



FFA Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER

"SPECIAL FOCUS ON LOCAL ACTIVITIES"

SPRING -- 1976

Dear FFA Alumni,

The National FFA Alumni Council has selected for our Motto: "'76 A Year of Commitment." As your national chairman this year, I am asking your help in our efforts to build on our past year's record of growth of an 80% increase in active new members. We have a golden opportunity through the Alumni to lend a hand in building a stronger FFA. A strong FFA Alumni Affiliate is very important to every FFA Chapter. There are many ways, through an organized effort, the FFA Alumni can serve and support the FFA. Surely you have a soft spot in your heart for the FFA as I do.

As we celebrate our country's 200th birthday, we can proudly say that agriculture leadership has made our country great with the leadership that Washington and Jefferson so unselfishly gave. The FFA has given much to each of our lives and continues to develop the leadership that agriculture and our country will continue to need. The Alumni was founded to give a means for us to jointly support and serve the FFA at the local, state, and national organization.

If you have not renewed your dues for this year, we have included an application in this newsletter. A strong FFA Alumni needs a commitment from you. Our goal for this year is to have either an FFA Alumni Chapter or 10 new Alumni members serving every FFA Chapter. Let's make it unanimous--support for the organization that supports the FFA. We are interested in a future for America. Make 1976 your Year of Commitment!

Sincerely,

Richard C. Waybright
Richard Waybright

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terry Horn, past FFA Alumni President in Tennessee, has been appointed to fill the one-year term on the FFA Alumni Council vacated by Harry Epler of Wyoming. Because of the region realignment, Jerry Goolsby of Oklahoma will represent the Western region and Terry Horn the Southern region.

Floyd Doering, State FFA Advisor in Wisconsin, has been appointed by the National Association Supervisors of Agricultural Education as their representative on the National FFA Alumni Council.

NEW ALUMNI ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Robert W. Cox (nickname Woody) has been named the Administrative Secretary of the National FFA Alumni Association. He has served four years as State FFA Executive Secretary in Kentucky and previously taught vocational agriculture at Bourbon County and Madison Central High Schools in Kentucky.

THANKS TO JAY BENHAM

Jay Benham, the Administrative Secretary for the past five years, is congratulated for the outstanding, dedicated work he has given the FFA Alumni Association. He has been plagued by a series of injuries this year. In January he broke both arms in a farm accident. Upon returning to the Alumni office at the end of January, he found that he was suffering from a slipped disc in his lower back. Jay underwent surgery to remove the disc in early March. He was dismissed from the hospital on March 21 and is presently at home on his farm in Ohio.

HISTORICAL BOOK ON AGRICULTURE AVAILABLE

The Growing of America, published by Johnson Hill Press and distributed by Nasco of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, is available to FFA Alumni members. The amazing book containing the course of agriculture for the past 200 years is truly a tribute to the American Farmer. The book retails for \$5.95. As a service to FFA Alumni members, we are able to sell this publication to you for \$5.35 which includes postage and handling. This 144-page hard-bound volume with over 200 photographs and illustrations does commemorate our Nation's agricultural Bicentennial. If FFA Alumni affiliates are interested in distributing this book, quantity discounts are available. Orders should be mailed to the National FFA Alumni Association, PO Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. Please include your mailing address and check or money order and allow approximately 30 days for delivery.

LEGION OF MERIT

As part of our "'76 . . . A Year of Commitment" campaign, we will place special emphasis on the "Legion of Merit" award. This award presented to persons securing 10 new Alumni members, will be presented in a special Bicentennial ceremony at the National Alumni Convention. Keep the Spirit and receive the "Legion of Merit Citation" this year. If you would like more information or an application form, please contact your local FFA advisor or National FFA Alumni Office.

NATIONAL SEMINAR IN AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

A National Seminar in agriculture/agribusiness was held March 22-25 in Kansas City, Missouri for the purpose of updating standards and criteria in vocational education, in agriculture, and in agribusiness. The seminar was attended by over 200 persons from all areas of our country.



NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS GOODWILL TOUR

The National FFA Officers toured 25 cities in 15 states as part of the 1976 Goodwill Tour. The Goodwill Tour is an annual event where the Officers have the opportunity to meet potential sponsors for the FFA Foundation as well as continuing a close relationship with the many friends and sponsors of the FFA.

Mark Your Calendar!

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the National FFA Alumni Association will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 11 and 12, 1976. It will be held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention, November 9-12, 1976. All states are encouraged to bring a large delegation. All room reservations must be made through the Kansas City Convention Bureau, Kansas City, Missouri. In writing for reservations, please note you are an FFA Alumni member.

ALUMNI HONOR FFA SENIORS--The Canal Winchester Affiliate in Ohio plans to hold a banquet in honor of FFA Seniors. They are planning other events to include an agriculture round table. The Alumni have been active in assisting with training of FFA members entering District FFA events.

