

# new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

January/February 2001



# tickets please!

AGRICULTURAL TOURISM  
MAKES A SPLASH

# dreams of gold

THREE FORMER FFA MEMBERS  
CLAIM GOLD MEDALS IN SYDNEY

# 2000 convention

TRUE STORIES  
FROM LOUISVILLE

Karra Butters (left) and Pam Swihart visit with a mechanical cow in a simulated milking parlor at "The Farm," a new agricultural exhibit at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry



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EMOTIONS  
THAT BELONG ON THE SADDLE;  
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HUMOR  
AND THE OTHER IS PATIENCE."

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## cover story

### 4 Tickets Please!

Agricultural tourism—also called agri-tourism—is growing in popularity in the U.S. See why people want to experience agriculture.

## features



### 11 Dreams of Gold

Three former FFA members went to Australia last summer to compete in the summer Olympics. They came back with gold medals and messages to share with you.



### 16 Faces of the 73rd FFA Convention

Every FFA member who attended the 2000 National FFA Convention came home with a different story to tell. FFA New Horizons has captured a few of those stories.

## departments

### FFA Motto

Learning to do, doing to learn,  
earning to live, living to serve.

### FFA Mission Statement

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

### Agricultural Education Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

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Check  
out National  
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[www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)

On the cover: The FFA members pictured with the mechanical cow on the cover, on this page (that's Megan Schwedler above) and in the "Tickets Please!" story are students at Michigan State University. Photography by Shane Morgan.



## one on one with

# Trent McKnight

How does it feel to be national FFA president?

It's exciting, but a lot of responsibility at the same time. I probably didn't get here the way most people would think. I never progressed up the ranks like many have in the past. I was never district, area or state FFA president. But I have learned that if you continue to work hard and remain strong in your faith, anything is possible. I know it's going to be a great year, especially with the five capable people I will be working with.

Have you ever had a chance to meet Governor George W. Bush? If so, what can you tell us about him?

Yes! He is an awesome person and cares a lot about others. He is extremely charismatic and very personable. Each year he takes time from his schedule to meet with the Texas state FFA officers, and two years ago he spoke at the Texas state FFA convention. He is a strong advocate of agriculture and realizes the importance of agricultural education.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am from a small West Texas town with a population of 1,036. Growing up in a rural area gave me the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities ranging from band to FFA to sports. I enjoy hunting, working cattle and just being with friends and family.

What's your dream job?

I hope to move home to Throckmorton, Texas, and continue the family tradition of ranching and rural banking. My great-great grandfather settled in Throckmorton 125 years ago at the end of the Civil War. He acquired land and started a ranch that has been in our family ever since.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Everyone that helped me prepare for my year as a national officer said if you want to be successful in life you must know who you are, know what your priorities are and know what it is you value. When you answer these three questions, you will be on your way to a happy life.

Do you have any goals for the coming year?

As an officer team we are pumped about this coming year. We want to inspire every member to go spread the good word about the FFA. In the past, people have labeled us the "best kept secret in America." It is time we put an end to the "secret" part and let everyone know what the FFA is and the positive values we stand for. ★

## VITALS

**Hometown:** Throckmorton, Texas

**Age:** 21

**Chapter:** Throckmorton FFA

**Advisors:** Mike Martinson

**SAE:** Beef and sheep production

**Education:** Junior at Oklahoma State University

**Major:** Agricultural economics

**Favorite band:** Creed

**Last good book I read:** *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom

**Favorite Food:** Steak

**Best movie I've seen lately:** "Gladiator"

**Hobby:** Playing the saxophone

## TIMELINE

### Age

- 14** • attended my first state FFA convention
- attended my first national FFA convention
- 15** • participated in Washington Leadership Conference
- 16** • named Texas star chapter farmer
- 17** • elected Texas area IV officer
- 18** • placed tenth at state chapter conducting (parliamentary procedure)
- won grand champion lamb at San Antonio and Houston livestock shows
- elected state vice president
- 20** • earned American FFA Degree
- 21** • elected national FFA president



TMcKnight@ffa.org

National president: Trent McKnight



# Pulling His Weight at the Farm Just Got a Whole Lot Easier



## Jimmy Schueller: Winner of the John Deere Credit FFA Classic 4020 Giveaway

At the age of seventeen, FFA member Jimmy Schueller already has his feet firmly planted in the ag business. Working a successful corn, bean, and alfalfa operation in Scales Mound, Illinois, with his two brothers is hard work, but it's a living. And it's what he lives for.

