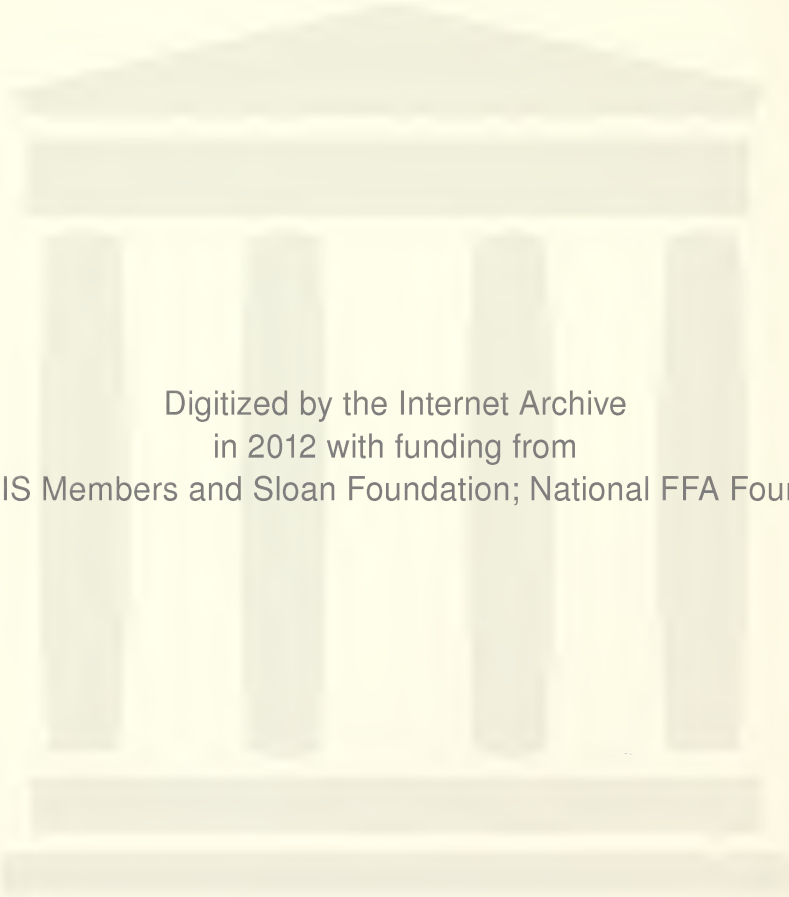


49th NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

NOVEMBER 10-12, 1976
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI





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1976 PROCEEDINGS

**49th
NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

**OF THE
Future Farmers
of America**



**HELD AT
MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

NOVEMBER 9-12, 1976

Prepared by the Future Farmers of America in cooperation with the Division of Vocational and Technical Education, U.S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20202.

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1975-76 National FFA Officers

President, BOBBY TUCKER, Mineola, Texas

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Vice President, Central Region, RON WILSON, Manhattan, Kansas

Vice President, Eastern Region, DOUG LOUDENSLAGER, Morral, Ohio

Vice President, Southern Region, ELTON BOULDIN, Boaz, Alabama

Vice President, Western Region, LEO ANDERSON, Albin, Wyoming

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ART NELSON, Program Director, Vocational Agriculture and Renewable Natural Resources Education, Olympia, Washington

DEAN PROCHASKA, Director, Agricultural Education, Topeka, Kansas

J. W. WARREN, Senior Program Officer/DVTE, U.S. Office of Education, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Consultants

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HERBERT W. MACKEY, Assistant Regional Commissioner, Occupational and Adult Education, U.S. Office of Education, Dallas, Texas

RALPH E. BENDER, Professor and Chairman, Department of Agricultural Education, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

O. S. GILBERTSON, Professor and Chairman, Department of Agricultural Education, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska

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MARY GEORGE JORDON WAITE, President, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Centre, Alabama

JAMES W. WARREN, Senior Program Officer/DVTE, U.S. Office of Education, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Vice President, FFA Foundation, Inc.

Introduction

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) is the national organization of students studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools, under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. Launched at Kansas City in November 1928, the organization has continued to develop rapidly. The active membership is 500,385 in 8,072 chapters.

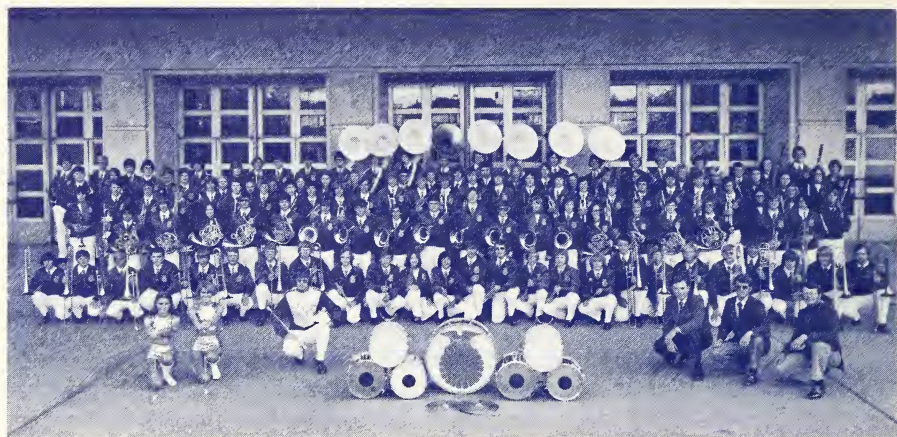
The primary aim of the FFA organization is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, citizenship and patriotism. Other purposes include: strengthening the confidence of youth in themselves and their work; more intelligent choice of agricultural occupations; improving the rural home and its surroundings; encouraging cooperative effort; encouraging thrift; improving scholarship; providing organized recreational activities and supplementing, by means of student-initiated and student-directed activities, the systematic instruction offered to students regularly enrolled in vocational agriculture courses under competent teachers of vocational agriculture/agribusiness. The support of State Boards of Vocational Education, working in cooperation with dedicated and experienced State Supervisory Staff and Teacher Education institutions results in agricultural programs designed to function as a strong part of our total educational system in America.

The FFA has taken its place with other organizations and agencies interested in the upbuilding of agriculture and the improvement of country life. National headquarters of the FFA is located in the National FFA Center at Alexandria, Virginia.

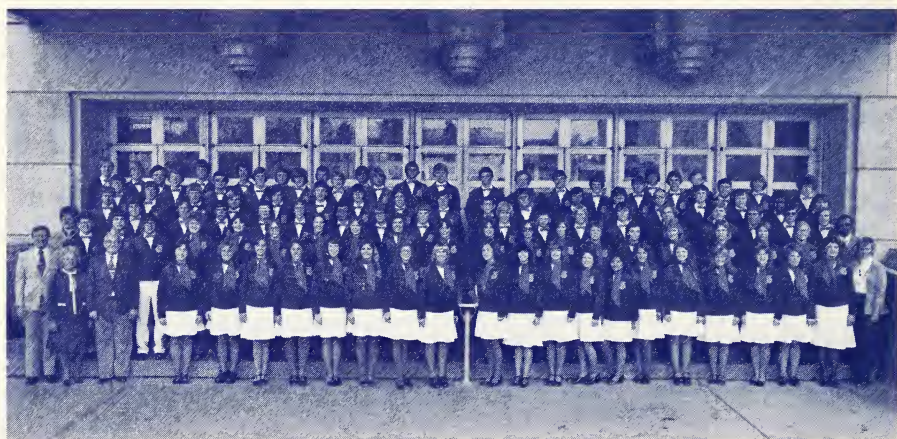
The 49th National Convention of the Future Farmers of America was held in the Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City Missouri, November 9-12, 1976. The over 19,500 who registered from fifty-one chartered associations for that youthful exposition of progressive leadership development, together with many representatives from foreign countries, must surely have returned home with a stronger belief in the future of agriculture.

The minutes of the convention sessions are included, along with certain other important material which is supplementary to or explanatory of the convention activities. Thanks are due many persons whose leadership and dedicated efforts made possible one of the most successful conventions in the history of the FFA.

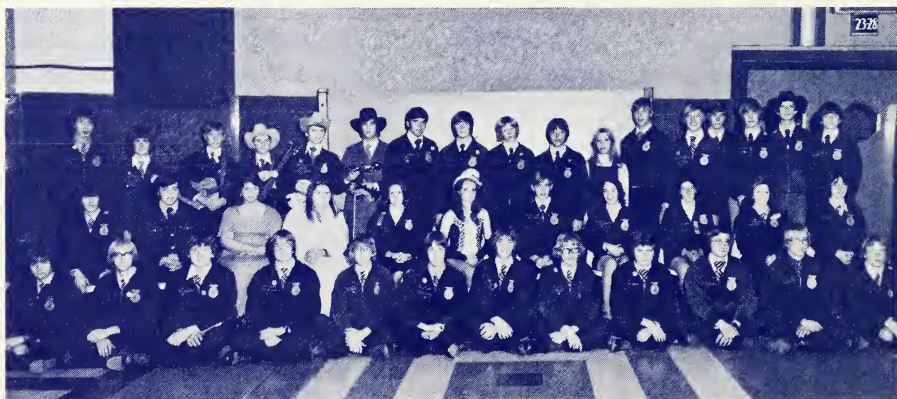
WM. PAUL GRAY
National Executive Secretary



1976 National FFA Band



1976 National FFA Chorus



1976 FFA Talent Show Participants

Official Delegates

ALABAMA

MIKE BRADFORD, Scottsboro
MARVIS FUTRAL, Wetumpka
PAMELA TATE, Semmes
DAVID HICKS, Russellville

ALASKA

ALBERTA FOSS, Bethel
JOANN WASSILLIE, Newhalem, Iliamna

ARIZONA

HOWARD MORRISON, Gilbert
GLENN TYSON, Laveen

ARKANSAS

GARY DABBS, Humphrey
BEVERLY YOUNG, Everton

CALIFORNIA

HENRY GIACOMINI, Ferndale
RANDY HEINRICH, Modesto
TOM MUNTER, Lindsay

COLORADO

JOHN FIELD, Montrose
DAVID DUKART, Montrose

CONNECTICUT

PHILLIP BLIVEN, Ledyard
DAWN SPIELMAN, Baltic

DELAWARE

JOANN STAFFORD, Newark
RICHARD WILKINS, Greenwood

FLORIDA

TERRY ISAACS, Groveland
WOODY HILDEBRANDT, Greensboro

GEORGIA

EDDIE KINNARD, Dawsonville
DENNEY ROGERS, Roopville
RANDY ATKINSON, Cochran

HAWAII

TONI MOLINA, Lahaina
NELSON McCORMICK, Waialua

IDAHO

ROGER NEBEKER, Kuna
GARY STUCKI, Moscow

ILLINOIS

BRIAN ELSASSER, Edelstein
LARRY FIRKINS, Columbia
PHILIP NELSON, Seneca

INDIANA

ROD SPURLOCK, Goodland
LYNN STIEGLITZ, New Haven

IOWA

PEG ARMSTRONG, Canton, Minnesota
BRAD PEYTON, Walker

KANSAS

JAY SELANDERS, Garnett
KERRY ZILLINGER, Phillipsburg

KENTUCKY

DAVID L. BATES, Alvaton
TAYLOR CANNON, Georgetown
MARK CAVITT, Boaz

LOUISIANA

ANGELO PIAZZA, III, Effie
DAVID FUSILIER, Ville Platte

MAINE

VAUGHN CHASE, Presque Isle
PHILIP SCOTT WILLIAMS, Presque Isle

MARYLAND

ALLAN GREEN, Fairplay
BETSY MERCHANT, Walkersville

MASSACHUSETTS

LARRY BANNISH, Southwick
MAURA LONGDEN, Holden

MICHIGAN

JIM LICHT, Pigeon
BUTCH WAGNER, Colon



MINNESOTA

KIM BECK, Willmar
TOM PALMER, Fairfax
JIM HARTKE, Trosky

MISSISSIPPI

HAL FRANCIS, Mantachie
JIM MIZE, Senatobia

MISSOURI

KELLY GRANT, Bolivar
SCOTT CORMAN, Pomona
SHIRLEY JONES, Mexico

MONTANA

ROBERT FRASER, Grey Cliff
RON KUEHN, Columbus

NEBRASKA

DANIEL RIPA, Wilber
KENNETH SMEDRA, Loup City

NEVADA

BEVERLY RIGGINS, Deeth
WES SMITH, Elko

NEW HAMPSHIRE

JEFFREY GOULD, Colebrook
SUZANNE SMART, Northwood

NEW JERSEY

WILLIAM SNYDER, Englishtown
CHERYL A. HOLOWATH, Hackettstown

NEW MEXICO

BUDDY DEIMLER, Tularosa
EUGENE MOYA, Belen

NEW YORK

MARK DEPTA, Hubbardville
KATHY HARRISON, Lyndonville

NORTH CAROLINA

PHIL McLAIN, Statesville
FLAKE BRANTLEY, Mooresville
DAVID TICKLE, Summerfield

NORTH DAKOTA

BRAD SCOTT, Bismarck
JAY BROWN, Bismarck

OHIO

ROB HOVIS, Helena
MARK SANBORN, East Orwell
JOHN MAURER, Springfield

OKLAHOMA

DEE SOKOLOSKY, Owasso
ROBIN OSBORN, Inola
LaMOYNE DREESSEN, Guthrie

OREGON

REGGIE McSHANE, Central Point
PETE THORPE, Salem

PENNSYLVANIA

RANDALL L. RANCK, Quarryville
GREGORY E. DAVIS, Middlebury Center

PUERTO RICO

HECTOR S. GONZALEZ, San Sebastian
PEDRO A. GONZALEZ, San Sabastian

RHODE ISLAND

DANA MILLAR, West Kingston
ANNA PION, Pawtucket

SOUTH CAROLINA

JAY WILLIAMS, Hemingway
CHARLES STANCIL, Greenville

SOUTH DAKOTA

ALAN VEDVEI, Hetland
THOMAS L. FIEGEN, Garretson

TENNESSEE

DAVID GASS, Moshieam
BILL COLEY, Mt. Juliet
DAVID MITCHELL, Christiana

TEXAS

KEN JOHNSON, Nacogdoches
JAY DREIBELBIS, San Juan
TAM TERRY, White Deer
ARTHUR J. TURNER, Anahuac
REX KYLE, Jonesville
STEPHEN SEIDEL, Rosanky
DUSTY THRASH, Plains

UTAH

BRUCE ROPER, Oak City
DANNY BOORE, Axtell

VERMONT

JEFFREY K. ADAMS, Middlebury
TOM BARRETT, St. Johnsbury

VIRGINIA

RODNEY McALLISTER, Verona
MITCH WEBB, Allisonia
CALVIN W. NORRIS, Jr., King George

WASHINGTON

MARK CRAVEN, Everett
JAY ALLERT, Rosalia

WEST VIRGINIA

DAVID L. BOURGEOIS, Ripley
CHARLES A. WILFONG, Dunmore

WISCONSIN

MIKE KAWLESKI, Junction City
JOHN ARNESON, Stoughton
JOE WALDO, Turtle Lake

WYOMING

KEN STAMBAUGH, Cody
AL SNYDER, Casper

Highlights of the 1976 National FFA Convention

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

The National Convention activities began with the registration of Official Delegates and their orientation for official duties, which were followed by committee meetings.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

The session began at 2:00 p.m. with the appointment of Constitutional Committees. Following the National Treasurer's Report, 14 committee reports were discussed and approved. Nomination of adults to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree, Distinguished Service Awards, VIP Citations and organizations to receive the Distinguished Service Citation was made by H. N. Hunsicker, National FFA Advisor and approved by the delegates.

At 7:30 p.m. a Vespers Program was presented by the National Officers in cooperation with the National FFA Chorus. Special Entertainment was provided by the Ararat Shrine Temple and the U.S. Navy Country Current Band at 8:45 p.m. in the H. Roe Bartle Exhibition Hall.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER, 11 OPENING SESSION

The session began with a new and colorful Grand Entry of the 13 Colonial Flags, state delegates and national officers. Posting of the Colors and the singing of the National Anthem by the National FFA Chorus followed. Alpha Trivette, 1974-75 National President gave the Invocation. Presentation of the State Charter to Alaska, as the 51st State FFA Association, followed in a very impressive ceremony. The Alaska Association then presented the National FFA Archives with a Klondike Bear Rug and the North Dakota Association presented Alaska with their



State Banner. The State Flag of Alaska was posted with the other state association flags as part of the colorful backdrop. It was officially passed by the delegates to amend the opening ceremony by deleting Washington and substituting Alaska in the reporters part.

Honorable Charles B. Wheeler, Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, extended a hearty welcome to the convention, which was followed by an impressive Memorial Service to Congressman Jerry Litton, National FFA Secretary, 1956-57. Candidates for national officer were introduced, followed by a visual presentation, "FFA—Agriculture's New Generation," courtesy of Farm Journal, Inc. Mike Jackson, National Secretary, presented his retiring address, "The Best Is Yet To Come." An inspiring and excellent address by Astronaut Charles M. Duke, Jr., Colonel, USAF Reserve, was given along with a movie showing his experiences on the moon. The National Officers' Yearly Report was presented, after which 513 chapters were recognized for their achievements in the Celebrate '76 Bicentennial Program.

Second Session

Highlights of this session started with very informative remarks by John A. Stearns, Producer of "Agriculture . . . USA." One hundred and three chapters were then recognized for their outstanding achievements in the National Chapter Safety Award Program. This was followed by Vice President Leo Anderson's retiring address, "That's Life."

Proposed amendments to the National FFA Constitution and Bylaws were properly discussed and the delegates approved the following amendments to eliminate sex stereotyping only: (Bold portions indicate modifications.)

ARTICLE IV - Section C - Paragraph 3 - Procedure for Determining Standing of State Associations, Chapters and Members - The member pays dues regularly and acts in a manner consistant with the ideals of the organization.

ARTICLE V - Section B - Paragraph 3 - Membership - A member who is in good standing at the time of induction into the armed forces of the United States of America shall be in good standing during the period of active service without further payment of dues or attendance at meetings. Time spent in the armed forces shall not be considered as elapsed time in determining the maximum period of three years after the first national convention following graduation from high school of leaving high school. Members making use of this waiver of service time for the purpose of maintaining active membership for application for advanced degrees, must resume active participation within six months after having been honorably discharged from service, indicating such a desire by payment of dues and attendance at meetings. Members participating in the six-months' Armed Service Program shall be eligible for one full year of extended membership. No individual, however, may retain active membership beyond the 23d birthday.

