holding His Own

(Continued from Page 22)

Chuck's beefalo heifers didn't seem to mind. But their owner did.

Still filled with confidence in his purchase, Chuck nurtured the heifers to their first calves. For an unknown reason, the cows would not "take" the young beefalo animals. Chuck wound up raising the calves on the bottle, hand feeding until the calves could take a hard feed. Working on borrowed land and equipment (father Larry did not own a farm), Chuck kept building on his herd through eighth and ninth grades and into FFA. And things were looking up for beefalo.

"More and more people were seeing the advantages of the breed," he says, recollecting those times when those who once teased were now paying handsome prices for Chuck's "unusual" stock.

"A big corporation formed in Virginia to promote the breed," he continues. "Money started coming in to advertise beefalo in the farm media and public. We had one of our better bulls on stage at the Grand Ol' Opry—even had one in the Nashville Hilton."

As interest in the breed spread, Chuck's beefalo calves were sold "as soon as they dropped." Soon Chuck was traveling on weekends and after school to add to the growing Wooten herd—buying in North Dakota, selling in Virginia, buying in South Dakota, "with a little luck because heifers I'd buy would be bred and with a good calf." Then, after four and five-figure sales such as a \$16,800 deal for two Wooten heifers, a tough decision was made. No more beefalo would fill the Wooten lots.

"We saw it coming," says Chuck, who

wound up his beefalo days by starting a 160-head herd of commercial cattle. "The market became saturated. New buyers weren't coming in. The beefalo were no longer a novelty. Now they're competing for what they're worth. There's still a demand for them—they're good animals. But as for us, we're partial to crossbred cattle, particularly those from a three-way cross."

The three-way cross incorporates desirable traits of three different breeds into one animal. "For example," explains Chuck, "an Angus, Hereford and Charolais cross works well. The Angus blood means good grade, good red meat. The Hereford blood helps add size to the Angus. The Charolais traits then 'top off' the animal, giving even more size and a big frame."

Sharing the sentiments of many cattlemen, Chuck says the "black baldie" is his favorite crossbred beef animal.

"They're hardy, healthy and have a good rate of gain," says Chuck of the Charolais-Black Angus mix. "And they grade out well with a good high yielding carcass."

No wonder Chuck likes the baldies—they produce. And production, whether it's hefty beef cattle or sometimes daring hybrid cross breeding, is the name of the game on the Wooten and Son Farm.

Chuck surveys the bustling feedlot.



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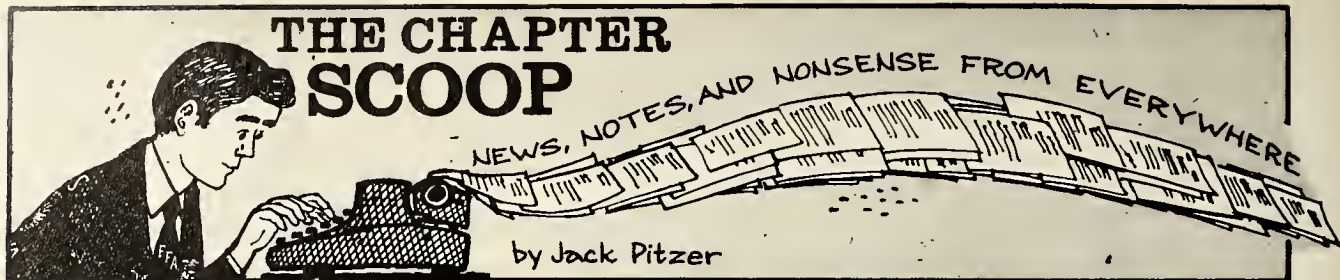
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by Jack Pitzer

Every year *Hartington, NE*, judge gilts and market hogs in their shop. Advisor gets together the class of animals. Contest winners become chapter's team for district.

Chapter Advisor *Edgecomb* of *Limestone, ME*, skipped rope 500 times in less than four minutes to raise money for the state association.

Winner of FFA sponsored hog wrestling contest during *Elgin, NE*, community days did it in 51 seconds.

*Sarah Rietz* and *Tracie Dooley* of *Wheatland, WY*, FFA gave a pet care demonstration to 514 elementary students.



The *Arnaudville, LA*, FFA found the best way to beat the heat at their August meeting was to have an ice cream party.

Big fund raiser of *Arroyo Grande, CA*, is their annual harvest festival auction. Top quality fruits, vegetables from local farmers and merchants are donated.

Over 400 people in the community "pigged out" at the *Le Mars, IA*, hog roast. They cooked three hogs.

*Paul Desrosiers* made a gavel for President *Chad Elliott* in *Dover, NH*.

Their answer to energy challenge was a raffle on 50 gallons of gas by *Savannah, MO*.

*Thomas, OK*, FFA decided to assess fines of \$5 for missing a meeting with no reason, \$1 for not wearing the jacket and 25¢ for each offense of talking during the meeting.

When two Oregon state officers visited *Wallowa* Chapter they also conducted a workshop for the whole student body on public speaking and extemporaneous speaking.

For *Houston, MO*, barn warmin' and dance, the chapter compiled their own country and soft rock music.

Three members of *Wauseon, OH*, FFA have volunteered to help train guide dogs for the blind. All three are freshmen and they'll have the dogs until the pups reach one year.

A new 18-foot wagon to transport senior citizens around county fair-grounds was built by *Maplewood JVS* in *Ravenna, OH*.

At *Lebanon, CT*, FFA Chapter and Alumni combined picnic, the alumni beat the actives 17-7 in softball.

*Casa Grande, AZ*, Chapter demonstrated how cotton bales are made (on a miniature press). Then they sold the miniatures as fund raisers for Kansas City travel fund.

Star Greenhand of *Glasco, KS*, *Mike Dwyer*, got to introduce the governor at the county fair.

Members, advisors and alumni of *Duncanville, TX*, completed a course on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Members and Young Farmers of *Ravenswood, WV*, built the weight transfer machine used in county tractor pull.

Operation IDENTIFICATION is a big project for *West Hardin, KY*, Chapter. It's sponsored by state Farm Bureau and is a program of marking equipment.



They spent many hours and much elbow grease digging and placing sod around the new community public scales in *McCloud, OK*.

Goal of *Clark, SD*, FFA is to achieve 10 PLUS membership.

*Galt, CA*, Chapter officers took an officers' retreat trip which included a little fishing and a lot of work.

*Penny Shipley* and *Justine Beavers* were sponsored by *Salem, MO*, in the Bike-a-thon to raise money for the children's research hospital. They averaged \$7.32 a mile for \$256.35.

Besides raffling the hog, *Mabel Canton, MN*, FFA sells advertisements to local firms to go all over the hog crate.