ALUMNI PURCHASED "TIME LIFE GARDENING ENCYCLOPEDIAS" FOR FFA--The White Rose, Pennsylvania Affiliate has raised the money for the purchase of the Time Life Gardening Encyclopedias for the FFA Chapter. They also sponsored a Christmas Caroling Event which included a party.

ALUMNI PROVIDING TRACT OF LAND FOR SCHOOL FARM--The Amarillo, Texas FFA Alumni Affiliate is acquiring a tract of land for a school farm. FFA members from three chapters will be able to benefit from the use of the farm. The Alumni are presently raising money to help finance equipment and materials for the farm. The FFA Alumni sponsored a booth at the Tri-State Fair in Amarillo to promote the FFA and FFA Alumni.

MONEY RAISED BY SPONSORING SUGAR ON SNOW PARTY--The Addison County FFA Alumni Affiliate at Middletown, Vermont held an old-fashioned maple syrup boil down. They dribbled the syrup over the top of snow. Tickets were sold for this event with proceeds going to the FFA Chapter. A George Washington Benefit Dance was held with proceeds going into an FFA scholarship fund.



SLAVE SALE RAISES MONEY--The Evansville, Wisconsin Alumni members are pictured conducting a "slave" sale. The money raised was given to the FFA Chapter. Some FFA Alumni members sold for over \$100 for one day's work.

ALUMNI GIVE SUPPORT ON FFA B.O.A.C. PROJECT The Sac City, Iowa FFA Alumni members assisted in building a shelter house for a park being developed as the Chapter's BOAC Project. The Alumni also secured herbicides for use on the Chapter's 24 acre test plot.

ALUMNI RAISED MONEY BY SPONSORING MACHINERY AUCTION--The Snowy Range, Wyoming FFA Alumni members held a machinery auction and raised money for their Chapter. They also sponsored a raffle at the County Fair.

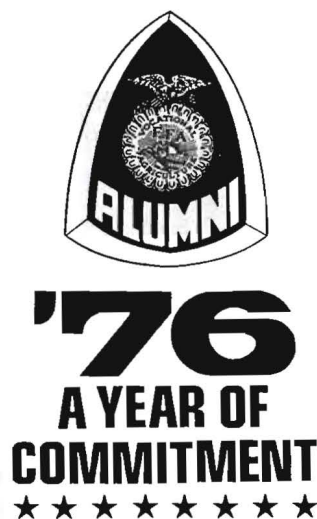


FFA ALUMNI CONDUCT FIELD DAY--The Barren County, Kentucky Alumni Affiliate conducted its second annual FFA Field Day. Pictured above FFA members are preparing for the FFA Dairy Judging Contest. Other events conducted by Alumni were tractor driving, livestock judging, tobacco auctioneering, land judging and demonstrations, contests in production agriculture, agriculture mechanics, horticulture, agriculture natural resources, and sales and service. Over 200 local FFA members participated in this Alumni activity. The Alumni assisted with the expenses of an FFA member attending the National Convention.

ALUMNI HELPS FFA CHAPTER BY HARVESTING CORN--The Bloom-Carroll, Ohio, FFA Alumni members grouped efforts and harvested the Chapter's 33 acres of test plot corn. Several of the Chapter members and advisors were able to attend the National Convention and come home to find a job well done. The Alumni have assisted the Chapter as judges on several occasions. They have also provided several chain animals to be placed with FFA members. The Alumni members will be providing scholarships for FFA members to attend the State Leadership Camp.

SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN TO GRADUATING FFA MEMBERS--The Evergreen FFA Alumni of Orchards, Washington will provide a \$100 scholarship to a graduating FFA member. They will send two FFA members to a Resource Management School and two FFA members to State FFA Convention. Money has been raised through a Christmas tree stand and a food booth at the local and county fairs. The Alumni also assisted in preparing educational booths for State Fair and Pacific International Livestock Expo.

This Affiliate has developed a "courtesy card" for Alumni members to give persons they assist. The card states purposes and activities of Alumni and that any compensation for their assistance be mailed to the FFA Alumni Affiliate.



MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The "'76 . . . A Year of Commitment" campaign was announced in Kansas City and is designed to assist in chartering local affiliates and/or obtaining 10 new life members to serve every FFA Chapter. The campaign will enlist the aid of several groups. We hope that FFA Alumni members, FFA advisors, FFA seniors, state staffs and teacher educators will join together in our promotional campaign. The FFA Alumni affiliate can provide tremendous service to the FFA chapter. The Alumni Association is designed to support and serve our nation's greatest investment, our young people. An investment in the FFA is an investment in our future.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, YOU ARE NOT AN ACTIVE ALUMNI MEMBER. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

ANNUAL DUES

The National FFA Alumni dues are only \$4 per year and life membership is only \$100. This is less than 2¢ per day and is one of the lowest dues of any national alumni association. The FFA Alumni members can be proud of the outstanding accomplishments of the Association. A list of 60 services and materials available has been printed. Copies are available upon request. The FFA Alumni Association is playing a vital role in supporting the FFA and vocational agriculture through the membership of our 12,000 active paid members.