ARTICLE VI - Section D - Paragraph 8 - "State Farmer Degree" - Each State Association shall be entitled to elect at least 10 qualified individuals annually; where State membership exceeds 500, not more than 3%* of the total State membership may be elected (fractions counted in the nearest whole number). Written records of achievement verified by the local advisor shall be submitted to the State advisor by the local chapter's governing body at least one month prior to the State convention. The State Advisor will then review the records and submit a recommendation to the governing body of the State Association. This body will

nominate at the regular State convention the candidates who have been found most worthy to receive the honor. The State Farmer Degree will be awarded to the candidates upon approval by the delegates.

ARTICLE VI - Section E - Paragraph 4 - "American Farmer Degree" - Show outstanding ability as evidenced by leadership and cooperation in student, chapter and community activities and have a satisfactory scholarship record certified by the local school superintendent or principal.

ARTICLE IX - Section D - National Officers and Procedures for Election - The Nominating Committee consisting of two members from each of the four regions and one at large, shall study and review the qualifications of each applicant who is eligible and whose application has been approved by the State Advisor for consideration as a national Officer. This committee shall report during the national convention.

ARTICLE XIV - Section B - National Board of Directors - The National Board of Directors shall designate the chairman and two members of the **Office of Education** staff as a Governing Committee which, when the Board is not in session, shall have and exercise the powers of the Board subject to its written direction and the power to authorize the seal of the corporation to be affixed to all papers which may require it.

ARTICLE III - Section A - Procedures for Electing Members of the Board of Directors (Bylaws) - The four State Supervisors authorized in Section 8 (a) (3) of Public Law 740 to serve on the National Board of Directors, shall be elected (one from each region established in Section B of Article III of these Bylaws by the National Board of Directors) by the State Supervisors of the respective regions. In case the elected member of the National Board of Directors is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, **the elected alternate or another State Supervisor selected by that Regional Board member shall serve at that meeting.**

ARTICLE III - Section D - Procedures for Electing Members of the Board of Directors (Bylaws) - Whenever a vacancy occurs among members of the National Board of Directors, other than from expiration of their terms of office, the alternate elected by the region shall serve the remainder of the term. Prior to the expiration of the term of a member of the National Board of Directors, the retiring Board member shall arrange for the election of a successor.

ARTICLE IV - Section B - Duties of National Officers (Bylaws) - Vice President. It shall be the duty of each Vice President, acting under the direction of the President, to care for the welfare of the **region represented**. In case the office of President becomes vacant by resignation or otherwise, the First Vice President shall assume **the duties of the President**, followed in turn, if occasion demands, by the Second, Third and Fourth Vice Presidents in the order named.

ARTICLE IV - Section C - (Bylaws) - The Secretary. The Secretary shall perform the duties common to such an office **and other duties as directed by the Board of National Officers and by the National Executive Secretary.**

The following amendments to eliminate sex stereotyping and to shorten and change terminology were approved by the delegates:

ARTICLE VI - Section C - Paragraph 5 - Active Membership Degree and Privileges "Chapter Farmer Degree" - Have earned at least \$50.00 by **the member's own effort or worked 50 hours (other than scheduled class time) in a Supervised Agricultural Occupational Experience Program.**

ARTICLE VI - Section B - Paragraph 1 - Active Membership Degrees and Privileges - Be regularly enrolled in a vocational education course for an agricultural occupation and have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural occupation program.

ARTICLE VI - Section D - Paragraph 3 - Active Membership Degree and Privileges "State Farmer Degree" - Have earned and productively invested at least \$500 by the member's own effort or worked (other than scheduled class time) at least 600 hours in a Supervised Agricultural Occupational Experience Program or a combination thereof.

ARTICLE VI - Section E - Paragraph 3 - "American Farmer Degree" - Must have earned and productively invested at least \$1,000 from the member's own efforts from a supervised agricultural experience program.

The following amendments to eliminate sex stereotyping and to restate job descriptions:

ARTICLE V - Section A - Duties of the Executive Secretary, National FFA Treasurer and National Advisor (Bylaws) - The Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall:

1. Issue charters to State Associations when directed to do so by the National Board of Directors.
2. Keep the official records of members and progress of the organization.
3. Receive all reports from State Associations, review them, and inform the National Board of Directors of any proceedings which appear in conflict with the provisions of the National FFA Constitution or Public Law 740.
4. Submit a budget of proposed expenditures to the Board of National Officers and Board of Directors annually covering the same period as that covered in the annual report of the National FFA Treasurer.
5. Keep or have kept correct and complete minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Board of National Officers, the National Board of Directors, the Governing Committee, and of any other committee or officially convened meeting of members or officers charged with the transaction of any business affecting the organization and furnish copies to members of the National Board of Directors.
6. Keep a record of all officers of the organization, their terms of office, and of all members of the Future Farmers of America entitled to vote at a national convention.
7. Be in charge of arrangements for the annual national convention.
8. Perform such other duties as directed by the National Board of Directors and/or the National Advisor.

ARTICLE V - Section B - (Bylaws) - The National FFA Treasurer. The National FFA Treasurer shall:

1. Be responsible for the custody of all funds and other assets of the organization except as otherwise directed by the National Board of Directors.
2. Keep correct and complete books and records of accounts concerning all financial transactions of the organization.
3. Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the National Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V - Section C - (Bylaws) - The National Advisor. The National Advisor shall:

1. Serve as Chairman of the National Board of Directors.

2. **Advise the Board of National Officers, National Board of Directors, delegates and committees on matters of policy and assist the National Officers in conducting meetings and carrying out programs.**
3. **Serve as an ex officio member of all committees.**
4. **Review all applications for the American Farmer Degree as submitted by States, submitting them in turn to the National Officers and the National Board of Directors.**

ARTICLE VI - Section E - Paragraph 1 - Must have the State Farmer Degree and have been an active member for at least **the immediate past** 36 months, and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities at the local chapter and State association.

ARTICLE VII - Section A - Paragraph 2 - Procedure for Choosing Candidates for the American Farmer Degree - Each State **is eligible to receive** two Degrees for the first 500 members, one Degree for the next 500 members and one Degree for each 666 2/3 members (rounded off to the nearest whole number).

ARTICLE VII - Section D - American Farmer candidates must be recommended by the National Board of Directors and Board of National Officers at **the July meeting. The candidates shall then be approved by the delegates present at the following national convention of the FFA.**

ARTICLE IX - Section C - National Officers and Procedures for Election - **A State may recommend one candidate for National Office each year. The State's candidate shall be approved by the State Advisor on a nomination form submitted to the National Executive Secretary on or before September 1st. All candidates shall be notified as to their eligibility on or before September 15. Those declared not eligible may file an appeal with the National Advisor not later than October 1. The FFA Governing Committee shall vote on any appeal and formally notify the candidates of their decision on or before October 15.**

ARTICLE IX - Section D - Amendment of Former Section C. - The National Officers shall **hold the American Farmer Degree at the time of their election and must be active members for the duration of their term in office. They shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates assembled at the national convention.**

ARTICLE IX - Section E - Amendment of Former Section D. - The Nominating Committee consisting of two members from each of the four regions and one at large shall study and review the qualifications of each applicant who is eligible. This committee shall report **on its nominations** during the National Convention.

Present Section E becomes Section F.

Present Section F become Section G.

ARTICLE VI - Section B - The Fiscal Year (Bylaws) - Books and records of the organization may be inspected by any member **or member's agent** at any reasonable time. **Arrangement for such inspections will be made with the National Advisor.**

Third Session

The National FFA Band Concert started the evening session with enjoyable and entertaining music. The National FFA Public Speaking Contest, which featured the four regional winners was held. The 22 American Royal Queen Candidates were introduced by their respective State Presidents. This was followed by the recognition of state supervisors, teacher educators, teacher trainees and collegiate groups. Special presentations were made to five VIP Citation recipients and three organizations receiving the Distinguished Service Citation. A full house enjoyed the inspiring address and demonstrations of feats of strength by Paul

Anderson, the World's Strongest Man. Presentation of the National Public Speaking awards and the naming of Mark Sanborn, of East Orwell, Ohio as the national winner concluded the evening's program.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

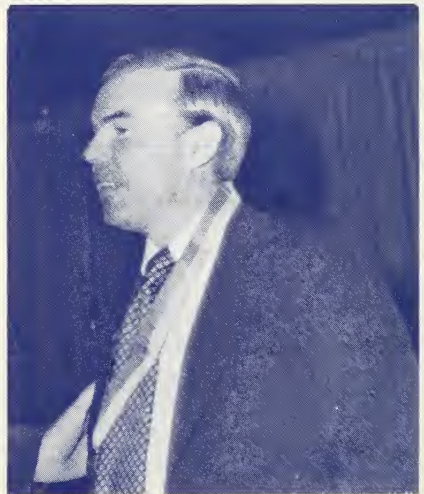
Fourth Session

Following the Opening Ceremony and special FFA talent, officers of 70001, FHA/HERO, DECA and OEA, along with Miss AIC and Miss REA extended greetings to the delegates. Recognition of 10 years of exhibiting in the Agricultural Career Show was made to nine exhibitors, followed by the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to 19 individuals. Ron Wilson, National Vice President, presented his retiring address, "A Single Step."

National BOAC Awards were presented to 131 chapters followed by a slide presentation featuring outstanding BOAC activities by the four Regional winners. William H. Walker, III, Assistant Secretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, extended remarks and presented the Presidential Citation to the Berrien, Georgia, Chapter. John Wefald, Commissioner of Agriculture, Minnesota, presented a dynamic and inspirational address relating to the importance of agriculture and vocational agriculture/FFA's role to this important and basic industry. Three hundred and eleven chapters were presented National Chapter Awards, thus concluding the session.

Fifth Session

The FFA honored 58 individuals in business, industry and education, plus 81 teachers of vocational agriculture with the Honorary American Farmer Degree, at which time John Murray, President, NVATA, Inc., extended remarks, "What's Ahead in Agriculture." The retiring National Executive Secretary was honored by the National Association of State Supervisors. Mr. James Dougan made the pre-





sentation. Doug Loudenslager, National Vice President, gave his retiring address, "A Desire To Be The Best." This was followed by the awarding of eight service plaques to outgoing members of the FFA Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Trustees. A dynamic and challenging address "Do You Know Where You Are Going," by Fred McClure, President of the Texas A & M Student Body and National FFA Secretary, 1973-74, was enjoyed by all. A lifelong goal of outstanding members was fulfilled when the American Farmer Degree was conferred upon 748 candidates.

Sixth Session

A colorful and entertaining talent review was held following the Grand Entry of the 13 Colonial Flags, state delegates and national officers. The colorful and inspiring grand entry by the band and music by the chorus added to the excitement of the evening. Seventy-six Regional and National winners of the 19 Agricultural Proficiency Awards were presented in colorful pageantry, after which special recognition was given to sponsors to the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Twenty-five year Sponsors, Bronze, Silver and Gold and Star Sponsors were introduced, and members of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee were escorted to the platform. Mr. Robert W. Engle, 1976 Chairman of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee, extended greetings and appreciation to all sponsors for their help in surpassing the goal of contributions during the Bicentennial year. He also congratulated all award winners and their advisors upon their accomplishments. The Honorary American Farmer Degree and a special plaque were presented to Mr. Engle. Dr. David A. Phillipson, 1977 Chairman of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee, was introduced and gave remarks. Recognition of Star, Gold and Special Project Sponsors highlighted a colorful slide presentation, which was enthusiastically enjoyed by all.

"The Stars Over America" pageant followed. Each Regional Star's accomplishments were depicted by a film, courtesy of CIBA-GEIGY Corporation. Timothy H. Amdahl of Flandreau, South Dakota, was named Star Farmer of America, and Tony V. Pollard, of Hartford, Alabama, was named Star Agribusinessman of America.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 Seventh Session

J. M. Campbell, National FFA Treasurer, presented an explanation of the 1976-77 National FFA Budget. A special presentation involving officials of the Agricultural Hall of Fame in the induction of Hoke Smith, Dudley Hughes and Eli Whitney into the agricultural Hall of Fame followed. Top judging winners were announced and introduced followed by the introduction of Judging Contest sponsors. Elton Bouldin, National Vice President, delivered his retiring address, "Take Care, My Friends," after which the international guests were introduced and the highlights of the 1976 International Exchange Program were presented. As part of this program, Mr. Donald N. McDowell, Executive Director of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee and a member of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education, delivered a challenging address, in which he encouraged FFA members to become involved in international activities from the standpoint of strengthening agriculture, as well as making friends here and abroad. The American Royal Queen and her escorts were introduced. FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented to Donald N. McDowell and Wm. Paul Gray, followed by remarks by Mr. Richard Waybright, Chairman of the National FFA Alumni Council. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, together with national officer candidates were introduced, followed by the election of the 1976-77 National FFA Officers.



Closing Session

Following recognition of FFA talent, the delegates accepted the Convention Committee Report. An enjoyable and informative slide series of the 1976 convention accompanied by the FFA Band was enjoyed by all. Past National FFA Officers were introduced, after which National President Bobby Tucker delivered his retiring address, "It's a Matter of Time."

Wm. Paul Gray, retiring National Executive Secretary, was recognized in a most appropriate and fitting manner for his 19½ years of service to the organization. The parents and advisors of the national officers were appropriately introduced and awarded the Honorary American Farmer Degree. The outgoing officers were then presented their leadership plaques and scholarships by H. N. Hunsicker, National Advisor. Recognition of State Staffs, Service Corps members, Press Corps, National FFA Staff and Kansas City Volunteers was made.

The new national officers were installed in a colorful ceremony and greetings extended by the new president. The National FFA Chorus then presented several patriotic numbers, after which the convention was closed by the new national officers.

The Firestone Show concluded the evening's convention activities.



1976-77 NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS

National FFA Officers for 1976-77 elected at the 49th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, are (left to right):

Seated: James Bode, National FFA President, of Geary, Oklahoma;
Bruce Maloch, National Secretary, of Emerson, Arkansas;

Standing: Julie Smiley, Vice President, Western Region, of Mount Vernon, Wash.;
Sam Brownback, Vice President, Central Region, of Parker, Kansas;
Danny Schiffer, Vice President, Southern Region, of Orlando, Fl., and
Richard (Rick) McDaniel, Vice President, Eastern Region, of Nevada, Ohio.

Special Recognition:

AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE

Each year at the convention, members who have achieved the highest degree are recognized in an impressive ceremony. There were 748 who received the degree.

HONORARY AMERICAN FARMER DEGREE

Local advisors are often the "motivating force" behind FFA members who achieve high goals in the organization. Advisors are selected by the state association on a criteria that encompasses the entire instructional program. There were 81 instructors receiving this honor.

The Honorary American Farmer Degree is also awarded to adults other than local advisors who have helped to advance agribusiness and the FFA, and who have given outstanding service on a national level. There were 95 receiving this recognition, including the parents and advisors of the national officers and the parents of the "Stars."

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

To appropriately recognize those adults who have given outstanding service to the FFA on a State or Regional, and in some cases National level, the Distinguished Service Awards are presented at the national convention. There were 19 receiving the award.

VIP CITATIONS

There are many individuals, who from the beginning of the FFA, have continued to give support to the organization "over and beyond the call of duty." This year marks the fifth year that long-time friends and great supporters of the FFA have been recognized with a "VIP Award." Five distinguished gentlemen received this award.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATIONS

There are many organizations which have provided outstanding service to the National FFA Organization. They have contributed personnel, time and money to further the aims and purposes of the Future Farmers of America. This year three organizations received this Citation.

National Officer Addresses

IT'S A MATTER OF TIME

Bobby Tucker, National FFA President

If I could save Time in a bottle
 The First thing that I'd like to do
 Is to save every day
 'Til Eternity passes away
 Just to spend them with you.
 If I could make days last forever
 If words could make wishes come true
 I'd save every day like a treasure and then,
 Again, I would spend them with you.
 But there never seems to be enough time
 To do the things you want to do
 Once you find them.
 I've looked around enough to know
 That you're the one I want to go
 Through time with.
 If I had a box just for wishes
 And dreams that had never come true
 The box would be empty
 Except for the memory
 Of how they were answered by you.
 But there never seems to be enough time
 To do the things you want to do
 Once you find them.
 I've looked around enough to know
 That you're the one I want to go
 Through time with.



The words of the late Jim Croce seem to hold a very special meaning for me this evening. For in a selfish way, I would like to save time. Save it so that I might have more opportunities to serve and work with you, the one half million members of the Future Farmers of America. But time is not a commodity that can be saved; instead it keeps on passing. It neither slows down nor stops for anyone.

It was six years ago that I walked into my first Vo Ag class and it was only four years ago that I sat in the back and watched as my first National Convention unfolded. In the years that followed those two events, time has seemingly increased the rate at which it passes. However, time has never passed as quickly as it did this past year. Now, it is just a matter of time until it will all be over: my year as a national officer and my years as an active member of the FFA. When I think of all I have had the chance to do it is overwhelming; but when I think of all I wanted to share I realize the little time I have left is the most important of the year. For in these brief moments I want to share with you my final thoughts as a national officer in this organization.

This year has been a very busy one. With so many things to do, so many places to go and so many people to share it all with, I learned that the important thing is not **saving** time but **using** it. It is in the use of time that we determine where it will take us in the future. For some, time is a thief, robbing them of the joy and success they have dreamed of, while for others time is a tool that helps them achieve the things that others only dreamed about. The difference is the way that they used it. Since time is a limited thing for all of us we must make the most of every day, yes, every moment. One minute is all that is needed to taste success. In one moment we can do many things that can be considered very important and badly needed. Helen Lowrie Marshall gives a few suggestions in her poem that says:

So you have only a minute to spend?
 Well, here's what a minute will buy-
 A word to let someone know that you care,
 A smile to a passer by,
 A bit of communion with God and His world,
 A "thank you" that's maybe long due,
 A deep look inward to change your sights
 And broaden your point of view
 If you have all of a minute to spend,
 How very lucky you are!
 For a minute will buy a whole heart's prayer,
 And pay your way clean to a star!

During the course of this year I have come to the conclusion that we "reach our star" when we do something that adds to the lives of those around us. The greatest success that we can find is in helping others achieve their dreams and realize their true value. Every individual seems to possess the need to really count for something worthwhile. We begin to realize our own value when we help others to find theirs. It takes **people** to make others feel that they "count". This year, the six of us who have worked as national officers had a chance to serve in high positions of leadership and to travel many places, but it was you, each and every one of you that made us feel like individuals that really "counted". You made the difference for us just as you can make the difference for thousands of others; people back home that you know so well and others you have never met. When we learn to treat **everyone** with respect we will discover a special kind of success. This success is available to anyone who is willing to add something good to the world around them. In the words of Henry Van Dyke:

Our life is not a mere fact;
 it is a movement, a tendency,
 a steady, ceaseless progress
 toward an unseen goal.