Dues were set for *Cumberland, PA*, Chapter with freshmen and sophomores at \$5, juniors and seniors at \$4.50 and out of schoolers at \$4.

The *Olympia, WA*, FFA took small animals directly in to children's orthopedic hospital so kids could pet the animals and be cheered up.



*Freeman, SD*, Advisor *Alan Fenner* admits to poor timing when he broke his finger during a chapter softball game the same night as the safety program was planned.

When *Pinedale, WY*, drove to the livestock judging contest, they got to go through Yellowstone National Park and saw buffalo, elk, geysers, hot springs and even won the contest.

The local FFA fair and carnival sponsored by *Verden, OK*, Chapter had sheep, swine, beef and dairy livestock classes.

*Bar 24 Ranch* donated a market steer to *Ft. Pierce Westwood, FL*, Chapter to show at county fair.

First day of school, *Elgin, OR*, sold ice cold watermelon to students—made some money, made friends for FFA.

*Gilmer County, WV*, Alumni Affiliate in *Glenville* won the \$10 prize from their state alumni association for having the most new members in the year—26.

Sophomores of *Southeast FFA* in *Ravenna, OH*, went to an area farm to learn how to castrate pigs.

Members supervised by the advisor of *Langdon Groom, ND*, Chapter built a new greenhouse.

Be in the pile. Shovel news, notes or nonsense. Share new ideas for fund raisin', barn raisin', fun raisin', sun raisin', pig raisin' or whatever.



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# Finding Time To Farm

**Too few hours in a day for you? These two FFA members say yes—here's how they cope.**

*By Jeffrey Tennant*

**D**OES school interfere with your farming or agribusiness program? Do you wish for more time on the tractor seat and less time at a classroom desk?

Perhaps it is not school itself that interferes but the time that's demanded. School studies, particularly vocational education courses, are designed to provide useful, practical information to those enrolled. Developing character, fostering self-discipline and molding responsible citizens are commonly accepted "duties" of America's high schools. Certainly, taking advantage of a constructive school environment can be helpful to you in the long run.

But what about the short run? Though you may have accepted schooling as an investment in your future, a problem remains. The academic learning process takes *time*. What you learn may save you time in your everyday chores following graduation but, again, that's in the long run—as much as four years ahead for Greenhands.

"Yes, I want to go to school," you say, "and, yes, I even want to involve myself in FFA and other activities, even more demanding of my time." Yet, at the same time, your agriculture project beckons. Are you alone in this situation?

Don Mitchell and Jeff Roark of rural Versailles, Kentucky, are proof that you're not alone. As FFA members heavily engaged in thriving beef and tobacco operations, Don and Jeff have felt the tugs of time and dealt with the demands. Both rank as outstanding members of the competitive Woodford County FFA Chapter. Each held chapter offices and chaired major committees. Don served as regional FFA secretary, and Jeff recently received the American Farmer degree. Though not far apart in age, one major difference separates the two: 21-year-old Jeff has been through a year of full-time farming. He has lived the life that 18-year-old Don only previews during the summer months between semesters.

"There's a big difference," says Jeff, a stocky cattleman with a quick wit, "in the responsibility you feel. In FFA and high school, you're going to be gone some. Now it's seven days a week, 24 hours a day. I've got to be here."

Jeff farms 65 acres of tobacco and 1,200 acres of pasture grazed by 850 head of commercial cattle. He says he's been "cutting in on the interest of the farming operation" since high school, gradually progressing to more responsibility and a partnership agreement with his parents, Floyd and Barbara.

A newlywed, Jeff says wife Norma works in town so he "can afford to farm." The statement is offered jokingly but Jeff realizes the seriousness of the challenge awaiting.

"This is a diversified farming area and land is very expensive," says Bobby Gaffney who, along with James Wilds, works as woodford County FFA advisor. "You must keep your books up to stay ahead of your expenses."

"I can go broke in a big way, I guess," laughs Jeff, referring to the transition from part-time to full-time farmer. "But at least I'm farming. It is difficult to get in around here if you don't already have a farm background. Dad's worked with me ever since I could walk, so I naturally picked up a lot along the

*(Continued on Page 32)*



**Above, Advisor Bobby Gaffney and Don Mitchell talk over Don's farming project. Below, it's more book-work for Jeff.**







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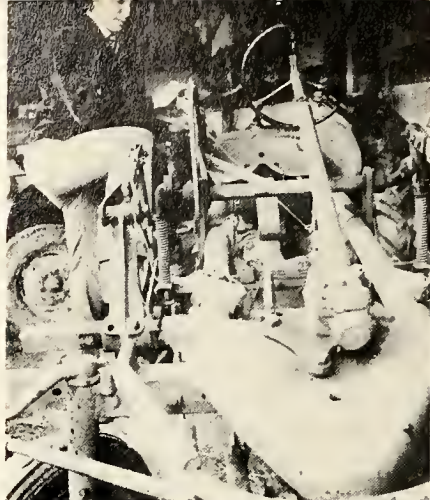
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At left, Don prepares machinery while, at right, Jeff and Bob examine seedlings.

## Finding Time

(Continued from Page 30)

way. Never a day goes by that you can't learn something."

Shortly after graduation, Jeff formed a formal farming agreement with his father. The new partners split the steer enterprise and went 45-55 on the tobacco, Jeff with the lesser percentage. Of the three Roark cow farms, Jeff manages two and supplies his own capital.

Close attention is given to bookwork necessary to manage the income and expenditures of this progressive farm. Such diligence takes dedication, careful study of problem situations and, at the root of it all: time.

"In order to manage all this," offers Jeff, "it helps to read books and get that basic knowledge. But then you've got to get out and *do* what you've read. Now I can do that more than I could in school. I go many days without sleep during busy times of the year."

Sleepless nights are not to be mistaken for inactive nights. The Roarks "background" feedlot cattle by buying

350 to 400 pound steers, feeding them to around 750 pounds before sale to lots. As often as three times a week, Jeff and his father head out after supper for a load of cattle. The partners return in the early morning hours, and if there's time, catch an hour or two of sleep before tackling daily chores at the usual 5 a.m. Such a schedule couldn't be maintained long by a high school student before either grades or chores suffered.

"To do the best job of farming," says Jeff, "you've got to be on the farm. However, you also must prepare for your career—get a good foundation.

"FFA and vocational agriculture give you information you can carry over to your career after graduation. Vo-ag teachers are the best—they care about their students and make you do things to learn, even in the classroom. Record-keeping, planning, knowing your next investment or sales move—all are elements of good management and essential to farming success. Most important is how to get the most for your dollar. To do so, you have to be a leader. And that's where FFA helps.

Jeff suggests "hard times" are ahead for any farmer. Discouragement, he says, is a major enemy for young farm-

ers. Don Mitchell has no time for discouragement. A 1980 graduate, he hopes for success in farming in a continuing tradition of the Mitchell family.