At John Deere Credit, we believe in Jimmy, and all young people like him across the nation keeping the tradition of agriculture alive. And, we understand everyone needs a little help getting started. That's why we're proud to hand him the keys to a classic—a beautifully restored John Deere 4020 Tractor that will pull its weight around Jimmy's farm for years to come.

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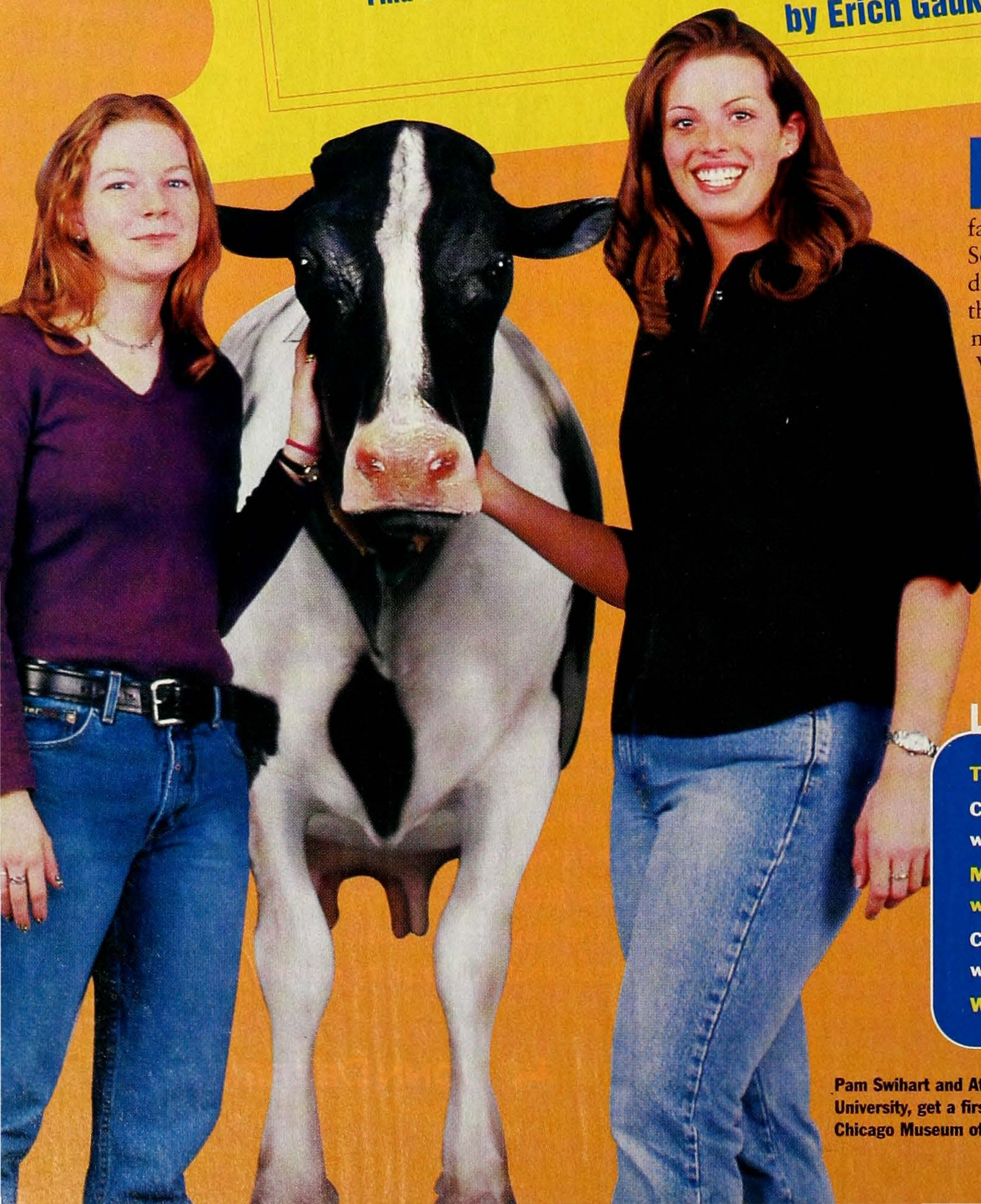
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# tickets, please!