To desire and strive to be of some
 service to the world, to aid
 at doing something which shall
 really increase the happiness and
 welfare and virtue of mankind-
 this is a choice which is possible
 for all of us; and surely it is
 a good haven to sail for.

If we are to make that "steady, ceaseless progress" we must fill every moment of every day with all of the **good** things that we can. If we can make traits like honesty, sincerity, and humility more than words; if we can make them an active part of our life we will have taken a giant step toward building the kind of life that is worth remembering. Life is too short for us to let things like spite, jealousy, and selfishness control our actions. I can not hold to the philosophy of "success at any cost", as long as that cost is at the expense of others. Before we realize it time has sped away and we are left with memories from the past. Not only memories of our success, but also of how we obtained them and how we reacted once we had them. It all depends on how we live this day as to whether it will be a part of our lives that we want to remember or try to forget. All that is done today will be our memories for tomorrow. In the words of a song that was sung by Paul Anka:

Good morning yesterday,
 You wake up - and time has slipped away,
 And suddenly it's hard to find -
 the memories you left behind -
 remember. Do you remember -
 the laughter and the tears,
 the shadows of misty yesteryears?

The good times and the bad you've seen
and all the others in between, remember.
Do you remember the times of your life?
Reach back for the joy and the sorrow,
put them away in your mind,
For memories are time that you borrow
to spend when you get to tomorrow.
Here comes the setting sun,
The seasons are passing one by one
so gather moments while you may,
Collect the dreams you dream today,
remember. Will you remember the times of your life?

While you and I have the chance let's be busy creating the best memories. The things that we do in the FFA today are a good indication of the kinds of things we will do in the future. I hope that for all of us we will have a past that we will want to remember and a great future to look forward to because of the strengths we have found today.

If there was just one thing that I would want to leave with you that might be of some help to you as you strive for your goals it would be the thought that wherever you go or however rough the going gets, remember you are never alone. Many times the thing we need most to keep us going is the assurance that someone, somewhere believes in us. Many times during this year when I just didn't feel that I could make it, there seemed to be someone there that let me in on their faith and it kept me going. But there are still some times in our lives when we have difficulty locating those few people. It is then that it helps us to realize that the God who created us still believes in the abilities He gave us. Throughout this year and much of my life there has been a little one sentence prayer that has brought me strength when I needed it most. Maybe some day it can bring you strength also. "God, help me to realize that nothing is going to happen today that you and I can't handle together."

Always remember there is at least one other person who believes in you. I have listened to your dreams; I know that you will make them come true. I watched as you set your goals; I know that soon you will have to set higher ones because the first will have been reached. You might ask how I know these things. It is because I know you and I believe in you. And I want to do all within my power to help make it happen.

When you walk through a storm,
hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm
is a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark.
Walk on through the wind,
walk on through the rain,
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on, Walk on,
with hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone!

As we've walked through this year together so let us continue to walk through life-together. This year has been just a matter of time, but in that time we became friends, created memories, tasted success, and grew. Now, there are more friends to be made and old friendships to strengthen; there are more memories to be created; more success to be earned; and more growing to do. Our greatest dream is just over the horizon, our final goal isn't far away. Life is only a matter of time. Use it all and use it wisely!

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Mike Jackson, National FFA Secretary

"Space . . . the final frontier". The words of the popular television series "Star Trek" would seem to imply that only space provides challenge for man's creativity.

Mankind has always been searching, continually striving . . . in all walks of life, looking probing, discovering. Some say there are no more frontiers to tame, no more lands to discover. Some view the accomplishments and achievements of mankind and say we have reached our peak. And some even think that people should be satisfied with life as we live it now and simply exist with searching no further, probing no deeper, and discovering no more.

After all, we have made great strides forward in agriculture, science, medicine, technology, industry, and a host of other areas. We in the United States have obtained a system of democratic government that allows us to savor life as we wish, enjoying freedom and taking pride in that freedom. And we in agriculture have helped to meet the needs of thousands of young people who have the chance to develop into something they always wanted through the FFA.

All those achievements are great, but let's ask ourselves a question . . . "Compared to what?" They look very good compared to what we've had in the past, but compared to where we have to be in the future, it is obvious there are still many things for us to do.

Even though there are no new lands left to discover on this planet, there is one vast frontier we have not yet even begun to explore . . . the potential and creativity of people. As fulfilling and amazing as our past has been, by harnessing and using the potential of the human mind our future will be bigger and brighter than imaginable.

The Best is Yet To Come.

Former President John F. Kennedy once said, "Our problems are man-made, therefore they can be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings. Man's reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly insolvable and we believe they can do it again." Man must rise to meet the challenges of life. It is inevitable that there will be difficulties along the way, but problems viewed as challenges are easier to conquer. I read recently in People magazine of an example of meeting the challenge. At Temple University last May, a young man walked forward to receive his medical degree. When he did, the entire crowd in attendance stood and cheered. David Hartman's face shone with pride.

Dave Hartman is the first blind American ever to complete pre-med and medical studies.

At the age of eight he had to face the fact that he would never see again. His family all worked with him to make sure he could become self-sufficient. He learned to shoot archery, wrestle and run cross-country guided by a rope held by another runner.



The challenge of becoming a doctor looked insurmountable to everyone but David. He was determined to meet the challenge. Nine medical schools turned Dave down before Temple gave him a chance. The compassion and caring of fellow students and professors helped him be a success in med school and he graduated in the top fifth of his class.

Now Dr. David Hartman has an interesting philosophy of life. He says, "Everyone is handicapped in some way. My blindness put my life into **focus**."

Dave Hartman has done what all of us need to do. He met the challenge of life by not letting an obstacle keep him from success. For those who rise to meet challenges — The Best Is Yet To Come.

Today, we, as people, stand at the crossroads of success or stagnation. The challenges met now, by you in all areas, will determine which direction we take and if our lives will be in focus. I'm not just talking about your FFA career, jobs or hobbies. I'm talking about the role each of us plays in the very life of life, working and sharing, giving and caring . . . about people, the world of agriculture and our futures.

To find that life of life, people have always looked to the future with optimism, even when frustrated. I can't imagine Orville and Wilbur Wright, when their first airplane failed to get off the ground, saying, "Let's stick with bicycles."

Part of being human is being able to accept temporary defeats so that they lead to permanent successes. Throughout this entire year during which my fellow officers and I have been blessed with the chance to serve you, we have seen countless members who have suffered setbacks but who have not been overwhelmed by them. We have seen FFA members who have done the most with what they had, but who can and will do more in the future because of their optimism.

Glen Brockman is one such FFA member. Glen is a member of the Mariner, Washington, FFA Chapter. This year he is the chapter's president and is completely in charge of the school greenhouse program from production to sales. It is not an easy job to coordinate the greenhouse activities of the 3rd largest chapter in the state, but Glen has done an excellent job. Glen owns his own greenhouse and is looking forward to taking his Certified Nurseryman test this fall. He plans to expand his greenhouse operation and will be involved in horticulture as a career. There is something else you should know about Glen Brockman. Glen has been afflicted with Muscular Dystrophy since birth. To manage Mariner's greenhouse program he has kept all the figures from productions costs to sales revenues in his head. To be elected to chapter office he has earned the respect of his fellow members by sincerity and dedication.

After meeting and working with Glen Brockman, I was and still am impressed by his attitude. He doesn't want or need sympathy. He is looking forward to the rest of his life with excitement and anticipation. His optimism for the future is refreshing and it's members like Glen who will continue to grow and succeed.

Glen, today, the 20,000 FFA members in attendance admire you for your past accomplishments. The 500,000 members all across this great country of ours would like to pattern their attitudes after the realities of your hopes and dreams. And, this morning, Glen for you, because of the perseverance and optimism you hold, . . . The Best Is Yet To Come.

The Best Is Yet To Come! Never has a task been so seemingly simple, yet so complicated as that of believing we can do more than has been done.

We all have our personal tribulations in life that can prevent us from believing that the best in life awaits those who continue to work for it. But we can't let bad

times dominate us even when they change our pattern of living. After a serious automobile accident, earlier in the year, which involved both of my parents, I was forced to examine my life and relationships with others. When I learned of the accident I took the first flight home from Washington, D.C. The doctors couldn't tell me how badly they were hurt and I spent the worst 6 hours of my life riding on airplanes and sitting in airports, waiting and imagining every possible consequence. While on the plane, I wrote some of the jumbled thoughts that were rushing through my mind in the form of a letter to myself. A portion of that letter reads as follows:

"Today must be a beginning, a start, regardless of how small that start is. We must hope today for the better things in life that have got to come tomorrow. Today must mark a rededication to understanding, to believing, to optimism, and to God. For it is only through His good graces that things aren't worse than they are. They certainly could be much worse.

Today, for me, is the setting of commitment to answer the questions, to dream the dreams and to work for the brighter day awaiting us all. Today I really begin to live!"

And for us all, today must mark the continuation of the quest to overcome our fears, in striving to accomplish in FFA and in life. We must see the value of our lives and we must use them for the good of others.

Henry Van Dyke puts it this way:

Tribulation means "grinding", -
and I suppose we must go through it
if we want the good flour
to come out of the wheat.

The one thing that we need to learn now
is how to live
so that the first volume shall be good
and the second shall have the promise of being better

Let a man live now
in the light of the knowledge
that he is to live forever.

For, by our dedication to the future and our belief in tomorrow, the essence of our lives **will** live forever . . . The Best Is Yet To Come.

TAKE CARE, MY FRIENDS

Elton Bouldin, National FFA Vice President, Southern Region

Your work, I have learned this year, grows with the working, laughter, and love you devote to it. After six years, the FFA has become an important part of my life because I loved and enjoyed my work. Looking back on this year, I can't help but feel like a little kid all wrapped up in blankets, in a soft bed, on a freezing winter morning . . . warm, cozy, and content.

I have worked and laughed harder and more this year than ever before in my life. I can stand before you this morning and state without reservations, I am content and satisfied with this year. No, I do not wish this year could go on; I do not want to live it over again. No, I would not do anything a little differently, except maybe work and laugh a little more, a little harder.

I thank my God for providing me with this opportunity to serve you and for helping and guiding me through this year.

To my fellow officers, the national staff, state staffs, and my friends back in Alabama I can only express my feelings to you for your help and understanding by using the one word in the English language which was created solely as a heartfelt expression of gratitude . . . Thanks.

To each of you, to each state officer and chapter member whom I have had the privilege of working and laughing with this year, I wish to formally present the highest title an individual can give. May I consider each of you as simply, my friends?

You are my friends not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. My friends not only for what you are making of yourselves but for what you are making me. My friends because you are willing to pass over all the foolish and frivolous and weak things which you cannot help seeing in me. I consider you my friends because you have done more than any creed, more than any fate to make me willing to work and laugh. You have done it just by being yourselves and allowing me to share a year of brief moments with you.

As for those of you present whom I have not met there is a philosophy which I have found to be true this year. It states, "There are no strangers in this big, wide world. Just friends we haven't met."

Many times this past year my letters ended with the words, "Take Care, My Friends." These are the four words I wish to leave now as I must look away from this office, this year to the rest of my life, my future. In this my last address as a National Officer, those brief words sum up the thoughts I have to share with you, my friends. They encompass thoughts I consider to be the important results of a year as a National Officer.

Take Care, My Friends of the Future Farmers of America. Notice, I did not say the FFA Organization. Too often this year I watched as people worried, planned, and envisioned what would be best for "the organization," forgetting somehow that it was only a tool to be used for the development of over half a million FFA members. The organization isn't important; you the members are. As one of the founding fathers of the Future Farmers of Virginia said so well: "Most Americans feel the bigger you are, the better, while sometimes the reverse is true."



Along with our continued growth, let's be sure we are meeting the needs of our members. Let's be sure we are truly preparing young people to assume their role as Agriculture's New Generation.

Take Care, My Friends of your opportunities. They are precious. Watch and nurture each one. While traveling from one coast of this country to the other, I was able to witness the one thing that made America great. You may be surprised to find out what America's greatest resource is . . . its people. Not just anyone, but people who dared. People who dared to work for a better life. People who refused to believe that the best work was already done. Are you doubtful? I'm not. You believe there is no new opportunity for you? I refuse to. The fastest race hasn't been run, the best book hasn't been written, the best song hasn't been sung and agriculture's just begun.

You are Agriculture's New Generation, and the world is eager for things you ought to create. The store of true wealth is still meager, needs are still great. Opportunities in America have only just begun for those who dare — for the best job hasn't been started, the best work hasn't been done.

Take Care, My Friends of your life, your time. If this year held any bad moments it was when I came into contact with people who did not take their time and life and use them. They considered time to be the striking of the clock, running of the sand, day and night, summer and winter, years and centuries. Time is none of these. They are only the outward signs, the measure of time, not time itself.

Time is of value only if you make use of your life and soul. I know. I've just lived a lifetime in a year. As that year concludes, I read new meaning into the words of Cicero when he remarked:

"We ought all to be content with the time and portion assigned us. No man expects of any one actor in the theatre that he should perform all the parts of the piece himself; one role only is committed to him, and whatever that be, if he act it well, he is applauded. In the same way, it is not the part of a wise man to desire to be busy in these scenes to the last plaudit. A short term may be long enough to live it well and honorable."

The closing of my favorite play, so far in life, will be tonight. I'll start a new play with my fellow officers as six new actors begin a new act. My new play will be better if I am willing to work, but I've learned one other thing this year from you my friends. All the work, fame, and recognition in this world isn't worth a dime unless there is laughter to go along with it.

No matter where I was, how tired, depressed, sick, nervous, or disgusted I was, a shared laugh made the day brighter, life more bearable and worthwhile. A few of those times I was fortunate enough to be the reason for the laughter and reflecting back I did not mind at all. If I could only keep one thing from this entire year, I pray to God it would be the memory of the laughs and laughter I shared with my friends.

The king of laughter, film and television comedian Bob Hope, once said, "Maybe if we could all laugh alike, and laugh at the same time, this world of ours wouldn't be able to find so many things to squabble about."

I don't know what makes laughter so special; I just know that it is. So . . .

Laugh and be merry, remember, better the world with a song,
Better the world with a blow in the teeth of a wrong.
Laugh, for the time is brief, a thread the length of a span.
Laugh, and be proud to belong to the old proud pageant of man.

Laugh and be merry; remembering, in older time,
God made Heaven and Earth for joy. He took in a rhyme,
Made them and filled them full with the strong red wine of his His mirth,
The spendid joy of the star; The joy of the earth.

So we must laugh and drink from the deep blue cup of the sky,
Join the jubilant song of the great stars sweeping by,
Laugh, and battle, and work, and drink of the wine outpoured
In the dear green earth, the sign of the joy of the Lord.

Laugh and be merry together, like brothers akin,
Guesting awhile in the rooms of a beautiful inn,
Glad till the dancing stops, and the tilt of the music ends.
Laugh till the game is played; and be you merry, my friends.

Remember, laugh, and take care, my friends.

A SINGLE STEP

Ron Wilson, National FFA Vice President, Central Region

"This is a small step for a man . . . a giant leap for mankind."

A single step . . . just one tiny step - but as Neil Armstrong spoke those words and took that step, he became the first man on the moon and the dream of the centuries came true. In our endless search to achieve our dreams, we have reached to the moon and beyond, we have explored the depths of the ocean, we have even split the atom.

You and I may be searching too - not to the moon 240,000 miles away, but searching within ourselves - searching for meaning in our lives.

Six years ago, a young Greenhand began a search. He heard officers of the FFA talk about "America the Beautiful," a place where dreams could become reality. Since then, that young man has been searching for what it takes to make those beautiful dreams come true. That search has led me to this stage today.

Soon I will take my final steps as a member of this organization, so I try to search through my FFA career to find an answer that will help you achieve your dreams. As a first year student of vo-ag, I kept a daily journal and it holds the lost dreams of a Greenhand.

Dreams of being the starting quarterback and the all-star forward.

Dreams of plowing wheat fields with laser beams.

And dreams inspired by an organization of blue and gold.

The journal tells of the first sow I bought to start my farming program - how I expected her to have at least a dozen baby pigs - and how she had twins.

The journal tells of how I dreamed of what it would be like to be a chapter reporter. At the time, I never really thought I'd make it, but I took the steps to learn and I did.

Later I went to a district FFA meeting and then a state convention - and dreamed of being chapter president, district officer, maybe even state president! Of course, it was all a silly dream - but then came the steps to make it happen.

And then, one fall day like this, we came to Kansas City to the National FFA Convention. I saw the national officers from way back up in the stands of this auditorium.

As the journal tells, I marveled at what those officers did. I came away from that convention knowing I could never do those things but dreaming of what it would be like. The steps continued.



Today I stand before you after the greatest year of my life. But the other day I caught myself dreaming of what it would be like to be a chapter reporter again.

There are so many more things which could have been done. Now I'm prepared to face new challenges, but how will you achieve your dreams in the FFA and in life?

The search goes on.

Some say the answer lies in the first step - trying something new. Others say the answer is a step-by-step process, learning one step at a time.

And still, others say, at the finish line, it's the extra step that counts - that bit of extra effort.

Which one is true?

I've concluded, not a single one! No, not a **single** one, but all of them put together.

Every part is important - all based on one single step.

This year we've seen young people accomplish the unbelievable in striving for the highest goals. And also we've seen talented individuals waste their tremendous potential because they didn't try for the nearest goals.

Today the most important step for you is the **next** one. That's the answer I've found in our search for the dreams of the FFA and the dreams of America the beautiful.

This year we've traveled across this country and around the globe, searching for the true beauty of America.

I've found it in the natural abundance of this land.

I've found it in competing and laughing and sharing with young people all across America.

I found it in meeting a shopkeeper in Maine. There in his tiny store hangs an old fashioned Honorary Chapter Farmer plaque he got back before I was born. The ag teacher offered to exchange the old plaque for a new one - but the shopkeeper turned it down. He says he wouldn't take a million dollars for that old plaque.

I found it in the family I went home with one night after a banquet in Kansas - we sat down around the living room table before going to bed, read from the family Bible, and shared a simple prayer.

The true beauty of America is that this country offers you the chance to choose the direction of your life and to go as far as you want to go.

Soon, we six will take a single step unlike any we've ever taken before - we're going to walk away from the FFA. Looking back, I begin to comprehend how much my life has been touched by this organization - and the people we've come to love. The words and music of Chicago express it best.

As my life goes on I believe
somehow something's changed,
Something deep inside - a part of me,
There's a strange new light in my eyes,
Things I've never known,
Changing my life, changing me.
I've been searching so long
To find an answer.
Now I know my life has meaning.
Now I see myself as I am,
feeling very free.
Life is everything it's
meant to be.
When my days have come to an
end, I will understand
What I left behind, part of me.
I've been searching so long
to find an answer
Now I know my life has meaning.