"My brothers have been doing fine," smiles Don, now a new partner in the Mitchells' 220-acre tobacco, cattle, hay and corn operation. Don is "in fourths" with his two older brothers, Bill and David, and father W. J. Before his graduation, Don's share was one-tenth—not a major portion but a portion Don had continually expanded.

"Dad interested me in cattle when I was young," shares Don, recalling his first supervised program of five beef steers and a half-acre of tobacco. "While I was in school we had everything on a percentage ownership among the four of us. Now we're throwing everything in a pot—dividing income and expenses four ways."

Because of his willingness to study, Don could spend more time away from school than many of the Woodford County students. That privileged leave time was spent on the family farm.

"School starts during the time we house our tobacco crop," says Don, "so I'd get out when I could. We're a family operation—don't hire much labor. My junior and senior year I stayed out of school two weeks to help get the crop in. This is a farming community. The school administration is understanding if you'll take the problem to them."

The desire to farm gnawed at Don in his final years of high school but the busy FFA leader realized the importance of vocational agriculture training, FFA and other courses of study.

"You can't help but learn practical things in a seven or eight-hour school day," says Don. "School and FFA activities would put me behind in my farming but I'd usually catch up somehow. Now I hope to use the knowledge I gained to help improve our operation."

While Don desired more time on the farm during his early teen years, he also recognized the investment opportunities in his own personality and management ability through FFA and high school involvement. A national FFA leadership conference, chapter president, chapter secretary, regional secretary and the Woodford County Inter-club Council all shifted Don's time away from the farm. But still he served, knowing the experiences would pay off.

Jeff and Don see few drawbacks to farming while in high school. Both consider high school education and activities as an invaluable, and necessary, first chapter in today's farming success stories. If you skip the beginning of your story in today's agriculture, you may not understand the middle. And that means the end may be on the very next page.

Jeff checks the protective tobacco bed coverings with Advisor Gaffney.





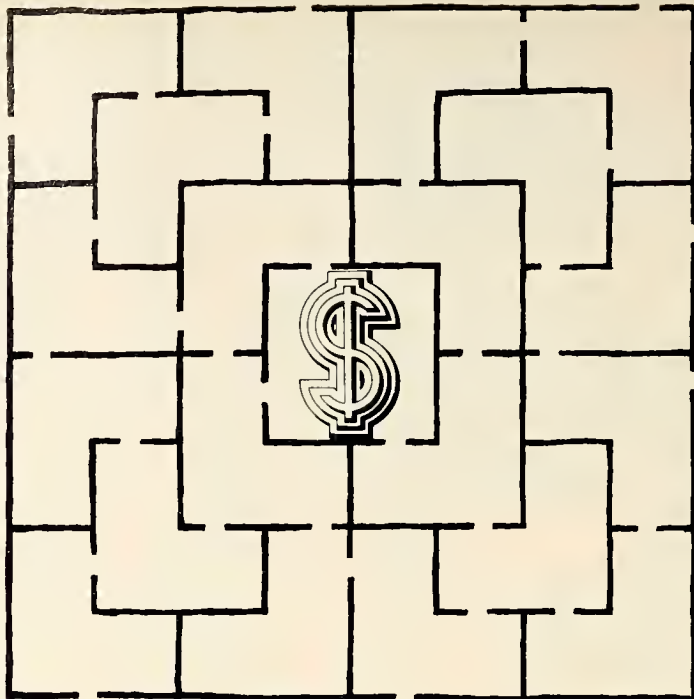
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# The Financial Aid Maze

By Paris Permenter

**H**ave you got an extra \$5,500 lying around the house?

If the answer is "no," you may find yourself in need of financial aid to help pay for your college tuition. Along with everything else, college tuition has skyrocketed.

There are numerous kinds of financial aid available to every student at both public and private, two-year and four-year colleges. Before the financial aid administrator of your prospective college can work out your "aid package," the total amount of aid you qualify for needs to be determined.

This is commonly done using the results of the Financial Aid Form (FAF) which can be obtained from your high school counselor or by writing the College Scholarship Service, P.O. Box 84, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Information you will need includes the following: salaries of both parents, number of their dependents, value of their home and investments, their expenses, value of benefits received (social security, veteran's, etc.) and various other data. When filling out the FAF, it is a good idea to have along the most recent tax form filed by your parents. This will provide many of the required figures.

Also on the FAF are questions concerning your resources. Any income you may have earned and the value of your checking and savings accounts are both required. You also need to estimate the amount of support you received from your parents and other relatives. Include

medical expenses, food, clothing, shelter and any other parental support.

The results of the FAF will be mailed to colleges you list. Now your financial need is determined. At this point, the financial aid administrator can work out an "aid package." Several types of assistance are available:

**Grants:** Grants are amounts of money awarded to students on the basis of need, not scholarship. This money is *not* paid back.

One of the most common grants is the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG). This grant can be applied for—at no extra cost—when you return your Financial Aid Form. Simply check the box saying that you would like your information to be sent to the BEOG program. That's all!

Another federal grant is the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG). This grant ranges from \$200-\$1,500 a year and must be matched by your college. Information and applications for this grant are available from the financial aid director.

If you don't qualify for a BEOG or SEOG, don't give up! Many colleges offer grants from their own funds. State grants are also a possibility.

**Scholarships:** These are awarded on the basis of what it sounds like—scholarship.

**Loans:** Unlike grants and scholarships, these must be paid back. The National Direct Student Loan and the Guaranteed Student Loan Program are both

(Continued on Page 43)

## MORE INFORMATION

**DON'T MISS OUT** provides a step-by-step explanation of the financial aid process. At the same time, it steers families and students to the aid sources that are most likely to benefit them, considering their unique financial situation, academic potential and career interests. Cost: \$2, mailed first class.

**THE As & Bs OF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS** is a guide to merit programs for the academically talented. It describes some 40,000 scholarships sponsored by over 600 colleges for students with a B average or higher, ACT scores of 20 or more or SAT scores of 1000 or more. Cost: \$2, mailed first class.

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT & COOPERATIVE EDUCATION** is the first guide to a rapidly growing program (13,000 participants at 600-plus colleges) in which Uncle Sam provides summer employment in the student's field of career interest and professional employment, following the student's graduation. The guide lists sponsoring agencies, career fields and participating colleges. Cost: \$1.25, mailed first class.

**CALCULATING THE BEOG INDEX!** Easy explanations and worksheets let students know whether they are eligible for the basic grant program and for how much. That is information which students should have at the beginning of their planning cycle. Cost: \$1, mailed first class.

**HELP FROM THE GOVERNOR** was assembled for the many students who, because their families are in the military or underwent a corporate transfer, go to school in a state other than their legal state of residence. Provides the agencies, officials' names, addresses, and even phone numbers where the student can get a rapid answer. Cost: 50 cents each, mailed first class.