Several states have dues and are listed below:

California	\$1	New Mexico	\$2
Delaware	1	New York	1
Florida	1	North Carolina	2
Georgia	1	North Dakota	1
Illinois	1	Ohio	1
Kansas	1	Oklahoma	4
Kentucky	1	South Dakota	2
Maryland	1	Tennessee	2
Massachusetts	1	Texas	1
Michigan	2	Virginia	2
Mississippi	1	Washington	1
Montana	2	West Virginia	1
Nebraska	2	Wisconsin	1
New Jersey	2	Wyoming	1

If you have not paid your FFA Alumni membership dues during the past year, please send your \$4 plus state dues and become an active member of the greatest team. The team that is organized to support and serve the FFA and vocational agriculture.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NEWS MAKERS AROUND THE COUNTRY

The FFA Alumni Association is proud of the support and service it is providing to the FFA and agriculture. Local affiliates are the heart of our Association. This portion of our newsletter lists a few of the many outstanding affiliate activities. One hundred FFA Alumni affiliates representing all our states were selected at random and asked to submit some of their activities. The following activities were selected from their responses. We hope you may be able to use some of the ideas in developing activities for your Affiliate.

HELD MEETING WITH TOPIC "GETTING ESTABLISHED IN FARMING"--A panel discussion on becoming established in farming was sponsored by the Omro FFA Alumni in Omro, Wisconsin. The panel included a farm management specialist, credit representatives, a father-son partnership, a representative of a young couple, and a farm corporation representative. The evening meeting was very educational for FFA members and other members of the community.

SOLD PLANTS AT COUNTY FAIR AS MONEY-RAISING PROJECT--The Alumni of Davies Vo-Tech Chapter in Davies, Rhode Island assisted in operating a flower shop at the annual County Fair and Trade Show. Proceeds from flower and vegetable seedlings sales will be used to send FFA members to the Washington FFA Leadership Conference. The Alumni are sponsoring a twenty week club. Proceeds will be used to send FFA members to the National Convention.

ASSIST WITH FFA PROGRAMS--The newly formed Wells, Nevada Affiliate is currently assisting FFA members with their contest entries. They also combined their meetings with the FFA Chapter for an ice cream feed.

ALUMNI ESTABLISHING AGRICULTURE MUSEUM--The FFA Alumni members of Atlantic County, New Jersey are establishing an agriculture museum with emphasis on poultry, vegetable, and fruit production. This group has assisted its FFA Chapter by coaching the FFA livestock team and raised money for the Chapter by sponsoring a turkey shoot and a dunking tank booth.

ASSISTED FFA CHAPTER WITH FOOD FOR AMERICA PROGRAM--Members of the FFA Alumni Affiliate at Sun Valley, North Carolina assisted the FFA members in conducting the Food For America Program. Alumni members also took up tickets at the N.C.-S.C. District Fair. Money raised was given to Chapter for purchase of awards. FFA Alumni members enjoyed a social event featuring a delicious duck dinner furnished and cooked by fellow Alumni members.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW--Members of the Springville, Vermont Affiliate successfully sponsored a project to raise over \$2,000 to pay premiums for the Junior Livestock Show. The Alumni also served as judges for local and area proficiency programs and other events.

HELPED SPONSOR FARM, HOME AND GARDEN SHOW--The Oxbow, Vermont Affiliate and Oxbow FFA Chapter sponsored a 2-day Farm, Home and Garden Show. The show included displays of farm, home, and garden products and raffling of a registered Holstein calf. The free admission to see the FFA judging and the furniture, hardware, and farm equipment drew much interest from the community. The proceeds from the raffle and refreshments sold will go to the J. Arthur Peters Scholarship Fund.

ASSIST WITH DISTRICT AND REGIONAL POULTRY JUDGING CONTEST--The Springfield, Minnesota Alumni assisted with organizing and managing both the District and Regional Poultry Judging Contest.

ALUMNI PLACE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED BEEF PRODUCTION--Alumni at Altus, Arkansas emphasized improved beef production by providing educational meetings to familiarize FFA members and others with current developments in the beef industry. The Beefalo was included in the study.

BICENTENNIAL AGRICULTURAL YEARBOOK SOLD BY ALUMNI--The Pierre-Oahe, South Dakota Affiliate sold over 100 copies of "200 Years of American Agriculture." They have also helped financially to send an FFA member to participate in the International Green Day in Germany.



ALUMNI SERVE AS SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS--Members of the Kimball, Nebraska Alumni Affiliate serve as substitute teachers and teacher aids. They also serve as judges for many chapter contests. Money raising events have included an FFA - FFA Alumni Basketball Game, FFA Alumni Dinner Dance, FFA Alumni Pancake Supper, and FFA Slave Sale. The FFA Alumni and FFA Businessmen's Breakfast was a successful event.