Now I know how FFA brought meaning into my life. After six years of searching, it must be true. The answer to achieving great and glorious dreams is something as small and simple as a single step - **if** you'll decide to take it.

That's the true beauty of America.

As I close, I recall a friend of mine named Rodney. Rodney is a neighbor of ours - he lives less than a mile from my house. Rodney was a classmate of mine in vocational and a fellow FFA member. We even rode on the same school bus until he got his motorcycle.

Rod was a mechanics expert - in FFA, he was a member of our state-winning agricultural mechanics team and he always liked to work with cars and small engines.

Rod graduated one year before I did and got a job in the mechanics field.

And then, one black midnight this June, Rodney was out riding his motorcycle late when a lady ran a stop sign and smashed into him. He finally regained consciousness in the hospital and found himself totally helpless. All his limbs were broken and one arm had to be amputated.

And that was only part of the tragedy. Rodney's family had to feed him and stay with him 24 hours a day. But he had two younger sisters at home, his mother could not drive a car, his father worked at night.

That's the time the true beauty of America came through. My home community rallied around this family like never before.

The neighbors took food, they washed clothes, they drove Rodney's mom to the hospital, they stayed with him, they baby-sat the children, they took the **extra** step of love. That's what makes my dream of America so beautiful.

Today the doctors call Rodney's recovery almost a miracle. He's doing so much better than anyone expected. The doctor says he's never seen anything quite like it.

I asked Rodney's brother "How could he do so well so quickly?" The answer was simple but it tells what FFA and America and life are all about.

"Ron," he said, "He's givin' it all he's got."

FFA members, search and dream - give it all you got - and take that single step. Thank God, thank you.



A DESIRE TO BE THE BEST

Doug Loudenslager, National FFA Vice President, Eastern Region

Music plays a very important part of all our lives. We are surrounded by all styles, types, rhythms; from car radios, transistors, and stereo consoles. Whether it be the Eagles or Barbra Streisand, we all have our favorites. Each song has a story to tell, happy or sad. And so with music and Keith Burdette of the Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia FFA Chapter, I would like to share with you my thoughts about this year. A year made up of Olympic competition, Presidential politics, and a year of growth and success for the FFA. It was also the year of the Bicentennial. You and I witnessed and participated in parades, battles, Revolutionary dramas, and festivals. We read about all the famous people and events of our past, and 1976 became known as the year of the B-U-Y-centennial.

As we have dwelled in the past this year, have we forgotten that there is even a greater future? As the late Lyndon B. Johnson said, "Our land is young, our strength is great, our course is far from run." The keys that come with the future are sitting in the auditorium. These are the young people who are going to be challenged, and will accept the leadership positions in agriculture and in the world. I am sure you recognize the tune, "To Dream the Impossible



Dream." A man is as great as the dreams he dreams. What kinds of dreams do you FFA members have? Is it a dream to be the Star American Farmer or Agribusinessman, to serve as chapter president or state officer? To own a farm or business, to go to college, to be National FFA President? Is it to see your chapter receive the National Gold Emblem award? What is so impossible about that? I remember as a freshman at Ridgedale High School, I sat in the balcony at my first National Convention and saw Dan Lehmann and John McCulley perform on this very stage.

Dreams do not become realities for those who fall asleep. So many times we talk ourselves out of accomplishing what we set out to do. One of the greatest ideals that you and I can accept and live by is one of a positive attitude.

Vince Lombardi, one of the greatest football coaches in history, walked into the Greenbay Packer locker room, his first professional team, to say, "I want total dedication from every man on this squad. There is no place on this team or in the nation for a loser. We are going to be winners." The Packers became winners, three straight NFL Championships. Those championships were not theirs without that positive attitude, hard work, dedication, and a "Desire to be the Best."

Many times I have sat in history class and learned about the courage of the John Adamases, Ben Franklins, military men and many others. I have been told that these famous Americans demonstrated true courage.

Sometimes we have a fear. We have a fear to try something new, a different job or to reach out for one of those impossible dreams. Many times, that fear to try exists because of a fear to fail. Winston Churchill once said, "Courage is the first of human qualities because it insures all the others." Maybe the greatest courage is not the one that is demonstrated on the battlefield, but rather in each of our daily lives. Courage to dream, courage to believe in oneself, a courage to desire to be the best.

We are going to take our places in this fast paced world of ours. Even though we will have different roles, can't we strive to be the best farmer, agribusinessman, FFA member that we can be.

Shouldn't we try to make the most of everyday and every opportunity. Seals and Crofts had a hit song entitled, "We May Never Pass This Way Again." The opportunities that are presented to us every day may never pass our way again. Fellow FFA Members, we are the future for America. We can make the next 200 years better than the last.

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet
enough trials to make you strong
enough sorrow to keep you human
enough hope to keep you happy
enough failure to keep you humble
enough success to keep you eager
enough friends to give you comfort
enough wealth to meet your needs
enough enthusiasm to look forward
enough determination to make each day better than yesterday
enough desire to strive to be the best, for we may never pass
this way again.

THAT'S LIFE!

Leo Anderson, National FFA Vice President, Western Region

My life has many pages
Upon which I must write;
And every page must last a year
Shall it be dull or bright?

Before I start the new page
I must review the old
My life is there before me
In letters stark and cold

I must look back in retrospect upon this last year. And as I do so, I see that six individuals had the special opportunity to begin not a new life but a new lifestyle as National Officers. A lifestyle that would terminate, but yet life will go on. A chance for them to put all of their energy into this great student organization of the Future Farmers of America.

In looking back I would have given up this entire year. A year full of plane trips, hotel rooms and restaurant meals. I would have given it all up except for the fact that people made this year worth setting it aside to serve the FFA.

The places that I have seen this year, have not made the tremendous impact upon my life as have the people of this great United States. People, each one a special, unique individual with something to give to others. Individuals with different personalities, backgrounds and lifestyles.

The strangest thing is that each has given more to me than I could ever return in a lifetime. Each person that I have met this year has a special place in my heart. Because I'm now a part of all the people I have met.



The Greenhand in the State of Washington who has the desire to achieve but no opportunity to expand his program, yet he will achieve. He is now a part of me. The Officers of the Montana State Association who must have been the most sincere group of people I have ever worked with, are now a part of me. Those individuals who waded through the mud while at Farmfest '76, who cooked over a wooden stove and kept the farmstead in excellent shape. They too are a part of me.

I have dipped from the wealth of experience that each individual possesses, learning from each person that I have met. People that have felt that life is important and being themselves is a part of that life. People who believe in themselves and have worked diligently to accomplish their goals. I have learned also from those who felt life was not worth the living. Who care little about themselves, the world around them and have no goals.

I have gained from all. But most of all, I have learned from five special individuals whom I have worked with this year. Each teaching me something uniquely different about life. Because each is an individual, and I thank them.

We can learn the most from people around us. Just by talking and exchanging ideas. But as the world becomes smaller, people become colder. They care less about people as people. The clerk in the store is there only putting in his hours. Caring little about giving a smile. The stewardess on the plane serving people with a smile more often because she is paid to; not because she wants to. Feeling that nothing can be learned from people.

It's not the money, cars and help that people can give you in the future that's important. We learn from others by the little things that are done; the laughter, the handshake, and even the smile.

This year I've found people are people no matter who they are. The President of the United States is a person no more important than the Greenhand in Washington. This year has been worth the living because of the people I've met and because of the friend I had with me this entire year. One who cared about me as a person when I was up as well as when I was down. A friend who is always there. That friend is Jesus. He is the biggest reason this year was worth the living.

Have I made others happy
And helped to share their load?
Or have I left them lying
Beside the lonely road?

Have I performed a kind deed
And smiled a friendly smile?
Or have I been too busy
To stop for just a while?

So, on this New Year's morning
I'll turn the old page o'er,
And try to write more carefully
Than I have done before.

A life is too short ended;
So what that life will be,
And what I write upon the page
Is solely up to me!

Life is worth the living because of the people we meet and what we can learn from them. Give of the best of yourself to others and they will return to you so much more.

As I leave this office and the FFA, I must say to you. Life, your life is important, just be the person God intended for you to be. And people, they're the best part of life.

And to me that's life.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL FFA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Wm. Paul Gray

Program planning, setting and reaching goals, accountability and evaluation are important factors as we review the ever broadening Vocational Agriculture/FFA programs. We can be proud of outstanding accomplishments made by past and present members. These are strong indications of a continued strengthening of America's dynamic agricultural industry and the development of competent leadership in Agriculture's New Generation. The FFA has been performing a vital role in supplementing vocational agriculture by stimulating students to set and achieve higher goals in agricultural work, improve their scholarship, work to better school-community relations and become a leader while preparing for responsible citizenship. Through FFA activities, based upon needs and concerns of the members, and with the advice from dedicated instructors, thousands of FFA members have been prepared for living and working in a complex and competitive society and agriculture.

An ever increasing number of members are using their training in Vocational Agriculture/FFA to prepare themselves for many technical and professional careers in agriculture. If you desire to serve agriculture on a professional level, do so by being a chapter advisor while teaching vocational agriculture. Very few professions will offer you a greater opportunity to serve people, your community and at the same time advance in position and salary with a feeling of great personal satisfaction and pride in helping to develop Agriculture's New Generation.

Achievements just do not happen but are the result of team effort of parents, advisors, school administrators, state supervisory staffs, teacher educators, FFA officers and hard-working members. All have cooperated with the Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, U.S. Office of Education and the national staff to plan and implement relevant FFA programs. We must also recognize and pay tribute to the sponsors to the National FFA Foundation for their rewarding support. Also, the National FFA Alumni Association with state groups and local affiliates have broadened their efforts to help the local teacher and chapter.

REPORT ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Administration

A five-year plan of Center development has been approved, and the first evidence is the completion of the new three-story warehouse. This was necessary because of continued growth of all Divisions at the Center and increased need to serve FFA members. A very fine all-purpose conference room will be ready for the 1977 state and chapter officers at the summer conferences. It is fully equipped for the use of visuals and group meetings.

Membership

In 1962 the instructional program was "broadened" to include agribusiness career preparation, resulting in a steady growth in enrollment in vocational agriculture from 579,400 in 1972 to over 675,000 in 1975. Last year, those enrolled in agribusiness training exceeded the production enrollment by approximately 25,000. However, the FFA membership of 500,385 still stands at about 73% of vocational agriculture students. Therefore, we have work to do!

PROGRAM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Program Division staff is responsible for planning and expediting the great variety of programs designed for the improvement of the instructional program and development of FFA members.

Programs

Thrust '75 was implemented in the spring of 1975. This year approximately 70% of the states have been visited by the staff as a "follow up" and to assist states where needed. The results in states are fair to excellent. The new Advisor's Handbook, prepared visual aids, as well as the new handbooks on all contests, awards and activities areas are being used more readily by teachers each day. Many teacher education departments are now using Thrust '75 materials to train future advisors.

A new Student Handbook has just been written and will be field tested next year for use in the programs to be emphasized in 1978.

Food for America is continuing to increase in its popularity and benefit to chapters, promoting a better understanding of agriculture in career education. New art books, new films and promotional material has been developed. The Food for America was the main emphasis at Farmfest, where hundreds of thousands visited the FFA exhibit. It was also part of the FFA exhibit at the AVA National Convention in Houston.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

The national staff devotes considerable time and effort to the six newly elected national officers to assure they receive proper training and are prepared to serve you, the state associations and teacher education groups. Last year the national officers spoke at over 160 local banquets, conducted 48 state and chapter workshops and 17 regional and national leadership conferences. It's been a full-time job for them as they have worked tirelessly and traveled thousands of miles to fulfill their duties to the membership. They have made many friends for the FFA, visited hundreds of sponsors on the National Officers' Tour and several have traveled internationally.

STATE CONVENTIONS

At least one national officer participated in each of the 50 state conventions. They have developed an indepth understanding of member, state and national needs.

CONTESTS AND AWARDS

Eight national contests were held this year, with the addition of "Farm Management." There has been a steady growth in the number of participants in parallel with the improvements in the contests.

There are now 19 Agricultural Proficiency Awards. Here too there has been a continued growth in the number of participants in some areas. Also, some improvement in the quality of applications is taking place, but there is an overall need for improvement in both participation and quality of applications.

FFA PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION

New visuals for FFA are being produced. Among them are one-minute FFA TV spot announcements and a new 15-minute FFA concept film. Progress is on

schedule for the 50-Year History of FFA movie to be premiered at the 1977 convention. The original draft on the 50-Year History of FFA has been written and is now being edited. It is scheduled for release in 1977.

INTERNATIONAL

The WEA program is continuing to grow, both in the number of participants and involvement of countries. This year marks the First World Conference on Agricultural Education and Ag Olympics.

CAREER SHOW

The number of exhibits almost doubled this year. Thanks to the efforts of the Supervisor of the National FFA Supply Service Order Department.

BICENTENNIAL

Chapters and states completed thousands of noteworthy projects, from special programs at state conventions to rebuilding local historic shrines, developing parks and beautifying highways to make the home a more pleasant place to live and work.

As you recall, the FFA began its Bicentennial with a pageant at the 1975 convention. The FFA cooperated with Farmfest this fall by having state officers man the "Turn of the Century Farm." The Minnesota Association cooperated with the National Organization in providing an outstanding Children's Barnyard as part of the attractive FFA exhibit, which featured "Food for America." Over 12,500 FFA members registered from 523 chapters, representing 41 states. Yes, we helped Uncle Sam celebrate!

THE NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER MAGAZINE

Your National FUTURE FARMER Magazine had its best year ever. Advertising gross exceeded one-half million dollars. Circulation was at an all-time high of 520,500, and the Calendar sales were the highest ever. The Magazine has continued to use more four-color photos and carry a greater variety of excellent success stories of interest to all members. All of the above is made possible because FFA members are fulfilling their role as GOOD members and taking pride in their organization.

THE NATIONAL FFA SUPPLY SERVICE

Your Supply Service continues to grow in volume as to items sold, especially trophies, plaques, and custom-lettered merchandise. Suppliers are slow in filling inventories, which often slows delivery to you. One thing will help — plan ahead sufficiently to reduce RUSH orders. The 50th Anniversary Medallion Contest ended June 30, with over 400 entries submitted. The completed medallion will be on hand at the 1977 convention as well as many new items to help FFA celebrate 50 years of progress.

FFA FOUNDATION

In 1970, 514 sponsors contributed \$276,304.50, for incentive awards to deserving FFA members. Currently there are approximately 1,560 sponsors who have contributed over \$825,000.00. The FFA is indeed fortunate to have an ever increasing number of sponsors and additional money to reward members for a "job

Scenes of 49th National FFA Convention





well done." Many FFA members will be guests at fine meal functions hosted by companies and men who are interested in doing all possible to make "Agriculture's New Generation" everything we all wish it to be. You have one simple thing to do. Write a "thank you" to the Chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee — Mr. Robert W. Engle, Vice President, General Manager, Avco New Idea, Farm Equipment Division, Coldwater, Ohio 45826.

FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A new Administrative Secretary has initiated many new ideas into your FFA Alumni Association. These are resulting in an increased number of Life Members and spreading ideas of how Alumni members are providing service to local chapters. The Association held its Fifth National Convention. We hope your FFA experience means so much to you that you will become a member.

WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE

There have been many changes in the FFA, but always in harmony with the needs and welfare of its membership. The FFA is an integral and vital part of vocational agriculture instruction and it should always "keep in step" with the trends in agriculture with the use of needed modifications for training "Agriculture's New Generation."

When challenging FFA problems are confronted, solving them provides opportunities to be of greater service. The challenges must be considered in an unbiased manner and the outcome must be in the best interest of agriculture/agribusiness and the strengthening of the FFA so it can better serve its members. All members, advisors and state staffs are urged to work united to meet the important challenges in the following areas:

1. Continue to stress the importance of PL-740, to assure that the FFA continues as a strong and vital part of vocational agriculture in the U.S. Office of Education.
2. Reach for 80% FFA membership in 1977 and 100% in 1978 (Golden Anniversary).
3. Strive to reach 100% total involvement of all FFA members in activities designed for agricultural career preparation and personal development by 1978.
4. Each state have at least 80% of its chapters rate Superior in all existing chapter awards programs in 1977, and 100% in 1978.
5. To accomplish Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, consideration should be given to declare every student an FFA member when he/she enrolls, and they then become eligible for active involvement by paying a laboratory fee (rather than dues).
6. Strive for 80% of states recommending a candidate for national office.
7. Make use of relevant performance standards in all Agricultural Proficiency awards programs by 1978.
8. With the great variation in membership among states, but more importantly, keeping in harmony with the democratic principles we in America believe in, there **must** be a more equal membership representation of delegates at the national convention.
9. Give positive attention to "Junior FFA" by either setting up provisions under the Constitution with specific and limited activities; or arranging for Jr. FFA to be a type of mini or sub-chapter; or the Board of Directors stop the formation of these groups under the name of FFA.
10. The assignment of one Program Staff member to each FFA Region will result in state associations and teacher education departments effectively using

this person as a consultant to help improve pre-service and in-service training of vocational agriculture teachers, and to be done by all states by 1978.

11. The development of vital, concise and relevant teacher training aids is a must.
12. Conduct leadership development training programs to involve FFA members with special (economic) needs. Beginning in 1977, with one conference, let's have at least one or more for each region by 1980.
13. By 1978, lower the requirements for a national officer to be elected after one year out of high school, and the officer must serve before reaching age 20. Do not change requirements for American Farmer Degree.
14. Where applicable, states take immediate initiative in solving difficulties that prevail in providing FFA instruction and/or involvement at area schools.
15. Fulfill our role in providing extended technical assistance to Future Farmer Organizations abroad, especially in the Far East and South America.
16. Involve all state associations in an appropriate one hour live pageant to depict highlights of the 50-Year History of the FFA.
17. Hold a national seminar beginning in 1978, and every three years thereafter for state executive secretaries to facilitate program improvement and implementation.
18. Fifty percent of current active FFA members join the National Alumni Association by 1978.
19. Complete the National FFA Archives and have in total operation by 1978.
20. Begin an FFA intern program in 1977 with two interns — one in late winter and early spring and the other prior to and following the National FFA Convention.
21. Evaluate the National FFA Convention for effectiveness in the following areas:
 - a. Purposes.
 - b. Attendance
 - c. Feasibility of effective use of the H. Roe Bartle Exhibition Center.
 - d. Convention Program
 - e. Contests and Awards
22. Make certain prospective advisors receive "hands on" experience in FFA, in both pre-service and in-service training.
23. The Boards of National Officers and Directors address themselves to giving national leadership and services to all collegiate chapters.