**LOCATING LENDERS** assists students in locating lenders under the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. The guide provides names, addresses and phone numbers of officials who can assist. Cost: 50 cents each, mailed first class.

All of these booklets available from Octameron Associates, P.O. Box 3437, Alexandria, VA 22302. Be sure to include your complete name and address.



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- 

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Rusty's "all you can carry" pumpkins are a popular bargain.

## An Apple A Day

By Jeffrey Tennant

**C**OLOR abounds in the fall harvest months. Trees paint their usual fine showing of wonderful golds and brilliant reds. Crisp morning air reminds the face and hands of an approaching winter. For fruit farmers, autumn signals the end of one crop year and marks the beginning of another.

Rusty Eaton lowers a bushel of dark red apples into the trunk of a waiting car. Visiting townspeople eyeball fresh produce stacked in attractive bunches, a definite "in the field" look. An elder customer hands Rusty a dollar and proceeds to scoop as many pumpkins as her arms allow, dropping one as she lifts.

The folks who buy their holiday season fruit and vegetables here at Bogue's Orchard in Spiceland, Indiana, sense the family pride exhibited in every well-placed jar of orchard-fresh apple butter and fat, striped gourds. A tourist asks Rusty for a business card, anxious to share the wealth of this picturesque market with a friend back home. "Phil Eaton and Sons, Owners and Operators," reads the card. "Then who's Bogue?" asks the tourist.

"We just never changed the name," says Rusty, member of Advisor Bryan Chadd's Tri-High School FFA Chapter in Straughn, Indiana. A state Star Agribusinessman, forestry proficiency award winner and holder of the State Farmer degree, Rusty is well-informed of orchard management decisions. The card may read Bogue's, but behind it is Eaton.

"We've farmed 118 acres of fruit this year," Rusty explains on a walk-through tour of the well-kept orchards and vegeta-

ble plots. "These trees produce 25 varieties of apples, including red and golden delicious, Jonathan, Melrose and Cortland. We also raise strawberries, plums, peaches, cherries, mums and Indian corn. The mums, Indian corn, squash and pumpkins are especially popular during autumn."

The Eaton family—parents Phil and Sally, and Rusty, Ron, Ray, John and Tracy—markets 65 percent of the farm produce at the orchard store. Orchard production, tended by the family with hired hands during heavy harvest times, usually exceeds local demand. Thirty-five percent of the crop must move to surrounding retail stores and markets. But Rusty indicates a family preference for selling the bounty right off the farm.

"People enjoy their outing here. Besides apples, we sell handmade items, honey, candy, sorghum, antiques. All through October and November, this place is packed. People enjoy a country market like this on an autumn day."

The Eatons strive to maintain the joy of a visit to their stand. Spook houses (haunted by the Eaton brothers) in October, goat-petting and educational tours are added attractions of the direct marketing scheme. Rusty realizes, though, the customers' main concern—fresh, tasty products.

"We sell mainly a 'first grade' apple," he says, polishing a plump specimen on his FFA jacket. "Seconds, or apples of lesser quality, are sometimes sold at a discount, but we use them mainly for cider. The cider serves as a way to market apples that are good, but not perfect in appearance."

An old cider press claims a room of its own in the Eaton store. Since most apples in the field are eventually sprayed and picked, each fruit has cost the grower. Apples passed over by consumers or graded by discerning eyes in the Eaton sorting shed are often sold—but in liquid form.

"It takes three bushels of apples to make one gallon of cider," says Rusty, though not revealing the time-tested combination of varieties. "It's not a money-maker but it's better than letting the fruit rot in the fields."

Spoilage of picked fruit and vegetables is controlled with the aid of a huge cold storage room capable of maintaining fruit freshness for over a year. Though the cooling operation ranks second in cost only to the spray bill, the cold storage affords flexibility in the Eatons' marketing schedule and preserves their products' quality. Rusty assures the management decision to build the storage unit has paid off.

"I'm sure we'll continue to face those kinds of decisions," he says, a tone of confidence in his words. "We're planning to plant more trees as an investment for the future. We're also looking at automated bin handling systems to improve our efficiency. We'll just have to assess all angles and decide."

Rusty says FFA judging and vocational agriculture studies have helped him in decision-making, and carrying out duties as supervisor of pickers, apple hauler, cider maker and pumpkin harvester. As many as 30 pickers work the Eaton orchards, sacking the year's crop in a matter of days.

"Learning to work with people is important in any ag career," offers Rusty. "Here we work with both ends of the scale—those who harvest the fruit and those who buy it. Studying crops, soils, chemicals and seeds in vo-ag is helpful, but don't forget FFA's leadership opportunities."

Though the farm demands year-round attention, from pruning in December to the continuous cycle of chemical spraying, Rusty finds time to "take advantage of opportunities" in FFA. One to seek involvement, the husky 19-year-old also garnered most pins, most points and most takedowns as a senior varsity wrestler. The Tri-High football team went nine and one with Rusty running fullback for over 600 yards.

Finding time to accomplish aspirations isn't easy for Rusty. But he also knows the more work he puts in, the more he takes out, whether it's eliminating a wrestling foe or moving the last trailer-load of apples from the field. Giving to get—an underlying philosophy in the work and play of orchardman Rusty Eaton.



# Your Supply Service Speaks!!

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# IN ACTION

## TRAVELING CIRCUS WORLD

In the first part of May, 1980, Farmland Foods of Denison, Iowa, contacted the local Denison FFA. They wanted an unusual act for their store open house in June.

After some ideas were discussed, we came up with our now famous Swine Circus act. This consists of a maze with a series of stunts to be performed by pigs in a flatbed semi-trailer that can be hauled easily from place to place. Mounted on the flatbed were a merry-go-round, a teeter-totter, a bowling lane and a slide.

Five pigs, each about 35 pounds, were trained to go through the maze of the circus and do the stunts in order to get food. They live on one end and eat on the other. It usually takes three to four weeks to train the hogs to do the stunts.

After the first open house, Farmland asked FFA to take the Swine Circus to Bonner Springs, Kansas, to the test farm and corporate open house there. We made some changes and put in a rolling barrel. After Bonner Springs, Farmland asked us to take it to Nevada, Iowa, to the Farm Progress Show.

Each member of the eight-member crew has a job. Another member serves as barker and to help get the crowd. Initially about 30 members built the maze and set up the circus.

The pigs live on one end of the truck and the first stunt for them is to jump

into a pool, then nudge a bowling ball out of the way, then walk through a maze onto a teeter-totter, step onto a merry-go-round, get off on other side and slide down a slide to their food.