Ending over 40 years in vocational education where I've placed great emphasis on FFA as an integral and vital part of vocational agriculture, I've been very fortunate to have a dedicated and competent professional staff of program specialists, as well as many outstanding national officers. We've made very good use of our hard working and efficient secretaries. However, I am extremely indebted to Mrs. Irene Shafer, my Administrative Aide, for her strong support and administrative help to me from my first day on the job. The encouragement and support from my wife, Edna May, has helped me over many rough spots the past 35 years.

I'll be back next year, and years following as an interested guest at the Convention and I assure you there will be a feeling of nostalgia as I "dream on" about the many events that have strengthened the total vocational agriculture program. Not necessarily at the convention, but work of national officers, national staff, state staffs, sponsors, international leaders and others interested in the welfare of agriculture and preparing youth for careers in agriculture/agribusiness.

Best wishes to all, and may God continue to bless you and the FFA.

Wm. Paul Gray Retires After 19½ Years

After 19½ years as National FFA Executive Secretary, Mr. Wm. Paul Gray announced his retirement in December 1976. The FFA Organization will surely miss this man who has given so much of his time and energy to serving young people enrolled in vocational agriculture/agribusiness and the FFA.

A native of Colorado, Mr. Gray was appointed Executive Secretary of the Future Farmers of America in June 1957. Prior to that he was assistant Professor of Agricultural Education at Colorado State University from 1953-57.

Mr. Gray earned his B.S. in Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Education from Colorado State in 1936 and later did graduate work there and at Michigan State University. He taught Vocational Agriculture in high schools at Hillsdale, Wyoming, as well as Saguache and Eaton, Colorado. During the war he was a flight instructor for the Army and later for United Airlines.

In 1946 Mr. Gray returned to Eaton and resumed his vocational agriculture teaching duties. Under his leadership the chapter earned the National Chapter Gold Emblem Award twice and three of his students earned the American Farmer Degree.

During the nearly 20 years Mr. Gray served as National FFA Executive Secretary membership in the organization grew to half a million members and incentive award funds available through the National FFA Foundation more than tripled. Under Mr. Gray's direction, the FFA held the first National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. It was the beginning of a program that now involves over 1,000 FFA officers from across the nation. Mr. Gray also organized and conducted the FFA Fellowship program in the '60's, "graduates" of which now include two State FFA Executive Secretaries, two Teacher Educators, and two current FFA staff members.

Mr. Gray has devoted considerable time and effort to international education working closely with the Future Farmers of Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, and Colombia.

Over the years Mr. Gray has become well known for his leadership in the National FFA Convention. Since 1957 Mr. Gray has introduced a number of innovations to help make the convention program more interesting and educational.

As National FFA Executive Secretary, Mr. Gray has traveled extensively, conducted conferences, met with state and national leaders in agricultural education and worked closely with the National FFA Officers and the FFA Board of Directors. Recently Mr. Gray was presented the National Safety Congress Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his service as a member of the NSC Board of Directors for the last seven years and participation in 20 National Youth Safety Congress meetings.

To all who know him Wm. Paul Gray has been "Mr. FFA" for the past 20 years. To Paul, and his wife Edna May, the Future Farmers of America Organization extends a heartfelt THANK YOU for a job well done and best wishes for a happy and leisurely retirement.



Agricultural Career Show

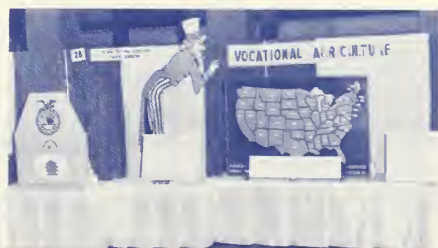
The Agricultural Career Show was established as a part of the National FFA Convention in 1966, adding a new dimension to the week-long activities. Professional societies, trade associations and educational institutions provide career materials and counseling in all areas of agribusiness. During its eleven year existence, thousands of FFA members and advisors have been able to assemble the latest information available on career opportunities in the broad field of agribusiness and natural resources. In addition, high school counselors and school administrators become more familiar with the industry of agriculture through personal contact with the professionals manning the attractive career show exhibits.

List of the Agricultural Career Show exhibitors, with their addresses are maintained at the National FFA Center, and made available to vocational agriculture teachers. These exhibitors make career materials available throughout the year.

EXHIBITORS

Action/Peace Corps
 Ag Communicators
 American Association of Agricultural College Editors
 American Agricultural Editors' Association
 National Agri-Marketing Association
 National Association of Farm Broadcasters
 American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.
 American Fisheries Society
 American Institute of Biological Sciences
 American Phytopathological Society
 American Society of Agricultural Engineers
 American Society of Agronomy
 Crop Science Society of America
 Soil Science Society of America
 American Society for Horticultural Science
 American Veterinary Medical Association
 Baker University
 Census of Agriculture
 Central Missouri State University
 Cooperative Extension Service
 Division of Basic Grants USOE
 Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute
 Farmers Home Administration
 Federal Energy Administration
 Food & Energy Council
 Jackson Mn. Area Vocational-Technical Institute
 Kansas Wesleyan College
 Mid-America Nazarene College
 National Association of Animal Breeders
 National Audubon Society
 National Farmers Organization
 National Grain and Feed Association
 National Society of Livestock Record Associations
 National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association
 NOAA—National Weather Service
 North Central Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School

Platt College
 Professional Grounds Management Society
 Rockhurst College
 Society of American Florists
 Society of American Foresters
 Tarkio College
 The American Morgan Horse Association, Inc.
 The Wildlife Society
 United States Air Force Educational Affairs
 U.S. Beef Breeds Council
 U.S. Department of Labor—Employment & Training Administration
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Youth for Understanding



Committee Reports

NOMINATING

We, the Nominating Committee, do hereby submit the following candidates for National FFA Office for the year 1976-77. After having given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants, we offer the following slate of candidates for the delegates' consideration:

President	C. JAMES BODE, JR., Geary, Oklahoma
Secretary	BRUCE MALOCH, Emerson, Arkansas
Vice President, Central Region	SAMUEL BROWNBACK, Parker, Kansas
Vice President, Eastern Region	RICHARD "RICK" McDANIEL, Nevada, Ohio
Vice President, Southern Region	DANNY SCHIFFER, Orlando, Florida
Vice President, Western Region	JULIE SMILEY, Mount Vernon, Washington
National Treasurer	JULIAN M. CAMPBELL, Richmond, Virginia
National Executive Secretary	WM. PAUL GRAY, Washington, D.C.
National Advisor	H. N. HUNSICKER, Washington, D.C.

Respectfully submitted,

KELLY GRANT, Missouri (Chairman)
 DANIEL RIPA, Nebraska
 BETSY MERCHANT, Maryland
 BRIAN ELSASSER, Illinois
 RANDY HEINRICH, California

DAVID FUSILIER, Louisiana
 CHARLES STANCIL, South Carolina
 GLENN TYSON, Arizona
 JEFFREY K. ADMAS, Vermont

AUDITING

We, the members of the 1976 Auditing Committee, after careful examination and investigation of the financial status of the FFA Organization, from the material presented us by the National FFA office, for the fiscal year July 1, 1975 through June 30, 1976, hereby make the following recommendations:

1. That the audit report of Stoy, Malone and Company be accepted as true and accurate.
2. That the National Organization commend Mr. Julian Campbell, National FFA Treasurer; Mr. Edward J. Hawkins, FFA Administrative Director, and the staff for their continuing efforts, interests and dedicated service for the betterment of the National FFA Organization.

Respectfully submitted:

RODNEY McALLISTER, Virginia, (Chairman)
 TOM BARRETT, Vermont
 STEPHEN SIEDEL, Texas

WES SMITH, Nevada
 RON KUEHN, Montana

Golden Anniversary

We, the members of the Golden Anniversary Committee, submit the following recommendations based upon a review of proposals of the 1976 Anniversary Committee and the recommendations of the National Board of Directors. Much planning and preparation has already gone into fulfilling these proposals to insure a successful Golden Anniversary celebration. Our recommendations are as follows:

1. Complete the printing and distribution of the 50-Year History of the Future Farmers of America by Dr. A. W. Tenny. It is recommended this publication be available through the Supply Service in hard-bound and paperback editions.
2. Every possible effort be made to establish the printing of a 50-year commemorative stamp.
3. Complete the 16 MM film depicting FFA activities underwritten through the FFA Foundation by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.
4. Fulfill the goal of printing the Golden Anniversary Medallion and continue the development of special Supply Service items for use during the Golden Anniversary year.
5. An appropriate Golden Anniversary slide series for use at the chapter level be completed by the 1977 Convention.
6. Develop an expanded FFA Week kit that can be used to celebrate the Golden Anniversary on the State and Chapter levels throughout the year, with special emphasis during National FFA Week.
7. Make available to all chapters an appropriate Golden Anniversary Pageant kit that is adaptable in communicating the History of the FFA.
8. Completion and distribution of appropriate television spots depicting the FFA and its role in American agriculture.
9. A combined effort by State Associations and the National Office to create a National FFA Archives exhibit at the 1977 National Convention.
10. Proper recognition as to year chartered be given to State Associations, such as:
 - a. Appropriate State Association banners be exhibited at the 1977 National Convention in charter order.
 - b. Certificates be presented at State Conventions by the national officers.
 - c. Space be provided for State Associations for National Archives display in Alexandria, Virginia.
11. A 50-year Anniversary Pageant be presented by the national officers at the Golden Anniversary Convention, featuring highlight achievements of the FFA.
 - a. Recognition be given to past national officers.
 - b. Slides be incorporated in featuring State and National achievements.

We can foresee a need of additional staff help. It is our recommendation that the members of the National Board of Directors secure this help on the basis of internship.

It is our sincere desire that all appropriated funds be advanced to the 1977-78 budget for completion of these Golden Anniversary activities.

Respectfully submitted:

KEN JOHNSON, Texas, (Chairman)
DAVID BATES, Kentucky
DAWN SPIELMAN, Connecticut
ALVIN SNYDER, Wyoming

JAY WILLIAMS, South Carolina
DAVID MITCHELL, Tennessee
JAY ALLERT, Washington
KATHY HARRISON, New York

INTERNATIONAL

We, the 1976 International Committee, submit the following recommendation for 1976-77:

In view of the past success of the FFA International Program, we support further development and success through continued effort by encouraging in-

creased participation and publicity of international activities, where the members get the opportunity to travel abroad, receiving adequate education by working and learning about the different agricultural processes as well as differences in cultural backgrounds in various countries.

We recommend further participation in the program through:

1. Encourage states to publicize FFA international activities through:
 - a. State newsletters
 - b. Radio, television and newspaper
2. Promote WEA in greater depth at:
 - a. Regional state officer workshops
 - b. State conventions
 - c. Regional conferences within the state.
3. Have past WEA participants present their own program at the regional conferences within the state.
4. Lend support to and stimulate interest in the International Ag Olympics in future years.
5. Suggest involvement of FFA Alumni affiliates on the local and state levels.
6. Encourage state associations and local chapters to make use of the WEA slide series, which is now available through the FFA Supply Service.
7. Have state advisor appoint a coordinator for the WEA program on a statewide level.
8. Recommend that the State Executive Committee and a past WEA participant hold interviews with perspective participants for approval.
9. Recommend that chapters participate in the program by acting as hosts to incoming foreign students.
10. Recommend lengthening the orientation period for participants from two to three weeks.
11. Recommend that the national organization study the possibility of an interstate exchange program and report back to the 1977 international committee.
12. Show appreciation and support to the FFA Foundation in finding sponsors for the FFA international activities.
13. We extend our sincere appreciation to Massey-Ferguson Inc. for their support of our international program.
14. We recommend that the 1976 WEA participants be listed in the 49th Convention Proceedings and commend them for their participation.
15. We thank Mr. Gamage and his staff for their assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

ROD SPURLOCK, Indiana (Chairman)
JoAnn STAFFORD, Delaware
SCOTT CORMAN, Missouri

SCOTT WILLIAMS, Maine
GARY DABBS, Arkansas
PHIL McLAIN, North Carolina

NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARDS

We, the 1976 National Chapter Awards Committee, in the hopes of increasing participation and interest in the National FFA Chapter Awards Program, submit the following report. We would like to extend special thanks and appreciation to Lilly Endowment, Inc., Dow Chemical USA, Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute and the National FFA Foundation for their outstanding sponsorship of the FFA Awards Program.

We would also like to thank Mr. Robert Kelley and Mr. Robert Seefeldt for their assistance in the operation of our committee. We submit the following recommendations:

A. Publicity

1. Develop a complete news media packet containing sample news releases and other media materials for all phases of development of National Chapter Awards Programs.
2. Encourage states to send informational newsletters to all chapters for the purpose of stimulating interest in the National Chapter Awards Programs.

3. Encourage states to develop a state officer visit program to every chapter.
4. Encourage use of audio visual aids and reference materials available to FFA chapters.
5. Recognize and award certificates of the National FFA Convention to the three states with the highest percentage of participation in each of the National Chapter Awards Programs (National Chapter, Safety and BOAC).
6. Continue use and distribution of the FFA Activity Handbook, Chapter Guide, and other reference materials to state associations and local chapters.
7. Encourage sponsor recognition on all levels of participation in the National Chapter Awards Programs.
8. Inform advisors and chapter officers of the programs and materials available to them through statewide advisor conferences and chapter officer leadership workshops.

Award Application

1. Continue thorough revisions of all applications, as necessary.
2. Encourage district or federation officers to promote the submission of award applications and increase the participation from FFA chapters.
3. Encourage state recognition of outstanding chapters that have rated Superior in the three areas of the National Chapter Awards Programs.
4. Require a minimum of six pictures, but not more than 12 for the National Chapter Awards applications.

National Chapter Safety.

1. Encourage the use of the National Chapter Safety Award Handbook for planning chapter programs.
2. Provide more space on applications for descriptive areas on Form II.

National Chapter Awards Program

1. Add to Public Relations — Division IX, a question concerning participation in the Food for America Program.
2. Encourage use of the Program of Activities Handbook in planning activities to meet requirements.

BOAC

1. Encourage the continued use of the BOAC National FFA Chapter Community Development Program Handbook and the Community Development FFA Style Handbook.

We, the 1976 National Chapter Awards Committee, challenge all FFA members and chapters to achieve full participation in the National Chapter Awards Programs.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK DEPTA, New York (Chairman)
ARTHUR J. TURNER, Texas
KEN STAMBAUGH, Wyoming

RICHARD WILKINS, Delaware
JOE WALDO, Wisconsin
PETE THORPE, Oregon

NATIONAL FFA CONTESTS

We, the 1976 National Contests Committee, wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Ted Amick, Leon Wagley, Les Thompson, Peter Johnson and all contest superintendents for their outstanding efforts in conducting the 1976 National Contests. In addition, we would like to thank Larry Judy and Everett Stoll of the American Hereford Association for computer processing contest results and the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show for supplying dairy cattle. Also, an appreciation and special thanks are extended to:

John Deere; Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.; Trans-Sphere Corporation; American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.; Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc.; Gulf Crop Protection Products, Gulf Oil Chemicals Co.; The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company; Ralston Purina Company; Associated Milk Producers, Inc.; Oscar Mayer & Co.; Jones Dairy Farm; Wilson Foods Corp.; Geo. A. Hormel & Co.; Victor F. Weaver, Inc. and the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

We submit the following recommendations:

New Contests

1. That consideration be given to holding a National Horse Judging Contest (separate from the National Livestock Contest).
2. That consideration be given to holding a National Parliamentary Procedure Contest.
3. That consideration be given to holding a National Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest.
4. That consideration be given to holding a National Creed Speaking Contest with a question and answer period following presentation of the Creed.

Improvements and Suggestions

1. That all national contestants be awarded a medal or certificate of recognition for their participation.
2. That milker unit head parts be removed from the National Dairy Products Contest.
3. That the Farm Business Management Contest Bulletin be revised and corrected.
4. That the finalists in the Livestock Showmanship Contest be required to show all three types of livestock.
5. That the Horticulture Contest be divided into a Floriculture Contest and a Nursery Contest.
6. That the selection of Regional Public Speaking Winners be standardized in all four regions.
7. That a copy of the National Contest Study Report be submitted to National Contest Committee.
8. That each state do their part in keeping the quality of the National Contests at the highest possible caliber.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK SANBORN, Ohio (Chairman)
GREG DAVIS, Pennsylvania
DAVID BOURGEOIS, West Virginia
TOM MUNTER, California

JOHN FIELD, Colorado
TAM TERRY, Texas
ROBERT FRASER, Montana
BUTCH WAGNER, Michigan

NATIONAL CONVENTION

We, the 1976 National FFA Convention Committee, offer the following remarks and suggestions:

1. We express our thanks to the Bicentennial Color Guard from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for posting the colors to open our convention.
2. We thank past National President, Alpha Trivette, for delivering the opening invocation.
3. We express our sincere gratitude to the Honorable Charles B. Wheeler and the people of Kansas City for their warm hospitality.
4. Our thanks to Colonel Charles M. Duke, Jr., USAF Reserve, for sharing his personal experiences with us.
5. Our thanks to John A. Stearns, Producer of "Agriculture... USA," television program for his support of the FFA.
6. Our thanks to Paul Anderson for his motivating program.
7. Our thanks to the Ararat Shrine Temple and U.S. Navy Country Current for providing special entertainment.
8. Our thanks to all representatives of the youth groups for their remarks.
9. Our special thanks to Mr. John Wefald, Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Minnesota, for his inspiring comments about agriculture and the FFA.
10. Our thanks to all vocational agriculture teachers and educators, especially John Murray, President of NVATA, Inc., for his inspiring remarks.
11. Our thanks to all sponsors, especially Mr. Robert W. Engle, Vice President, General Manager, Avco New Idea, and 1976 Chairman of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee for surpassing the goal set for 1976.
12. Our sincere thanks to past National FFA Secretary, Fred McClure, for his inspiring remarks to the American Farmers and all FFA Members.
13. Our thanks to Donald N. McDowell, Executive Director, National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, and member of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education, for his continued support of the FFA.

14. Our thanks to the American Royal for providing a day of festivities that was both educational and entertaining for the members, with special thanks to Miss Tanya Tucker
15. We appreciate the work of all those judges, officials and participants in the various contests, award programs and other special events related to the National Convention.
16. We thank all those who donated and sponsored special programs or events throughout the entire convention.
17. Our thanks to all members of the National FFA Band and Chorus, and special talent, and a special thanks to our convention organist, Nancy Fairless, of the Tennessee Association. We would also like to deeply thank Mr. Roger Heath, Mr. Marvin Myers and Mr. Don Erickson for their faithful service and many hours rendered to the FFA.
18. A big thanks to Bobby, Mike, Elton, Leo, Ron and Doug for representing the FFA at all its functions and highlighting the year with a dynamic convention.
19. Our thanks to National Advisor, Mr. H. N. Hunsicker; National Executive Secretary, Mr. Wm. Paul Gray; Associate Executive Secretary, Mr. Coleman Harris; National Treasurer, Mr. J. M. Campbell; the National Board of Directors; all national staff members and secretaries; state staffs and local advisors for their untiring efforts and dedication to the FFA.
20. Our deepest, heartfelt thanks to the man, who each of us as FFA members, has come to know and love and who has played a major role in making the FFA the outstanding organization that it is today. We thank him for his 20 years of service — Mr. "FFA" Wm. Paul Gray.

In an effort to stimulate more involvement in the 50th convention, and the kick-off of the 50th year, we would like to offer the following suggestions:

1. That the national officers cover guidelines during orientation for proper orations.
2. Consider announcing Regional Proficiency Award winners in a set manner by regions, so the winner is not always introduced last.
3. More space for delegate seating.
4. The continuation of early registration on Monday, which proved to be beneficial.
5. That delegate orientation be Monday morning, with committee work beginning Monday afternoon and the business session beginning Tuesday morning. We also feel an informal "Delegate-Mixer" would be appropriate on Monday night to set the proper working atmosphere for a cooperative week.
6. Encourage the use of entertainers and comedians that can relate to the FFA.
7. Encourage the continued use of political leaders, which provide an inspiration to FFA members.
8. Encourage the attendance of all past national officers and their participation throughout the entire convention.
9. A special presentation by the National Band and Chorus commemorating the 50th convention.
10. All 51 state association banners be displayed in the convention hall in the order of charter.
11. Consideration be given to presenting a pageant involving all 51 state associations.
12. A booklet with a picture and biographical sketch of all past national presidents be made available to FFA members at the 50th convention.
13. The 50th anniversary medallion be unveiled and promoted at the 50th national convention.
14. The unveiling of a commemorative FFA postage stamp at the 50th convention.
15. Every FFA member to see the 50 year History film of the FFA.
16. The filming of the highlights of the 50th convention to be televised nationally.
17. Start an FFA "Time Capsule" at the 50th convention, with items to be collected throughout the year, and to be sealed at the 51st convention. The capsule would then be opened at the 100th convention.

We sincerely hope that these suggestions will make an enjoyable 50th convention and appropriately begin our next 50 years.

Respectfully submitted,

DEE SOKOLOSKY, Oklahoma (Chairman)

BRAD SCOTT, North Dakota

BEVERLY YOUNG, Arkansas

FLAKE BRANTLEY, North Carolina

LYNN STIEGLITZ, Indiana

MAURA LONGDEN, Massachusetts

PHILLIP BLIVEN, Connecticut

NATIONAL INCENTIVE AWARDS

We, the members of the National Incentive Awards Committee, submit the following recommendations in the hope of better utilization of these awards:

A. General

1. National, regional, state and chapter award winners be recognized at their respective levels, and continue the use of the National Future Farmer Magazine for promotion of winners and sponsors, whenever possible.
2. State associations provide special training at vo-ag teachers' conferences, especially the first year advisors, for the purpose of informing them of awards available.
3. State officers be trained at regional state officer conferences to inform and motivate chapter members through the use of state leadership conferences and chapter visits.

B. Foundation Awards

1. That an achievement award check list be used as a format or basis of selection of chapter proficiency award winners.
2. That the National FFA Foundation sponsor a Chapter Star Agribusinessman Award for local chapters.

C. Achievement Awards

1. Chapters be encouraged to develop a check list for each curriculum in their vocational agriculture program.
2. State associations encourage chapters to appoint committees responsible for developing check lists.
3. Slide tape presentations and posters be made available for incentive awards.

D. Public Relations and Promotion

1. A copy of the promotional information for national incentive awards be sent directly to the chapter presidents.
2. It is recommended that general attractiveness be utilized in all promotional material, through the use of pictures, emblems, posters, etc. whenever possible.

The committee would like to express our sincere appreciation to the National FFA Foundation for funding these awards.

Respectfully submitted,

REGGIE McSHANE, OREGON (Chairman)
BEVERLY RIGGINS, Nevada
DANA MILLAR, Rhode Island
DAVID DUKART, Colorado
PHILIP NELSON, Illinois

ALAN VEDVEI, South Dakota
HAL FRANCIS, Mississippi
TAYLOR CANNON, Kentucky
CHARLES WILFONG, West Virginia

NATIONAL DEGREE PROGRAM

We, the National Degree Program Committee, after careful consideration submit the following recommendations:

1. Because of the removal of the blazer from the National FFA Supply Service catalogue, we recommend that the word "blazer" be stricken from Article VI, Section B, No. 4, under Active Membership Degrees and Privileges in the Constitution.
2. Members in two-year vocational agriculture programs be alerted to the fact that the National Constitution has been amended to allow them to receive **ALL** degrees of membership.
3. State associations inform out-of-school members, striving for the Degrees of State Farmer and American Farmer, that they must continue to pay their dues to remain eligible.
4. Better utilization of all State Farmers and American Farmers to serve as an inspiration to FFA members locally.
5. States should be encouraged to give proper recognition to the FFA Foundation for making available cash awards for State Degrees.

6. We suggest the delegate body accept the following proposed amendments:
 - a. Article V, Section B, Paragraph 1
 - b. Article VI, Section C, Paragraph 5
 - c. Article VI, Section D, Paragraph 3
 - d. Article VI, Section E, Paragraph 3
7. We encourage the continuation of Star Recognition Programs on the chapter, state and national levels.
8. We recommend and encourage the use of the Student Handbook upon its completion.

Respectfully submitted,

BUDDY DEIMLER, New Mexico (Chairman)
 JOHN MAURER, Ohio
 DANNY L. BOORE, Utah

VAUGHN L. CHASE, Maine
 JIM MIZE, Mississippi
 JAMES E. LICHT, Michigan

NATIONAL ALUMNI

We, the 1976 National FFA Alumni Committee recognize the National Alumni Association for its success in supporting the National FFA Organization, and in doing so submit the following recommendations:

1. That all state FFA associations set a goal to increase their number of FFA Alumni affiliates by 10% of their local FFA chapters.
2. That Alumni organizers realize and stress the importance of the local chapter affiliates.
3. That collegiate affiliates be organized and run in an efficient manner equal to local Alumni affiliates.
4. That chapters developing their program of activities be encouraged to involve their Alumni affiliate.
5. That school administrators be invited to become actively involved as members of local affiliates.
6. That an "Alumni Article" be a part of state association newsletters.
7. We commend the National FFA Alumni Association in establishing a membership year from January 1, through December 31, with memberships received in the months of November and December being accredited to the new membership year.
8. That state and local affiliates adopt the same fiscal membership year as the National Alumni Association.
9. That heavy emphasis be placed on Alumni membership drives during the fall to coincide with the fiscal Alumni membership year.
10. That each state convention have an Alumni booth for the purpose of recruiting new members and promoting new awareness of the FFA Alumni.
11. That each state convention have an Alumni committee report.
12. That all state FFA officers be familiar with Alumni structure in their state and the individuals holding office in that structure.
13. That all state FFA officers be encouraged to become Alumni members.
14. That each state officer obtain the Legion of Merit Citation.
15. That State Alumni Associations and local affiliates initiate incentive awards programs and/or scholarship programs.
16. The retention of Division II, Alumni Relations, in the Program of Activities.
17. Encourage states to develop a State Alumni Association and that existing associations revitalize their Alumni programs.
18. Provide an instructional packet through the National FFA Supply Service similar to the Food for America program.
19. Each state make available on a free-loan basis to local chapters, audio visual materials on Alumni.
20. That a 16-MM film be developed and provided on a free-loan basis on Alumni promotion and the workings of the Alumni organization.
21. Each state utilize area Alumni personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

PEG ARMSTRONG, Iowa (Chairman)
 CALVIN NORRIS, JR., Virginia
 EDDIE KINNARD, Georgia
 LOUIS FARISS, Oklahoma
 PAMELA TATE, Alabama

LARRY FIRKINS, Illinois
 DAVID BRONSON, New Hampshire
 MIKE KAWLESKI, Wisconsin
 BRUCE ROPER, Utah

NATIONAL FFA SUPPLY SERVICE

We, the National FFA Supply Service Committee offer the following recommendations:

1. The official dress for female members is to be black skirt, white blouse with official FFA blue scarf, black shoes and official jacket zipped to the top. Black slacks may be worn for outdoor activities, such as judging, excessive traveling and camping.
The official dress for male members is to be black slacks, white shirt, blue FFA tie, black shoes and socks and the official jacket zipped to the top.
2. The following articles to be included for sale during the 50th Anniversary:
 - a. Medallion
 - b. Belt buckle
 - c. Plastic cups
 - d. Plates (commemorative)
 - e. T-shirts
 - f. Pen sets
 - g. Dates of 50th Anniversary be printed on stationery and other items.
 - h. The jackets worn by the official voting delegates to the 50th Anniversary have a chenille emblem on the back similar to the first Official FFA Jacket.
3. A collegiate patch be available.
4. That the National FFA Supply Service offer for sale a Certificate of Merit for outstanding services contributed by outstanding individuals.

The committee takes this opportunity to commend the Supply Service for their efficiency and high standards of quality.

Respectfully submitted,

ALLAN GREEN, Maryland (Chairman)
 CHERYL A. HOLOWATH, New Jersey
 ALBERTA FOSS, Alaska
 DUSTY THRASH, Texas
 DAVID BOOTH, Texas

ROGER NEBEKER, Idaho
 ALAN B. GALLOWAY, Tennessee
 TONI MOLINA, Hawaii
 KERRY ZILLINGER, Kansas
 DAVID GASS, Tennessee

OFFICIAL FFA CALENDAR

We, the Official FFA Calendar Committee, wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Jack Pitzer and the Calendar staff for their efforts on behalf of the National FFA Organization.

To encourage and promote active participation in the FFA Calendar program, we submit the following recommendations;

Promotion

1. Establish a national photo contest. Photos to be submitted to the Calendar staff for possible use in the Official FFA Calendar.
2. Clarify the ordering forms in the FFA catalogue through color coding.
3. Send promotional materials to chapter presidents.
4. Develop a program to inform chapters how they can show businesses the advertising benefits of the FFA Calendar program.
5. Encourage state associations to promote the Calendar program.
6. Emphasize the Calendar program as a public relations tool for the FFA.
7. Encourage chapters to use calendars to show appreciation to FFA sponsors.

Also, for your consideration we would like to present two new types of calendars to be considered by first the voting delegates and second the calendar staff:

1. Wristwatch calendars.
2. Appointment calendars.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK CRAVEN, Washington (Chairman)

RANDY RANCK, Pennsylvania

SUZANNE SMART, New Hampshire

GARY STUCKI, Idaho

MARK CAVITT, Kentucky

SHIRLEY JONES, Missouri

DENNY ROGERS, Georgia

DAVID HICKS, Alabama

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES COMMITTEE

We, the members of the National Leadership Conferences Committee have reviewed and evaluated all aspects of the Washington Conference Program and Conference Staff recommendations for the summer of 1977, and make the following proposals:

Chapter Conference Program

1. Only one conference per person.
2. Consider an additional site for a conference to make transportation costs less for people in the Western Region.
3. A national officer be present for the entire week of the conferences to inspire and set examples for chapter officers.
4. If conference participation continues to grow, another week should be added when it is necessary.
5. Keep a limit of 120 participants per conference to insure the highest quality conference for the participants.

State Presidents' Conference

1. Pre-mail to all conference participants all information concerning dates, times, places, dress codes and suggested preparation for Congressional visits.
2. Invite farm groups to attend in order that each person can better understand the updated and present status of American agriculture.

Chapter and State Presidents' Conferences

1. Pre-mail to each Congressman a packet containing Congressional visits and times, factual information and other materials enabling them to better understand the organization.
2. Spend more time to advance the ability of members to improve communications and public relations with adults, with emphasis on the Congressional visits.
3. Have state officers attend the State Presidents' Conference only.
4. Continue emphasis on how to incorporate FFA with vocational agriculture.
5. Consideration be given to an additional state officers' conference for state officers not attending the State Presidents' Conference.
6. Continuation of a woman counselor for the conference.

To follow up the 1976 Summer Leadership Conferences, we recommend the following resolution go record by the 49th Annual National FFA Convention:

"Be it resolved that the National FFA Organization sincerely appreciates the efforts and cooperation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and special thanks to former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz for taking time from his busy schedule to speak to the participants of the State Presidents' Conference.

"Be it resolved that the National FFA Organization sincerely appreciates and would like to at this time issue a very special thank you to President Gerald Ford for taking time to meet with each state president individually, and to his White House staff for being so cordial and expressing the support of the FFA."

"Be it resolved that the National FFA Organization commends and appreciates the work of the National Center staff, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Sargent, Tom Engle, Tom Waldinger, Scott McKain and Sammy Peebles and the National FFA Officers for making the 1976 Conference program a complete success. We would like to wish them the best of luck in their coming years, and hope that they will have continued success in their work. We wish to say once again thank you for the successful conferences you have directed."

Respectfully submitted,

TERRY ISAACS, Florida (Chairman)

LARRY BANNISH, Massachusetts

BRAD PEYTON, Iowa

JOHN ARNESON, Wisconsin

BILL COLEY, Tennessee

LaMOYNE DREESSEN, Oklahoma

JIM HARTKE, Minnesota

NATIONAL PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

We, the members of the National Program of Activities Committee, have carefully reviewed and inspected the proposed 1977 National Program of Activities, and submit the following recommendations to the Boards of National FFA Officers and Directors for consideration:

1. Encourage the establishment of a contest to get FFA members to submit new ideas to the Supply Service by means of award incentives for the best ideas.
2. The expansion of information in The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine, by use of Foundation funds.
3. That The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine recognize at times various colleges and universities that place emphasis on agricultural education and agricultural research.
4. A year-round FFA supply of promotional radio and TV public service announcements in pre-recorded tapes and written manuscripts.
5. Under the item "Contests and Awards" Goal No. 3, be stated "Continue effective programs with all 51 chartered state associations."
6. Under the item "Contests and Awards, Goal No. 6, read "51 state teams in livestock contests."
7. The development of leadership characteristics through:
 - a. Contest teams
 - b. Public speaking
 - c. Chapter operation and business
 - d. State and national programs
8. Goal No. 1, under the item "Leadership" read, "Operate the State Presidents' Conference for 51 state presidents."
9. The continuation of visits by the national FFA officers to agri-colleges and universities.
10. The evaluation forms filled out by the national officers at the various conventions be made available to the state associations.
11. More efficiently use the national officers by providing information on their availability and by coordinating their travel among neighboring states.
12. The conduction of nine national contests, including public speaking.
13. The FFA be represented at international expositions and fairs when possible.
14. Encourage state associations to recognize throughout the year their National Foundation Donors.
15. Recommend and encourage that a regional exchange between FFA chapters and members be instituted.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN ELSASSER, Illinois (Chairman)
HENRY GIACOMINI, California
THOMAS FIEGEN, South Dakota

KIM BECK, Minnesota
REX KYLE, Texas
MITCH WEBB, Virginia

REGIONAL STATE OFFICER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

We, the members of the 1976 Regional State Officer Leadership Conference Committee, recognize the significant improvements which have been made in past years in these conferences. We identify the objectives of these conferences to be:

1. To improve communication ability.
2. To develop, emphasize and practice social graces.
3. To meet other state officers and exchange ideas.
4. To motivate and inspire state officers.
5. To develop feelings of national and organizational patriotism.
6. To encourage more "learning by doing."
7. To assist participants in evaluating themselves as persons and officers.

In pursuit of further development of these conferences we offer the following recommendations:

1. Impromptu speaking be covered in workshops.
2. Conference be structured for maximum interaction (intermingled state association room assignments, etc.)
3. Encourage the use of eye openers, group dynamics, etc.
4. All state associations be encouraged to participate in regional leadership conferences and bring all state officers.
5. Prepare news releases for newspaper, radio and TV to be filled out by the delegates at conference time and used in the media in and around the host city, and in the participant's home area.
6. Host state be responsible for arranging for local media representatives to interview various conference participants.
7. Encourage conference participants to conduct similar conferences in their home states.
8. The National FFA Board of Directors adopt an inter-regional conference program on a national basis, which would adjust the present plan to allow for interaction among states with widely varied cultural and agricultural backgrounds.
 - a. The National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees seek any additional funding necessary from a sponsor or other source.
 - b. States be encouraged to retain all present conference scholarship.

We wish to commend the 1975 Regional State Officer Conference Committee for the accomplishment of condensing the state officer handbook and making more information available, and the provision of framed certificates to conference participants.

We encourage the continuation of these recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

MIKE BRADFORD, Alabama (Chairman)
EUGENE MOYA, New Mexico
BILL SNYDER, New Jersey

ROB HOVIS, Ohio
JAY BROWN, North Dakota
TOM PALMER, Minnesota

NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER MAGAZINE

We, The National Future Farmer Magazine Committee, commend Mr. Wilson Carnes, Editor, the editorial staff, advertising staff and all persons connected with the production of the magazine for publishing an excellent and enjoyable magazine. After careful deliberation, we submit the following recommendations:

1. Sponsor a 50th Anniversary essay contest, using the theme "Agriculture's New Generation" and that the winning essay be read at the 50th National Convention by the essay winner.
2. Encourage state associations to send complimentary subscriptions of the National Future Farmer to Senators, Congressmen and state officials.
3. Encourage the continued use of variety in the magazine in order to meet the interests of the current membership.
4. Encourage chapters to obtain bulk orders of the fall issue, to distribute to incoming Greenhands of the chapter to overcome the lag in circulation processing.
5. Encourage state and chapter correspondence with The National Future Farmer Magazine.
6. Suggest that the National Future Farmer Magazine staff investigate the feasibility of having a monthly issue without compromising the quality of the present magazine.
7. Suggest that chapter rosters sent to the national office contain valid and correct names and addresses.
8. Encourage the use of the magazine in the classroom.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGELO PIAZZO, Ill, Louisiana (Chairman)
JAY SELANDERS, Kansas
DAVID TICKLE, North Carolina

ANNA PION, Rhode Island
JAY DREIBELBIS, Texas
JOANN WASSILLIIE, Alaska

National FFA Foundation Awards and Contests

STAR FARMER OF AMERICA

Since 1929, Star Farmers have been selected from the American Farmer candidates who receive the degree at the time of the National FFA Convention. A check for \$1,000 went to the Star Farmer of America, and checks of \$500 were awarded to each of the other three regional "Stars".