Since the original performances some new stunts have been added and the "actors" increased from 8 pigs to 12. (*Al Ahart, crew member and Randall Kuhlmanh, Advisor*)

## SAVING A CROP

When Fremont, Ohio, FFA members heard rumors last winter about the closing of the last sugar beet processing plant in Ohio located in Fremont, they decided to do something to promote the crop to area farmers.

Members of the junior vocational agriculture class decided to secure a contract to raise a sugar beet crop on their small land laboratory located along a heavily traveled highway.

Mr. Jerry Cunningham, a field man and agronomist with the Great Western Sugar Company of Northern Ohio, was invited to speak to members of the vocational agriculture department and suggested that 60 rows of plots be planted in a 3-acre field.

On May 7, Dr. James Widner, senior breeder from the Longmont, Colorado, experiment station and Mr. Don Steinberger, field man for Great Western of Northern Ohio, arrived to coordinate the planting of over 100 varieties of sugar beets in 30-inch rows on the land labora-

tory. Each variety was repeated six times in a two- or three-row plot 27 feet long. A six-row modified belt-type planter was furnished by the company. Over 1,500 small packets of seed were brought by Dr. Widner in organized boxes to be planted in a pre-determined order.

Prior to planting, 150 pounds of nitrogen, 90 pounds of phosphorous and 240 pounds of potash were applied per acre. Two herbicides were broadcast by the Rural Service Co-op prior to planting to control weeds. A post emergent herbicide application was made to help contain a smartweed problem in late June.

Fremont FFA members have contributed over 150 man hours of labor to the plots with the soil preparation, planting, blocking and weed control.

The price paid to growers is based on their yield in tons per acre and percent sugar content. The Fremont FFA's goal is 20 tons per acre with a 18 to 19 percent sugar content according to chapter President Paul Elfring and Vice President Marty Wendt, who are co-chairmen of the farm.

The Sandusky County area has three other specialized crops besides sugar beets that are very important to the local agricultural economy. Tomatoes, pickles and cabbage are also raised and processed in the area and the loss of one or more of these crops would severely hamper the economy of the area.

The 60 Fremont FFA members are doing their part to promote a vital crop to their local Sandusky County's agricultural industry. (*Ken Badertscher, Advisor*)

### Bowling expertise . . .



### A merry-go-round ride . . .



Members Paul Elfring and Steve Carter observe sugar beet growth in early August of some of the 100 varieties raised in the school land laboratory.

Photo by Jay Mohr, Denison newspapers





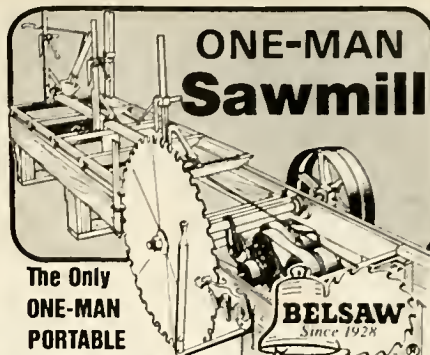
Kuna FFA members Bonnie Eldeen and Richard Anderson had a good time showing first graders, from the city, farming equipment and how it operates.

## A TOUCH OF FARM

Squealing pigs, soft ducklings, cuddly puppies, nursing calves and a noisy hayride were all part of the Kuna Agricultural Exposition sponsored by the FFA members from the Kuna, Idaho, vo-ag department. The program was designed to educate young people from an urban

background about agriculture and the importance it has on our economy. Nearly 3,000 students under the age of 11 visited the exposition May 6-10, from schools in Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell and Kuna.

(Continued on Page 40)



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(Pick up ACTION from Page 39)

A typical tour for the youngsters and their teachers included the following: first, the students were shown the small farm animals consisting of ducks, geese, pheasants, rabbits, turkeys and other poultry; next came the medium-sized animals such as goats, sheep, pigs and puppies. There were, of course, beef and dairy cows and horses, too. Care in selection was taken by members.

In addition to the livestock, common agricultural crops were grown between two sheets of glass to show the total development of these plants. There were also two alcohol stills—one fire-powered and the other solar heated. Small toy tractors powered by small airplane engines kept the children's attention as the use of large equipment on farms was explained to them.

A hayride followed the examination of the real farm equipment display. After the hayride, the FFA members figure the best way to settle the youngsters down was to give them cheese and ice cream and show them a very informative movie about agriculture. While the children watched their movie, the adults viewed slide presentations developed by the vo-ag students depicting the economic effect of agriculture and the many and varied uses of agricultural products in our daily lives. (Nancy Berner, Reporter)

## BRIDGE BUILDING CLASS

During the spring, members of the Big Walnut, Ohio, FFA conservation class made various improvements to the chapter's well-used ecology center. Members of the class, in cooperation with the ecology committee, built a swinging bridge to be used during the tours of the center.

Under the leadership of Advisor Mike Kissinger, the class first cut firewood and raised over \$250 to be used toward the improvement projects of the center.

Last fall more than 2,000 of Big Walnut's elementary students toured the ecology center for the sights and sounds of nature. In the spring, youngsters are taken on tour to teach them species of trees, plants and some of the wildlife of the forest.

## AN INDIAN STORY

The Thomas, Oklahoma, FFA Chapter has a member among its ranks with an interesting story. William Tall Bear, Jr., known as Bill, is a full-blooded American Cheyenne Indian.

Bill was born in San Francisco, California, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William



**William Tall Bear, Jr. presenting the FFA Creed at the annual parent-member banquet of the Thomas FFA Chapter.**

Tall Bear, Sr., who now reside south of Thomas. There are also two brothers and two sisters in his family.

For many years he has participated in Cheyenne ceremonies, has performed numerous traditional dances and also speaks the Cheyenne language.

Bill has accomplished a great deal in his first year in the FFA. He represented the chapter of the area Creed contest and did a fine job. He won the FFA Greenhand Speech Division, also at the area and later won fourth place at the district.

Bill attended the state convention, the state FFA alumni camp and the Washington Conference Program in Washington, D.C.

He presently has a Chester White gilt which he showed this fall and is currently serving as the chapter chaplain. (Jay Minton, Reporter)

## SUCCESS IN FFA IS STEPPING STONE TO SUCCESS AS AN ADVISOR

This is a success story of a vocational agriculture graduate, Jose Angel Bernal, who started his agricultural career about a year before he ever heard of vocational agriculture. It was June 27, 1967, when Jose had his first good look at American agriculture as we know it in southern Arizona. This was his first day in a new country where everyone else up and down the San Pedro River Valley spoke a different language, English. Jose had just spent the first 16 years of his life in the place of his birth, Agua Prieta, Mexico, but that day in June was the day he and his family were finally able to move to the working cattle ranch where his father had been employed for some time.

Jose remembers back to the summer of 1968 when the mailman brought an envelope that contained information about vocational agriculture and Future Farmers of America. He relates that he "was amazed to see just how many phases there were to agriculture . . . so I decided that summer that I wanted to enroll in vocational agriculture and join the FFA." He goes on to say "I didn't speak English very well then, but with participation in FFA activities and contests, and with the

help of my teachers during my high school years, I began to master this second language. Here was when I really began to get the full meaning and importance of agriculture and its relationship to man and other resources."

Not afraid of hard work, Jose carried on a number of supervised occupational experience programs during high school including cattle and swine enterprises, and a farm/ranch work experience program.

Understanding a new language didn't keep Jose from becoming involved in FFA. While in high school he served as treasurer, vice president and president of the chapter and secretary for the district. He competed in the Creed Speaking contest at the chapter level and the public speaking contest on both the local and district level. In 1971, he was awarded the State Farmer degree and in 1974 realized his goal of attaining the American Farmer degree in the FFA.

Jose entered the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, in the fall of 1972 with part of his expenses being paid by the \$400 Standard Oil of California FFA scholarship he received while a senior at Benson Union High School. After exhibiting outstanding scholarship at the University's College of Agriculture, Jose graduated in 1976 and was hired to be a sales representative in the southwest sale regions for a company that produces and distributes animal health products. Jose later returned to the University of Arizona and enrolled in the teacher training program carried on by the Department of Agricultural Education there. He earned his master's degree and this last June, 1979, Jose completed his first year of teaching vocational agriculture at Prescott High School in Prescott, Arizona.

Looking back over the years, Jose states that "If it had not been for vo-ag I probably would not have continued school, for it motivated me to continue my education and pursue a career in agriculture. FFA not only was a vehicle to learn the English language, but it also encouraged me to prepare myself for the future and help to prepare others for their future." (Lou Burleson, Benson Advisor of Mr. Bernal)

## ENERGY ACTION:

### PROMOTE IT IN THE STREETS

The Cumberland Regional FFA in Sea Brook, New Jersey, had a prize-winning parade float this year in the Harvest Festival. Their float, entitled "Agriculture Has A Better Way" won third prize and depicted the difference that gasohol could make to the farmer and other consumers.

(Continued)



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## COOPERATIVE LAMBS

To members of the Talawanda FFA Chapter in Oxford, Ohio, cooperation is more than a word in our primary aim. They have put into practice many important principles as they have organized three cooperatives to provide a learning by doing procedure.

The most recent activity has been the Lamb Co-op, now in its third year, which provides members who have limited project opportunities a chance to develop skills in sheep production. In 1980, 15 members owned and cared for 16 lambs kept at the farm of one of the advisors.

Members bought shares of stock, elected a chairman and secretary and shared equally in all management decisions. A schedule was arranged whereby every member was responsible for caring for the lambs on his/her designated days. Members kept all records, weighed lambs on the chapter owned scales, vaccinated and wormed all animals and trimmed and groomed lambs for show. (Joe Brunsman, Reporter)

## FROM DIRT TO DOME



Construction of a 30-foot by 100-foot new greenhouse begins on campus on Harper College and will be used by the horticulture students in District 214 FFA Chapter in Illinois (Arlington, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove, Forest View, Prospect, Rolling Meadows, Wheeling, Sacred Heart of Mary, St. Viators and John Hersey High Schools).

## WATERFRONT PROPERTY

As part of the celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, Capital FFA members in Olympia, Washington, cleaned three miles of lakeshore around Capital Lake on a Saturday in September.

The event was in conjunction with the observance of conservation, ecology and the environment on National Hunt-

ing and Fishing Day. It is a day set aside to observe our heritage and freedom and the intelligent use of one of our many resources.

Capital FFA's cleanup of a community lake helps perpetuate the ethic of true conservation by rehabilitating areas within the community.

## PROVIDING FFA ON CAMPUS

A growing number of beginning vocational agriculture teachers have not had agriculture experiences nor vocational agriculture experiences as high schoolers. So there is a greater need to provide FFA related activities in the collegiate training of prospective vocational agriculture teachers. Therefore, the Collegiate FFA members at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIU/C) have a strong collegiate chapter which increases the members' vo-ag and FFA experiences.

All activities of Collegiate FFA are primarily confined to participation in and organization of the Collegiate FFA activities for the academic year. This includes monthly meetings, fund raising activities, recreational activities and final preparation for Collegiate FFA to provide support at the district and state FFA contests held on their campus.

Collegiate has helped with parliamentary procedure, livestock, dairy and poultry judging events plus public speaking.

The FFA district prepared and extemporaneous Public Speaking contests are held in mid-April at SIU/C and during these contests the Southern Illinois University Invitational contest is held by the SIU Collegiate FFA Chapter.

This public speaking contest is designed to aid freshman and sophomore high school FFA members in developing public speaking skills. Forty-eight students from 23 chapters participated in the invitational contest. Over \$250 in awards were given to the FFA winners. (Fred Reneau, Collegiate FFA Advisor)

## MEMORIES SEWN INTO GIFT

Bellevue, Ohio, FFA members presented their former advisor Mr. Steven Sprague and his bride with a wedding gift that will be a constant reminder of his FFA chapter.

A friendship quilt was made and in the center was embroidered a farmyard scene including barn, animals, rainbow, bluebird of happiness and the Spragues' wedding date. Around the center were the FFA members' signatures on smaller squares.

This was a gift everyone could be a part of because the members signed their names on squares of fabric. Some of the



Scott McConnell took time out to sign his quilt square.

members were hard at work in fields of hay and beans or in livestock pens, but all 42 members were tracked down and signatures secretly gathered.

The squares were embroidered by Linda Pine, Chris Hahn and Terri Warner. The giant task of putting it all together was done by Linda.

The friendship quilt was a very sentimental present for the two former Bellevue teachers. Mr. Sprague had spent over six years at Bellevue as vo-ag instructor and his bride was an English teacher.



Linda Pine put the quilt together after everyone had signed.

## ACTION LINES >>>>>

- Start a collection of something that's just "you"—like nails. >
- Count to ten standing in the door. >
- Give yourself a present. >
- Go up in your grandma's attic. >
- Talk to somebody you don't know. >
- Decorate your room with a great big pillow. >
- Get into making picture frames. >
- Bring home a rose for your mom for cooking for you and your buddies. >
- Organize a touch football game. >
- Offer to count the church collection. >
- Whistle while you wax Dad's car. >
- Decorate the kitchen table with a couple of the biggest ears of corn you can find. >
- Can you stop driving too fast to school? >
- Go answer her phone. >
- Write a motion or suggestion out in advance. >
- Make a cake that weighs as much as you do. >
- Get your summer jobs lined up. >
- Collect milkweed pods for elderly. >
- Try out for a play. >
- Improve your spelling. >
- Have them teach you to fall a tree. >





# Financial Aid

(Continued from Page 34)

low-interest loans which are paid back.