Star Farmer of America — Timothy H. Amdahl, Flandreau, South Dakota

Star Farmer, Eastern Region — Dwight S. Williams, Prospect, Ohio

Star Farmer, Southern Region — Roger A. Meadows, Halls, Tennessee

Star Farmer, Western Region — Douglas J. Bromiley, East Wenatchee,
Washington

STAR AGRIBUSINESSMAN OF AMERICA

Beginning in 1959 the Star Agribusinessman of America has been selected from the American Farmer candidates. The Star Agribusinessman of America received a \$1,000 award from the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Each of the other regional "Stars" received \$500.

Star Agribusinessman of America — Tony V. Pollard, Hartford, Alabama

Star Agribusinessman, Central Region — Dennis W. Weis, Green Bay,
Wisconsin

Star Agribusinessman, Eastern Region — Lynn Ray Groff, Ephrata,
Pennsylvania

Star Agribusinessman, Western Region — Wade Christensen, Thomas,
Oklahoma



NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARDS PROGRAM

The National FFA Chapter Awards Program, conducted annually by the national organization, is designed to encourage and reward chapter effort, stimulate group action among members, and encourage improvement in local chapter programs of activities. The awards program has been a valuable aid in stimulating both individual and cooperative effort, and in crystallizing chapter programs of activities into a series of worthwhile activities.

Chapters were grouped into Gold, Silver and Bronze Emblem classifications, according to their record of accomplishments in supervised agricultural occupations experience programs, cooperative activities, community service, leadership activities, earnings and savings by members, conduct of meetings, scholarship of members, recreation and participation in state and national activities.

The top "Gold Emblem" rating was awarded to 122 local chapters, "Silver Emblem" ratings went to 100 chapters and "Bronze Emblem" ratings to 88 chapters. Chapters earning awards for this year follow.

Alabama	GOLD EMBLEM	Scottsboro
	SILVER EMBLEM	Cotaco, Crossville
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Sylvania, W.S. Neal
Arizona	GOLD EMBLEM:	Gilbert, Westwood
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Chandler
Arkansas	GOLD EMBLEM:	Conway
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Stuttgart
California	GOLD EMBLEM:	Fallbrook, Mt. Whitney
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Ceres, Delta, Modesto, Morro Bay.
Colorado	GOLD EMBLEM:	Eagle Valley, Eaton-Highland, Larimer County, Sterling
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Lamar
Connecticut	GOLD EMBLEM:	Housatonic Valley
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Killingly
Delaware	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Lake Forest, Mispillion
Florida	GOLD EMBLEM:	Bartow, Brahman, Mulberry, Santa Fe "Sr.", South Sumter
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Greensboro, Groveland, Hamilton, Interlachen, Zephyrhills
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Chiefland, Moore Haven, Palatka, Santa Fe "Jr."
Georgia	GOLD EMBLEM:	Early County, Effingham County, Jeff Davis, Moultrie
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Berrien, Winder-Barrow
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Dawson County, Jackson, Murray County, Southeast Bulloch, Stephens County.
Hawaii	SILVER EMBLEM:	Waialua
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Kaneohe
Idaho	GOLD EMBLEM:	Meridian
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Fruitland, Kuna
Illinois	GOLD EMBLEM:	Galesburg, Georgetown, Malta, Mt. Carroll, Roanoke-Benson, Salem, Southwestern, Sycamore, Warren
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Ashland, Avon, Champaign, Franklin Center, Paxton, Princeville Teutopolis
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Fairbury-Cropsey, Ridge Farm, Pontiac, Wapella
Indiana	GOLD EMBLEM:	Clinton, Prairie Heights, Woodlan
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Brownstown Central, Owen Valley, Rossville
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Columbia City, Tri-County, Whitko
Iowa	GOLD EMBLEM:	Bloomfield, Buffalo Center Bison, Crestwood, Manchester, North Linn, South Hamilton, Waverly-Shell Rock

	SILVER EMBLEM:	Brokaw, Monticello, North Fayette
Kansas	SILVER EMBLEM:	Arkansas City, Atchison County, Labette County, Norton
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Erie, Hill City, Washington
Kentucky	GOLD EMBLEM:	Lyon County, Taylorsville
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Barren County
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Warren East
Louisiana	GOLD EMBLEM:	Assumption, Oak Grove, Saline, Slidell
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Comeaux, E. Broussard, Franklinton, Jena
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	South Lafourche, Winnfield
Maine	SILVER EMBLEM:	Limestone, Presque Isle
Maryland	GOLD EMBLEM:	Damascus, Gaithersburg
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Linganore
Massachusetts	SILVER EMBLEM:	Wachusett
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Essex
Michigan	GOLD EMBLEM:	Corunna, Marshall
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Cassopolis, Ubly
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Hopkins, Owosso, St. Louis
Minnesota	GOLD EMBLEM:	Cannon Falls, Eagle Bend, New Ulm, Springfield, Stillwater
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Forest Lake, Ivanhoe, Jackson, Worthington
Mississippi	SILVER EMBLEM:	Falkner
Missouri	GOLD EMBLEM:	Carl Junction, Carthage, Mountain Grove, Pilot Grove, Trenton
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Mr. Vernon, Ozark, Salem
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Albany, Cassville, Chillicothe, Montgomery County
Montana	GOLD EMBLEM:	Fairview
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Flathead
Nebraska	GOLD EMBLEM:	Ainsworth, Elgin, Kimball, St. Edward
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Loup City
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Ewing, Leigh
Nevada	GOLD EMBLEM:	Ruby Mountain
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Moapa Valley
New Hampshire	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Colebrook
New Jersey	SILVER EMBLEM:	Belvidere
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Hunterdon Hills
New Mexico	GOLD EMBLEM:	Belen
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Cibola
New York	GOLD EMBLEM:	Hamilton
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Sidney
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Holland Patent
North Carolina	GOLD EMBLEM:	South Lenoir, Sun Valley, West Columbus
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Bartlett Yancey
North Dakota	GOLD EMBLEM:	Beulah, Rolette
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Carrington
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Jamestown
Ohio	GOLD EMBLEM:	Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Jackson-Milton, Montgomery County, River View
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Bowling Green, Cardington, Marlinton, Northwestern
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Clark, Otsego, Southeastern Clark Hillsdale

Oklahoma	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Altus, Chickasha, McLoud, Morris, Owasso, Prague Broken Arrow, Holdenville, Okarche, Springer, Sulphur Clinton, Copan, Sapulpa, Tecumseh, Tishomingo
Oregon	GOLD EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Cascade, Clatsop, Silverton Canby
Pennsylvania	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Cloister, Grassland, Northern Lebanon Headwaters, Mifflinburg Manheim, State College
Rhode Island	SILVER EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Scituate Davies Vo-Tech
South Carolina	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM:	Greenville Bowman
South Dakota	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Hoven Scotland Doland, Menno
Tennessee	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Bradley, Dyersburg, Rhea County, Riverside, Rogers- ville, Warren County Polk County Dickson County, Horace Maynard, McEwen, Meigs County, Sevierian
Texas	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Grandview, Hull-Daisetta, Katy, Nacogdoches, Pleasanton, Sulphur Springs Aldine, Cleburne, East Central, Frisco, Garland, Ham- lin, Liberty, Lorena, Midway (Henrietta); Midway (Waco); Quanah, Raymondville, Tatum, Valley View Agua Dulce, Cal Farleys Boys Ranch, Dublin, Dumas, Ferris, Floydada, Fort Bend, Hughes Springs, Lindsay, Loop, Mabank, McKinney, Mission, Prosper, Riviera
Utah	GOLD EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Bear River, Millard Eagle, Sky View Box Elder
Vermont	SILVER EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Middlebury Chelsea
Virginia	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Christiansburg, Montevideo, Turner Ashby Appomattox, Carroll County William Campbell
Washington	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM:	Pasco Eatonville, Elma
West Virginia	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM: BRONZE EMBLEM:	Mannington Mason County Lewis, Ripley
Wisconsin	GOLD EMBLEM: SILVER EMBLEM:	Black Hawk, Denmark, Evansville, Granton, Green Bay East, Janesville-Parker, Monroe Black River Falls, Bloomer, Cadott, Delavan-Darien, Marshfield, Mauston, New Richmond, Viroqua, Westby
Wyoming	GOLD EMBLEM:	Albin-Pine Bluffs, Buffalo Bill, Burns Chapter

NATIONAL CHAPTER SAFETY AWARDS

The National Chapter Safety Awards Program is designed to stimulate activities by local chapters which will result in the more widespread use of safety rules, thus lessening the tremendous suffering and loss of life, time and property that is caused each year by preventable farm accidents and fires.

Each state is entitled to submit for national consideration at least two chapters or ten percent of all chapters receiving Superior Chapter awards. These applications were sent to their various regional offices where a panel of experts ranked them in the Gold, Silver and Bronze Emblem awards.

There were 33 Gold Emblem Chapters, 29 Silver Emblem Chapters and 41 Bronze Emblem Chapters. The winning chapters are as follows:

Alabama	GOLD EMBLEM:	Crossville, Scottsboro
Arizona	GOLD EMBLEM:	Westwood
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Florence
Arkansas	SILVER EMBLEM:	Conway
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Lavaca
California	SILVER EMBLEM:	Mr. Whitney
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Modesto
Colorado	GOLD EMBLEM:	Liberty, Sterling
Connecticut	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Housatonic Valley
Florida	GOLD EMBLEM:	South Sumter, Zephyrhills
Georgia	SILVER EMBLEM:	Early County, Perry
Idaho	GOLD EMBLEM:	Sandpoint
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Kuna
Illinois	GOLD EMBLEM:	Mt. Carroll, Southwestern, Sycamore, Warren
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Roanoke-Benson
Indiana	GOLD EMBLEM:	Brownstown Central
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Owen Valley
Iowa	SILVER EMBLEM:	Iowa Falls, Sac City
Kansas	SILVER EMBLEM:	Hill City
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Norton
Kentucky	GOLD EMBLEM:	Lyon County
	SILVER EMBLEM:	South Hopkins
Louisiana	GOLD EMBLEM:	Assumption, Saline
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Jena
Maine	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Limestone
Maryland	SILVER EMBLEM:	Walkersville
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Linganore
Michigan	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Cassopolis, Montague
Minnesota	GOLD EMBLEM:	Eagle Bend
	SILVER EMBLEM:	New Ulm
Mississippi	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Mantachie
Missouri	GOLD EMBLEM:	Albany
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Montgomery County
Montana	GOLD EMBLEM:	Columbus
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Flathead
Nebraska	GOLD EMBLEM:	Ewing
	SILVER EMBLEM:	St. Edward
New Jersey	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Belvidere
New York	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Salem, Warwick Valley
North Carolina	GOLD EMBLEM:	North Lenoir
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Southern Wayne

North Dakota	GOLD EMBLEM:	Leeds
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Williston
Ohio	SILVER EMBLEM:	Big Walnut, Bowling Green, Buckeye Valley
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Elgin
Oklahoma	SILVER EMBLEM:	Chickasha
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	McLoud, Ninnekah
Oregon	GOLD EMBLEM:	Silverton
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Clatsop
Pennsylvania	GOLD EMBLEM:	Cloister
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Headwaters, Little Dutchman, Northern Lebanon
Rhode Island	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Scituate
South Carolina	GOLD EMBLEM:	Greenville
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Bowman
South Dakota	GOLD EMBLEM:	Hoven
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Scotland
Tennessee	GOLD EMBLEM:	Greenback
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Dyersburg, Horace Maynard, Lebanon, McEwen, Warren County
Texas	GOLD EMBLEM:	Hull-Daisetta
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Floydada
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Klein, Marble Falls
Utah	SILVER EMBLEM:	Bear River, Box Elder
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Millard Eagle, Weber
Virginia	SILVER EMBLEM:	C.T. Smith
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Appomattox, Montevideo
Washington	SILVER EMBLEM:	Eatonville, Elma
West Virginia	SILVER EMBLEM:	Mannington
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Lewis County
Wisconsin	GOLD EMBLEM:	Denmark, Green Bay East, Monroe
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Beaver Dam, Cadott, New Richmond
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Evansville, Wisconsin Dells
Wyoming	GOLD EMBLEM:	Buffalo Bill, Burns

BUILDING OUR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

A contemporary, exciting and challenging program was recognized for the sixth time at this year's convention. The FFA-BOAC program is designed to provide total involvement of FFA members in meaningful programs designed to meet the determined needs of every community. It provides opportunities for FFA chapters to organize for action to make their community a better place in which to live and work and to take pride in telling about their accomplishments.

Gold Emblem ratings were awarded to 47 chapters, Silver Emblem to 44 chapters and Bronze Emblem to 40 chapters. Four regional winners were selected and appropriate recognition given to them at the national convention. The regional winners were:

Berrien Chapter, Nashville, Georgia — National Winner

Winterset Chapter, Winterset, Iowa — Central Region

Appomattox Chapter, Appomattox, Virginia — Eastern Region

Pasco Chapter, Pasco, Washington — Western Region

Other chapters earning National BOAC awards this year were:

Alabama	GOLD EMBLEM:	Wetumpka
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Anniston Agribusiness Center, Cotaco
Arizona	GOLD EMBLEM:	Peoria, Westwood
Arkansas	GOLD EMBLEM:	Conway
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Hope
California	GOLD EMBLEM:	Mt. Whitney
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Morro Bay
Colorado	GOLD EMBLEM:	Liberty, Windsor
Connecticut	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Killingly, Mattabeset
Delaware	SILVER EMBLEM:	Sussex Vocational-Technical
Florida	GOLD EMBLEM:	Mulberry, Santa Fe "Sr."
Georgia	GOLD EMBLEM:	Berrien, Pelham
Hawaii	SILVER EMBLEM:	Waialua
Idaho	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Castleford, Sandpoint
Illinois	GOLD EMBLEM:	Southwestern, Sycamore
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Georgetown, Mt. Carroll
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Dixon, East Pike, Roanoke-Benson
Indiana	GOLD EMBLEM:	Brownstown Central
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Greenfield Central
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Washington
Iowa	GOLD EMBLEM:	Manchester, Winterset
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Ackley-Genève, Crestwood
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Buffalo Center Bison
Kansas	GOLD EMBLEM:	Hill City
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Norton
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Columbus, Garden City
Kentucky	GOLD EMBLEM:	Lyon County
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Fulton County
Louisiana	GOLD EMBLEM:	Assumption, Provencal, Saline
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Franklinton
Maine	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Limestone
Maryland	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Linganore
Michigan	GOLD EMBLEM:	Chippewa Hills
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Ubyly
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Cassopolis

Minnesota	GOLD EMBLEM:	Fridley
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Sherburn
Mississippi	GOLD EMBLEM:	Water Valley
Missouri	GOLD EMBLEM:	Janesport
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Mountain Grove
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Aurora, Ozark
Montana	GOLD EMBLEM:	Forsyth
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Columbus
Nebraska	GOLD EMBLEM:	Ainsworth
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Rock County
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Arbor Lodge Nebraska City
Nevada	SILVER EMBLEM:	Moapa Valley, Ruby Mountain
New Jersey	SILVER EMBLEM:	Belvidere
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Phillipsburg
New Mexico	GOLD EMBLEM:	Cibola
New York	SILVER EMBLEM:	Sidney
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Greenville
North Carolina	GOLD EMBLEM:	West Carteret
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Southern
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Cary
North Dakota	GOLD EMBLEM:	Minot
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Rugby
Ohio	GOLD EMBLEM:	Big Walnut, River View
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Bowling Green
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Montgomery County
Oklahoma	GOLD EMBLEM:	Perry
	SILVER EMBLEM:	McCloud
Oregon	GOLD EMBLEM:	Clatsop
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Molalla
Pennsylvania	SILVER EMBLEM:	Brockway, Conrad Weiser, Northern Lebanon
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Berlin-Brothersvalley, Grassland, Headwaters, Penns Manor
Rhode Island	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Scituate
South Carolina	SILVER EMBLEM:	Bowman, Greenville
South Dakota	GOLD EMBLEM:	Scotland
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Chamberlain, Dells
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Doland
Tennessee	GOLD EMBLEM:	Warren County
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Loudon
Texas	GOLD EMBLEM:	Barbers Hill, Floydada
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Hamlin
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Hull-Daisetta, Katy
Utah	SILVER EMBLEM:	Grantsville
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Bear River
Virginia	GOLD EMBLEM:	Appomattox, Turner Ashby
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Christianburg
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Broadway, C.T. Smith, William Campbell
Washington	GOLD EMBLEM:	Pasco
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Auburn
West Virginia	SILVER EMBLEM:	Mason County
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Mannington, Pine Grove
Wisconsin	GOLD EMBLEM:	Bloomer, Denmark, Evansville, Green Bay East, Middleton
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Bay Port, Bonduel, Janesville-Parker, Monroe, Mt. Horeb
	BRONZE EMBLEM:	Mineral Point, Stoughton
Wyoming	GOLD EMBLEM:	Buffalo Bill
	SILVER EMBLEM:	Burns



AGRICULTURAL PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Seventy-six regional winners of the 19 Agricultural Proficiency Awards met for a luncheon with persons from government, business and industry who served as judges. The judging of each of the 19 areas was done on the basis of interviews and information submitted to the FFA by regional winners. Each national winner received a check in the amount of \$250.00 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc., and regional winners a check for \$200.00. Following are Agricultural Proficiency Award winners who were recognized at the 1976 National FFA Convention.

AGRICULTURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Name	Chapter & State	Award
LARRY NANCE	Maysville, Missouri	National Winner
DANNY L. RAY	Glennville, Georgia	Southern Regional Winner
WESLEY B. SMITH	Ruby Mountain, Nevada	Western Regional Winner
SCOTT KUENNING	New Bremen, Ohio	Eastern Regional Winner

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

DAVID LANDOLT	Mason Valley, Nevada	National Winner
RICKY PRUETT	Vilonia, Arkansas	Southern Regional Winner
WILLIAM JOHN BERRY	Blissfield, Michigan	Central Regional Winner
GEORGE A. LIPSCOMB, JR.	Aurora, West Virginia	Eastern Regional Winner

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

RICK W. HEFFELFINGER
JIMMY WHITE
DAVID WELLS
JEFF J. POTTS

Ashland, Ohio
 Perry, Georgia
 Bear River, Utah
 Denmark, Wisconsin

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Western Regional Winner
 Central Regional Winner

AGRICULTURAL SALES AND/OR SERVICE

GARY D. ROBERSON
STEVEN WADE BELLON
STEVE HEITHOFF
BRIAN DUFFY

Centralia, Washington
 Iota, Louisiana
 Elgin, Nebraska
 Clyde, Ohio

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Central Regional Winner
 Eastern Regional Winner

BEEF PRODUCTION

JAMES FRANKLIN KEAN
RICHARD M. ASKEW
IVAN BOND
JEFF TAYLOR

Louisa County, Virginia
 Caldwell County, Kentucky
 Stone County, Mississippi
 Guthrie, Oklahoma

National Winner
 Central Regional Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Western Regional Winner

CROP PRODUCTION

KENDALL FOSTER
TIMOTHY JAMES O'NEAL
BRUCE CORN
LYNWOOD D. BROADDUS

Trenton, Missouri
 Oak Grove, Louisiana
 Nyssa, Oregon
 Bowling Green, Virginia

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Western Regional Winner
 Eastern Regional Winner

DAIRY PRODUCTION

VERN A. BROWN
STANLEY C. BROWN, JR.
JEFFREY C. MILLER
MICHAEL WARREN ATTAWAY

Jonesville, Michigan
 Citronelle, Alabama
 Kutztown, Pennsylvania
 Yantis, Texas

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Eastern Regional Winner
 Western Regional Winner

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

TROY DON HENRY
LARRY RAY SPARKMAN
ROBERT MAAS
DAN FROBOSE

Stratford, Oklahoma
 Danville, Alabama
 Sleepy Eye, Minnesota
 Eastwood, Ohio

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Central Regional Winner
 Eastern Regional Winner

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

MIKE SARTORIE
JOHN P. SUMMERFORD
SUZIE TYRRELL
BILLY HUDNALL

Yellowstone of Billings, Montana
 Falkville, Alabama
 Sycamore, Illinois
 Lancaster, Virginia

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Central Regional Winner
 Eastern Regional Winner

FOREST MANAGEMENT

BINNIE NASH
BRYAN MOBLEY
DAVID UDOVICH
SETH BOETTCHER

William Campbell, Virginia
 Baker County, Florida
 Orr, Minnesota
 Eatonville, Washington

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Central Regional Winner
 Western Regional Winner

HOME AND FARMSTEAD IMPROVEMENT

PATRICK C. SHEMAK, JR.
TIM HUTCHINGS
TROY DALE TOLBERT
RONNIE A. THOMAS

Highland, Wisconsin
 Mt. Whitney, California
 Kilbourne, Louisiana
 Smith Mountain, Virginia

National Winner
 Western Regional Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Eastern Regional Winner



HORSE PROFICIENCY

ELLEN GALE MACLAUGHLIN
BETTY MCINTYRE
JOHN RIDDLE
SUZANNE DENISE ARMSTRONG

Holland Patent, New York
 Brownstown, Illinois
 Greenville, South Carolina
 Cy-Fair, Texas

National Winner
 Central Regional Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Western Regional Winner

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

ROBERT R. GREISEN
MARK A. WILLIAMS
KURT L. KEFFERSTAN
RICHARD DRAHEIM

Scappoose, Oregon
 Orlando-Colonial, Florida
 Essex, Massachusetts
 Marshfield, Wisconsin

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Eastern Regional Winner
 Central Regional Winner

OUTDOOR RECREATION

HAVEN SPECKMAN
DAVID SETTLEMIRE
ROBERT HENDERSON
KENNETH E. STAMBAUGH

Sleepy Eye, Minnesota
 Falkner, Mississippi
 Dover, New Hampshire
 Buffalo Bill, Wyoming

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Eastern Regional Winner
 Western Regional Winner

PLACEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

MICHAEL J. ESTOCK
DANNY MCKINNEY
CARL W. HARRELL
ROMAN MEZYK

Marlington, Ohio
 Russellville, Alabama
 Ellensburg, Washington
 Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

National Winner
 Southern Regional Winner
 Western Regional Winner
 Central Regional Winner

POULTRY PRODUCTION

SAM SPRUELL
KURTIS L. CARLSON
DAVID J. BERNET
JIM SMITH

Mt. Hope, Alabama
 South Hamilton, Iowa
 United, Ohio
 Lehi, Utah

National Winner
 Central Regional Winner
 Eastern Regional Winner
 Western Regional Winner

SHEEP PRODUCTION

DAN LIPPERT
MARK LOTT
JOHN BURCH
PAT ERSTROM

Danube, Minnesota
Cottondale, Florida
River View, Ohio
Vale, Oregon

National Winner
Southern Regional Winner
Eastern Regional Winner
Western Regional Winner

SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT

PHILIP M. BROER
RUSSELL L. LIMING
TIMMY SUMNER
JOHN VAN SICKLE

Iowa Falls, Iowa
Liberty, Colorado
Tift County, Georgia
Buckeye Valley, Ohio

National Winner
Western Regional Winner
Southern Regional Winner
Eastern Regional Winner

SWINE PRODUCTION

RANDY RODGERS
RICK FOGLE
STEVE SHACKELFORD
STEVE R. MEYER

Montgomery County, Missouri
Ridgedale, Ohio
Pine Grove, Mississippi
Mannford, Oklahoma

National Winner
Eastern Regional Winner
Southern Regional Winner
Western Regional Winner

NATIONAL FFA PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

The National FFA Public Speaking Contest is held in Kansas City, Missouri. It is the final elimination of a nationwide contest that started in local chapters, with winners progressing through area or federation competition, then state contests, and four regional contests.

Each of the four members who participated in the national contest already had won a medal at the local chapter level and a \$100.00 prize at the state level. The winner of the national contest received \$300.00. Other awards were \$275.00 for second, \$250.00 for third and \$225.00 for fourth. All awards and travel funds are provided by the Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc.



Each contestant spoke from six to eight minutes on an agricultural subject of his own choosing, then was subjected to five minutes of questioning by the judges. Scoring was done on the basis of speech delivery, manuscript and answers to questions.

JUDGES

Adin Hester, Stockton, California (National FFA President, 1958-59 and National Public Speaking Winner, 1967)

Sherrill D. McMillen, Chief, State Programs and Services Branch, Division of Vocational and Technical Education, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.

Mark Andrews, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. (United States Congressman from North Dakota)

TIMEKEEPERS

Marvin E. Fleming, Principal, Jefferson City Central High School, Jefferson City, Missouri
James W. Leathers, Sales Planning Manager, Bayvet Corporation, Shawnee-Mission, Kansas

SPEAKERS

First Place — Mark H. Sanborn, East Orwell, Ohio
"WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN AMERICAN FARMER"

Second Place — Bryan Buchanan, Tremonton, Utah
"WHAT ABOUT ME"

Third Place — Don Lawson, Ten Mile, Tennessee
"A TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN FARMER"

Fourth Place — Marlene Cordes, Madison, Wisconsin
"FFA IN 3-D"

What It Takes To Be An American Farmer

MARK H. SANBORN, Orwell, Ohio

With fluctuating food prices and an ever-increasing worldwide concern over the food situation, there is probably not a more controversial figure today than the American farmer. The general public is acutely aware of its dependence on food and the economic role that its cost plays in their lives, yet they seem to know little about the man who produces it.

A recent survey indicates that the average American farmer produces enough food to feed 56 people, yet how often does anyone stop to think about the necessary and vital role he plays in our lives? Perhaps only when food is in short supply or prices are high is he given a second thought. I believe this food producer for the world is a special individual, and I want consumers everywhere to know what it takes to be an American farmer.

The first thing it takes is an education that helps one develop the ability to perform many different jobs. Agriculture today is a science and requires the farmer to be knowledgeable in many diverse areas, as well as an expert in his specific field. For example, a dairy farmer who raises his own feed is not only a dairy scientist, but also an agronomist, a mechanic, a veterinarian, an accountant and a farm manager all rolled up into one.

If there is one factor that separates the American farmer from the other food producers of the world, it is his technological expertise that enables him to constantly improve and increase production. His education lasts an entire lifetime, for the modern farmer is always trying to stay abreast of the most current techno-

logical advancements so that he can make his best a little better. Our Agricultural Education system is providing people with a vital part of what it takes to become an American farmer — an effectual education.

The second important thing it takes to be an American farmer is capital — money for land, buildings, livestock, equipment and other essentials for food production.

I believe that many people outside the ag industry fail to realize the large investments a farmer copes with. To buy 300 acres of productive cropland in the area of Northeast Ohio, where I hail from, would cost over \$300,000 and purchasing the equipment to farm it could mean an additional investment of more than \$75,000. If everyone's job required an investment of that scale it would make today's unemployment statistics look like "small potatoes."

The aspiring agriculturalist knows farming is expensive, yet he still puts in the long hours of work, years of savings and careful planning which are necessary for a good credit rating. It isn't easy to acquire the capital it takes to be an American farmer.

Dean Roy Kottman of the College of Agriculture of The Ohio State University predicts that agriculture will continue to change and progress more during the next 24 years than it has throughout the history of the world prior to 1976. Farming methods being taught and practiced today may be obsolete in just a few years! With uncontrollable economic problems such as inflation, recession, and depression, it is impossible to predict the cost of farming in the year 2001. The proper education and necessary capital it takes to be an American farmer are changing almost as rapidly as the industry itself, however, I maintain that even more important than these two things, the third thing it takes to be an American farmer is the changeless qualities of a special individual . . .

The **desire to farm** is the basis for all the other qualities. This desire to produce good food is the guiding light to American agriculture, yet it takes more than just desire . . .

. . . **it takes a spirit of competitiveness.** The yearning to excel and be No. 1 has been one of the motivating factors that has made the American farmer the great food producer he is.

. . . **it takes freedom.** It would not be fair to compare the success of American agriculture to agriculture of other nations without stressing the fact that free enterprise under our democratic system has provided the incentive that has enabled our farmers to achieve their high level of production.

. . . **it takes enthusiasm.** According to Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm." Farming is no exception.

. . . **it takes responsibility.** The United Nations predicts that 12.3 billion people will inhabit this earth before the population growth levels off sometime during the next century. Feeding this hungry world takes an individual who can accept tremendous responsibility.

. . . **it takes a capacity for hard work.** The sweat of hard work is the catalyst of successful farming.

Farming is an occupation for those who want to serve others, challenge high odds and make dreams come true. He who is an American farmer **wants** to farm. With a healthy competitive spirit, he exercises the free enterprise system; he is a leader who is enthusiastic, responsible, and hard working.

When I consider what it takes to be an American farmer, I can think of no better place to obtain the education, acquire the capital, and develop those special qualities than in Vocational Agriculture and FFA. The combined program is a flexible and relevant one that helps train and develop the "total individual."

Vocational Agriculture offers a useful education; the kind of "learning by doing" education that prepares one for a career in agriculture. Aggressive classroom study is coupled with a Supervised Occupational Experience Program

which allows the student to put his newly-acquired knowledge into actual practice, as well as providing him with a means of acquiring some of the much-needed capital it takes to get started in farming.

The FFA adds an exciting dimension to this education by working to instill in its members those special qualities that make for a successful farmer. The goal of the FFA is to develop agricultural leadership, citizenship, and co-operation, and this organization is getting the job done. I can say this because I know what it has done for me.

There is an exciting future in Agriculture for the more than one-half million students wearing FFA jackets of blue and gold.

Stop and consider the things I've said. Let's give credit to the American farmer for what it took him to become the important food producer he is. The role of the American farmer is perhaps best illustrated in this short story: A small boy stood on the street corner admiring a bright, shiny new Cadillac. As his gaze drifted over the smooth lines of the beautiful machine that gave him so much pleasure, the owner of the car walked up behind him and took note of his admiring stare. "My brother gave me that car as a gift," the man said. "Wouldn't you like to have a brother like that?"

"No sir," the small boy replied, "I'd rather be a brother like that."

That's who the American farmer is — he's a brother like that to the world. I hope you realize what it takes to fulfill that responsibility. I do, and I'm proud to be an American farmer.



NATIONAL FFA CONTESTS

An important part of each National FFA Convention is the National FFA Contests. All eight National Contests — Agricultural Mechanics, Dairy Cattle, Farm Business Management, Horticulture, Livestock, Meats, Milk Quality and Dairy Foods and Poultry — are conducted in Kansas City. The winning teams and the national winners are listed below:

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS—43 State Teams Participated

FIRST PLACE — OHIO. The team was composed of James Hefner, Scott Wonders and Steve Wilson and coached by Thomas F. Walter, instructor, Lancaster High School, Lancaster, Ohio. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Steve Wilson, Lancaster, Ohio; 2. Glen Prieb, Hillsboro, Kansas; 3. Dwight Peters, Hillsboro, Kansas; 4. Ed Dahl, LeRoy, Minnesota; 5. James Hefner, Lancaster, Ohio.



DAIRY CATTLE — 47 State Teams Participated

FIRST PLACE — MISSOURI. The team was composed of William Erwin, Kenneth Dillard and Wayne Seitz and coached by W. H. Hood, instructor, Pleasant Hope High School, Pleasant Hope, Missouri. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Kenny Mannion, Scottsville, Kentucky; 2. Neal Smith, Carriere, Mississippi; 3. William Erwin, Pleasant Hope, Missouri; 4. Vernon Voth, Adair, Oklahoma; 5. Pat Maddox, Riverdale, California.

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT — 27 State Teams Participated

FIRST PLACE — MISSOURI. The team was composed of Mark Kleoppel, Dennis Hoffman and Wayne Dillon and coached by Ronald Plain, instructor, Odessa High School, Odessa, Missouri. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Dennis Hoffman, Odessa, Missouri; 2. Todd Toppen, Enderlin, North Dakota; 3. Wayne Dillon, Odessa, Missouri; 4. Lynn Orr, Smithville, Ohio; 5. Thomas Pyle, Middlebury, Vermont.

HORTICULTURE — 40 State Teams Participated

FIRST PLACE — OHIO. The team was composed of Mark Bauman, Carol Flanagan, Teresa Kline and Beth Preda and coached by Steve Moldovan, instructor, Washington Park Horticulture Center, Cleveland, Ohio, and Dennis Waldman, instructor, Glenoak High School, North Canton, Ohio. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Suzette Carpenter, Frederick, Maryland; 2. Teresa Kline, No. Canton, Ohio; 3. Denise Emley, Allentown, New Jersey; 4. Kirk Zentner, Middleton, Wisconsin; 5. Drew Carhart, Naperville, Illinois.

LIVESTOCK — 49 State Teams Participated

FIRST PLACE — KANSAS. The team was composed of Mark Westhusin, Aaron Markley and Patrick Burton and coached by Mervin Hachmeister, instructor, Plainsville High School, Plainsville, Kansas. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Randy Shorb, Hardesty, Oklahoma; 2. Kirk Kennedy, Des Moines, New Mexico; 3. Deb Stade, Jackson, Minnesota; 4. Mark Westhusin, Plainsville, Kansas; 5. Norm VonHolten, Prophetstown, Illinois.

MEATS — 37 State Teams Participated

FIRST PLACE — TEXAS. The team was composed of Len Weinheimer, Barret Klein and Dale Crenwelge and coached by Albert Usener, instructor, Fredericksburg High School, Fredericksburg, Texas. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Len Weinheimer, Fredericksburg, Texas; 2. Danny Weeks, Wauchula, Florida; 3. George Mullinix, Eskridge, Kansas; 4. Winfrey Kinzle, Perkins, Oklahoma; 5. Maynard Flamme, North Bend, Nebraska.

MILK QUALITY AND DAIRY FOODS — 33 State Teams Participated

FIRST PLACE — MISSOURI. The team was composed of Ricky Ogden, Keith Crum and Randy Adey and coached by Melvin E. Barnes, instructor, Licking High School, Licking, Missouri. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Rick Ogden, Licking, Missouri; 2. Randy Adey, Licking, Missouri; 3. Keith Crum, Licking, Missouri; 4. Mark Washburn, Craftsbury, Vermont; 5. David Fite, Sparkman, Arkansas.

**POULTRY — 36 State Teams Participated**

FIRST PLACE — VIRGINIA. The team was composed of Daniel King, David Yutzky and Melanie Burgess and coached by I. W. Diehl, instructor, Broadway High School, Broadway, Virginia. The five high scoring individuals were:

1. Paul Smith, Burns, Wyoming; 2. Brenda Gibson, Licking, Missouri; 3. Andy Dean, Prague, Oklahoma; 4. Carl Bilderback, Springdale, Arkansas; 5. Melanie Burgess, Broadway, Virginia.

First World Conference in Agricultural Education for Youth and Adult Leaders

The groundwork was laid at the First World Conference in Agricultural Education for Youth and Adult Leaders in Kansas City for greater worldwide sharing of ideas and technology in agriculture. More than 200 youth and adult leaders attended the World Conference held in conjunction with the National Future Farmers of America's annual convention in Kansas City. Countries represented were Austria, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Liberia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (Republic of China), United States of America, Venezuela, Wales, and West Germany.

Education sessions were devoted to such themes as "The World Food Situation and Prospects for Beginning Farmers," "Systems of Agricultural Education,"



"New Trends in Agricultural Education," "National Rural Youth Organizations," and "Sharing Ideas With Others."

Participants from foreign lands also competed in the First International Agricultural Olympics, matching their skills in crops and soils judging, livestock, dairy and poultry judging, tractor operation and maintenance, and such agricultural mechanics areas as carpentry, cement work, welding, and small engine trouble shooting.

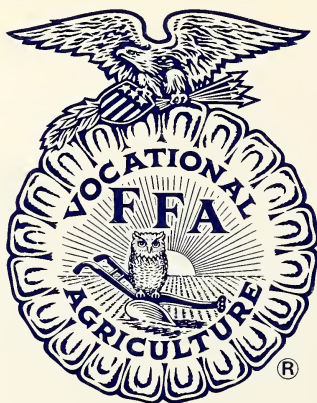
Among top winners was William Foster, Ashaway, Rhode Island, USA, who placed first in swine judging, first in poultry judging, first in fruits, second in vegetables, and tied for second in small engine trouble shooting with six others.

Other multiple winners included R. Elgin Craig, Arthur, Ontario, Canada, who placed second in dairy and swine judging and third in beef cattle judging; Andrew Kirkland of Scotland, first in dairy judging and tied for first in tractor driving and maintenance; Richard Shanks of Northern Ireland, who tied for first in concrete and masonry, was second in sheep judging, and tied Marion Pierce, England, first in vegetables and second in ornamental horticulture; for second in small engines; and Denny Grabill, Grant, Michigan, USA, who placed third in sheep judging and tied for third in soils and crops judging.

Climaxing the final session of the five-day World Conference, regional representatives from Asia, Eastern Europe, North America, South America, and Western Europe recommended that future conferences be held periodically to foster the mutual exchange of information and assistance in agricultural education, production, marketing, and organization for leadership.







Prepared and Published by
THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

In Cooperation With
The Office of Education
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