The National Direct Student Loan (NDSL) will allow you to borrow up to \$5,000 for undergraduate studies. You begin repayment nine months after graduation or withdrawal from school, with a low interest rate of 3 percent. Another plus—you don't have to complete payment for ten years!

The Guaranteed Student Loan Program has a maximum of \$2,500 a year, with a grand total not to exceed \$7,500. Interest charged cannot be over 7 percent a year, far less than standard interest rates. For applications to these loan programs, see a counselor or aid officer.

Most colleges will try to exhaust other types of aid before drawing from loans. Even though these must be paid back, they still represent a low cost means of financing your college bill.

**Work Programs:** These provide on-campus, and occasionally, off-campus jobs for students, based on need. And although pay may be somewhat less than for regular off-campus jobs, the hours are flexible around your schedule of classes.

Application for work programs come

directly from the college's financial aid office. Never had a job before? Even without prior job experience, indicate any special skills you have on the job application. Typing, a knowledge of office machines, and any other skills you may have are important in determining what job you will be assigned to.

Once you've received financial aid, keeping it will depend upon your grades and any changes in the financial situation of you and your parents. Federal grants require students to be doing satisfactorily, holding at least a 2.0 (C) on a 4 point scale.

In your search for financial aid, don't overlook local sources. Private clubs and organizations often sponsor small (and large!) scholarships to high school students.

Keep in mind that you should apply early. Try not to wait until the summer before you begin mailing out financial aid applications. The Financial Aid Form, the basis for determining your need, takes several weeks to be processed. Since colleges do have a limited amount of funds to be distributed, getting your application in early can make a difference.

The most important thing to remember when looking for help is to ask! You will never get a scholarship you haven't applied for.

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Poster Style and the Home and Office Style calendars feature a full-color painting of a Greenhand with his new lamb as cover illustrations. Besides those pictures, the Home and Office has 12 monthly color shots of FFA members in all kinds of typical FFA/vo-ag scenes. The tent style Desk calendar also features the annual painting as its cover.

These calendars are high quality color lithography and the cover illustration painting is taken from an original painting by renowned artist Arthur Sarnoff.

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grandmother or uncle and aunt, or your cousin in another state, or your local banker (unless, of course, your chapter is already using these Official FFA Calendars as public relations gifts), or your mom's kitchen or sewing room, your dad's desk, work-

shop, the dairy barn or greenhouse or machine shop. You may also choose to order a few Wallet Style or Watch Crystal Style calendars to go along with the full color versions. These two styles are versatile, but do not have the color scene.

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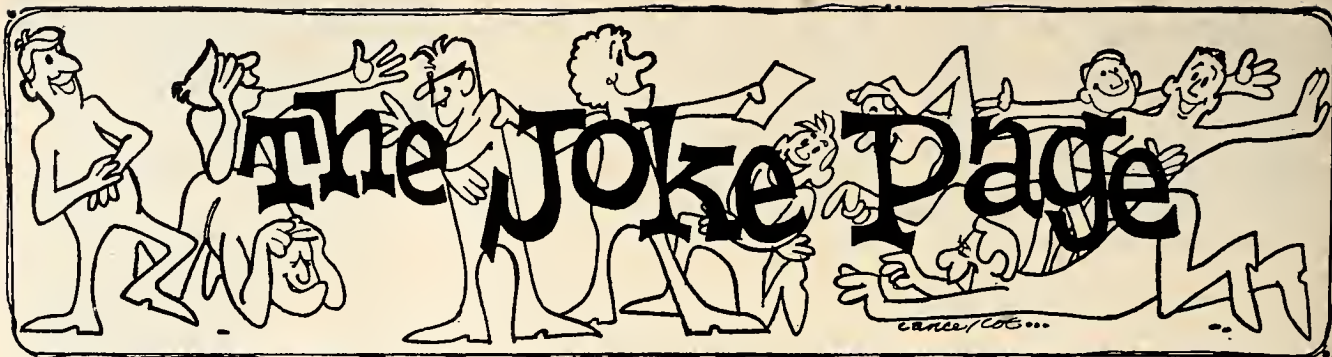
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Official FFA Calendar Department  
The National FUTURE FARMER  
P.O. Box 15130  
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The city had installed some large "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signs at intersections where pedestrian traffic is heavy. One day traffic screeched to a halt as a little old woman tripped across the street against the light.

"Lady," said a frowning policeman, "do you realize you walked against the 'Don't Walk' sign?"

"Oh, that," she replied, "I thought that was a bus company advertisement."

Thomas LaMance  
Modesto, California



"I'll certainly be eternally in your debt for helping me to buy my farm."

Two farmers were always trying to outdo each other regarding crops. One morning the first farmer said to his son, "Go over to Smith's and borrow his crosscut saw for me. Tell him I want to cut up a pumpkin."

On returning, the boy said, "Mr. Smith said he can't let you have the saw until this afternoon. He's half-way through a potato."

Susan Keith  
Centerville, Ohio

An old farmer was once asked by a youth how he became so rich.

"It's a long story," said the old man, "and while I'm telling it we might as well save the candle." And he put it out.

"You need not tell the story," said the youth, "I understand."

Bobbie Mae Cooley  
Bowen, Illinois

A man was walking along a pier counting, "One, two, three..." A bystander asked what he was doing. "I'm counting the slits between the boards," he replied. The second man joined him, until—splash, they fell into the water at the end of the wharf. The moral? "When you're out of slits, you're out of pier."

John Hellner  
Chelsea, Michigan

A little girl attending a wedding: "Why did the bride change her mind?"

Mother: "Why do you think that?"

Girl: "Because she came in with one man and is leaving with another."

Erik Vink  
Riverdale, California

A city slicker, watching an old farmer pitching hay up on a low shed roof, asked, "Why are you doing that?"

"Well," replied the farmer, "the hay is not much good but up there the cows think they're stealing it and they eat every bit."

Ruth Moore  
Liberty, Kentucky

About 2 o'clock in the morning the six-year-old awoke and asked her mother to tell her a story.

"Hush, dear," was her mother's reply, "Daddy will be in soon and tell us one."

Don Lindal  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Visitor: "What's the matter? Worried?"

New farmhand: "Work, work, work. Nothing else from morning to night."

Visitor: "How long you been at it?"

Farmhand: "I start tomorrow."

Ron Michel  
Verona, Wisconsin

Psychiatrist to patient: "Now, just when did you discover that you enjoyed paying your income taxes?"

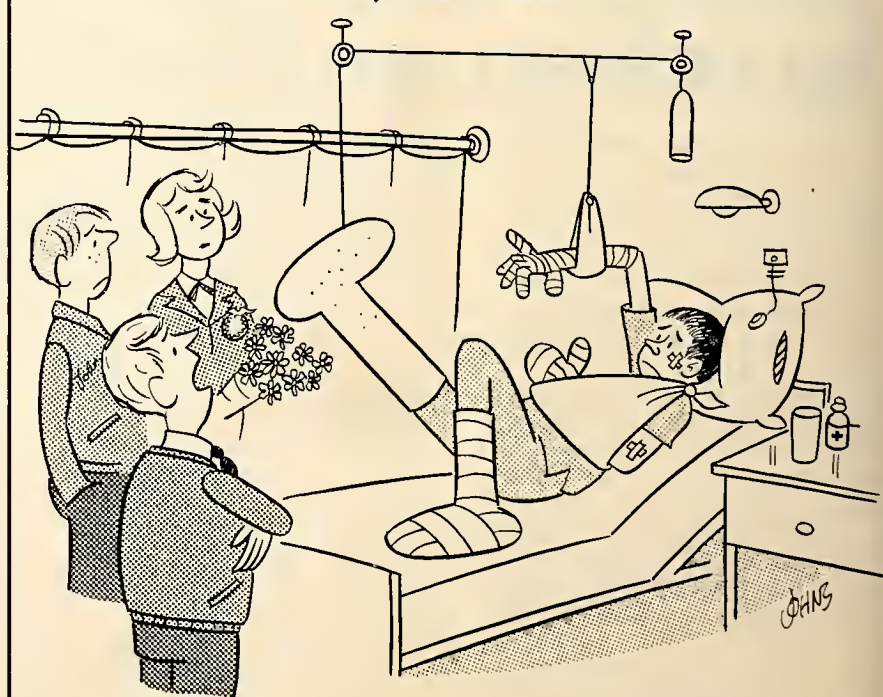
Celia Clark  
Scottsville, Kentucky

George: "What was Betsy Ross' reply when asked if the flag was ready?"

Ben: "Give me a minute man."

David Juenemann  
Clements, Minnesota

### Charlie, the Greenhand



"I guess you realize, Charlie, that this pretty well eliminates you from the FFA safety award competition."



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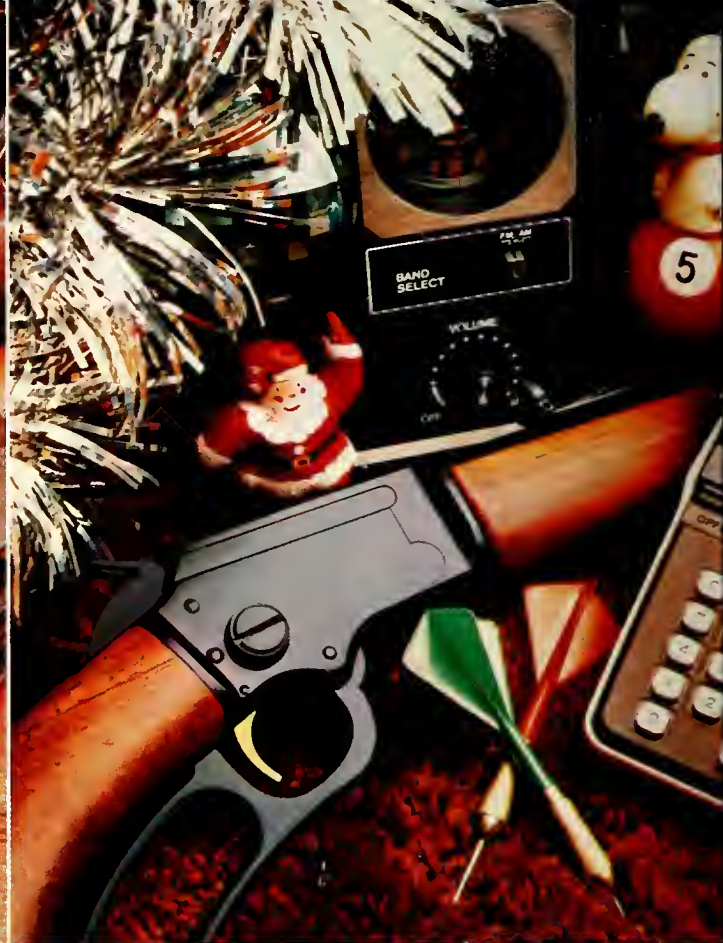


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*The Marlin 1891 around the turn of the century.*



*The Marlin 39A as it is today.*

## A PRESENT FROM CHRISTMAS PAST.

Sure, Christmas trees may have gone from chopped-in-the-forest real to silver and gold artificial. But while fashions in Christmas decorations may change, there are some traditions you simply don't fool with. Like giving a Marlin.

Take Marlin lever action 22 rifles. The 39A, for instance, has six critical action parts machined from solid steel forgings, then heat-treated for the ultimate in durability.

A folding semi-buckhorn rear sight and ramp front sight with Wide-Scan™ hood enhance the accuracy of its Micro-Groove® barrel. This remarkable rifling system provides a better gas seal and less bullet distortion for improved accuracy. And, like all Marlin guns, the 39A is built with a solid American black walnut stock. It's available in a short-barreled straight-grip carbine version too, the 39M.

You can also choose any of our center fire rifles, in seven calibers, from 30/30 to 45/70.

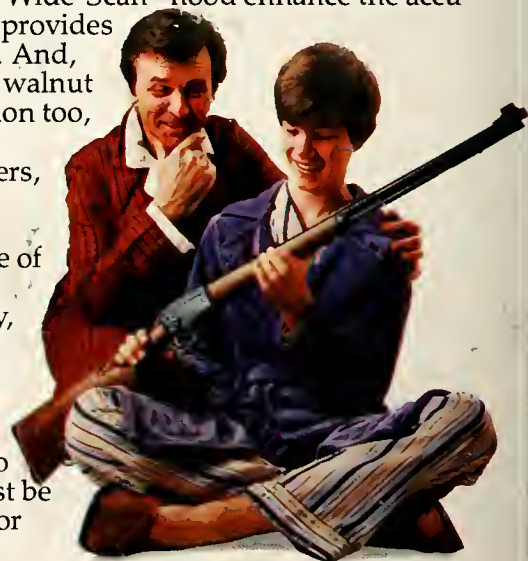
Or a fine autoloading or bolt action 22 rifle.

Or a Marlin shotgun in pump or bolt action, with a wide range of barrel length and choke options.

Whatever model you select has a history of exceptional quality, accuracy and durability.

In these changing times, give a tradition. A Marlin. See the entire Marlin line, and popular priced Glenfield guns, at your dealer. Also, ask for your free color catalog, or write for one.

Incidentally, anyone high school age or younger can win up to \$2,000 in the Marlin Hunter Safety Essay Contest. Students must be enrolled in, or have completed, a Hunter Safety Course. Write for entry form. Marlin Firearms Co., North Haven, CT 06473.



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