Agricultural tourism—also called agri-tourism—is a growing trend in the U.S.  
Find out why it's happening and how you can get involved

by Erich Gaukel



**E**ight years ago, Darren Schmall, a grape grower from Madera, California, decided to try his hand at pizza farming. That's right—pizza farming. So, he created a circular half-acre farm divided into eight sections, or "slices." In them, Schmall grows all the ingredients needed to make—you guessed it—a pizza. Wheat (for the crust), green peppers, dairy cows (for cheese), tomatoes (for the sauce) and onions—it's all there.

Schmall, who still grows grapes as his core business, opened the pizza farm as a tourist attraction that he hoped would supplement his income. With thousands of local school kids, families and tour groups flocking to the farm each year, Schmall is one of a growing number of farmers nation-

## Links from this story

**The Pizza Farm:** [www.pizzafarm.org](http://www.pizzafarm.org)

**Chicago Museum of Science and Industry:**  
[www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org)

**Minnesota Zoo's Family Farm:**  
[www.mnzoos.com/partners/mnzoos/farm.html](http://www.mnzoos.com/partners/mnzoos/farm.html)

**Country Heritage Community:**  
[www.silosandsmokestacks.org/chc/](http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org/chc/)

**Walt Disney World:** [www.disney.com](http://www.disney.com)

Pam Swihart and Attalee Hardy, FFA members from Michigan State University, get a firsthand look at an agricultural exhibit at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. Photo by Shane Morgan.



wide who are making money by opening their farms to people who are curious about country life and where their food actually comes from.

### Agriculture's big picture

Peter Jorgensen, project director for Country Heritage Community, an agricultural tourism organization that covers most of northeast Iowa, is currently developing package tours that will, beginning in the next two years, take tourists through all phases of the region's agricultural heritage. Visitors will experience everything from a high-tech John Deere factory to a farm that still uses Belgian horses.

His organization's goal is to generate economic wealth in the region by getting people out to learn the story of agriculture. Field of Dreams, the farm and baseball diamond used in the Kevin Costner movie of the same name, is located in the region. So the question must be asked—if they build the tours, will people come?

Jorgensen is confident they will. He, like Schmall, believes value can be placed on the story of a particular farm and on agriculture as a whole. Jorgensen is trying to sell northeast Iowa agriculture to national and international tour groups who will tour the area by charter bus. These tourists

are typically in their sixties or older. Jorgensen says these people are not interested in sightseeing. Why? They've already seen much of America and beyond. "They want to engage with people," Jorgensen says. "They want to know what it's like to live in this place and what it's like to milk cows twice a day."

### A triple win

Gil Meyer is the director of biotechnology issues and programs at DuPont Agricultural Products in Wilmington, Delaware. Last summer, he spoke to participants in the FFA New Century Farmer program, a four-day workshop for FFA members planning on becoming production agriculturalists. As he sees it, agricultural tourism is a triple win.

The farmer, who can add a pumpkin patch, corn maze or hayride with little outlay of resources, wins with added income. The general public wins with an enjoyable and affordable family outing. Agriculture wins, Meyer explains, because these interactions help the general public "learn a little bit about agriculture and what's happening on American farms these days. Anytime we can help people appreciate what all goes into the food they pick off a shelf in the grocery store, I think we all benefit from that learning."



Above: School children get their hands dirty at the Pizza Farm.  
Left Photo: An aerial view of the Pizza Farm in Madera, California.

### Growing in the city

Agri-tourism isn't limited to just rural areas. In Minneapolis, the Minnesota Zoo recently opened its new \$4.3 million dollar Wells Fargo Family Farm exhibition. Zoo officials wanted to replace an aging petting zoo with a more state of the art educational facility. So they decided to build an area that would serve to reconnect the state's population with its agricultural roots.

Using a traditional Minnesota diversified farm as a model, the new farm portrays agriculture of the past,

present and future. Visitors can get a close look at common livestock breeds, but they can also see the world's first bovine clone and several livestock breeds in danger of becoming extinct. Jim Streater, director of the zoo's biological programs, says the farm is successful because it's a fun place to roam around, and it helps educate people about the state's agricultural products and such issues as animal slaughter, biological diversity and biotechnology.

Perhaps the most visible urban agri-tourism exhibit is

*Continued on page 6*

### Internship opportunity

Walt Disney World offers internships to college students with backgrounds or majors in agriculture, food crops, biology, horticulture, botany, biotechnology, biological engineering and related fields.

Interns give tours, maintain greenhouses and aquaculture facilities, assist in engineering designs and perform a variety of other tasks. Find out more at [www.wdwcollegeprogram.com](http://www.wdwcollegeprogram.com)

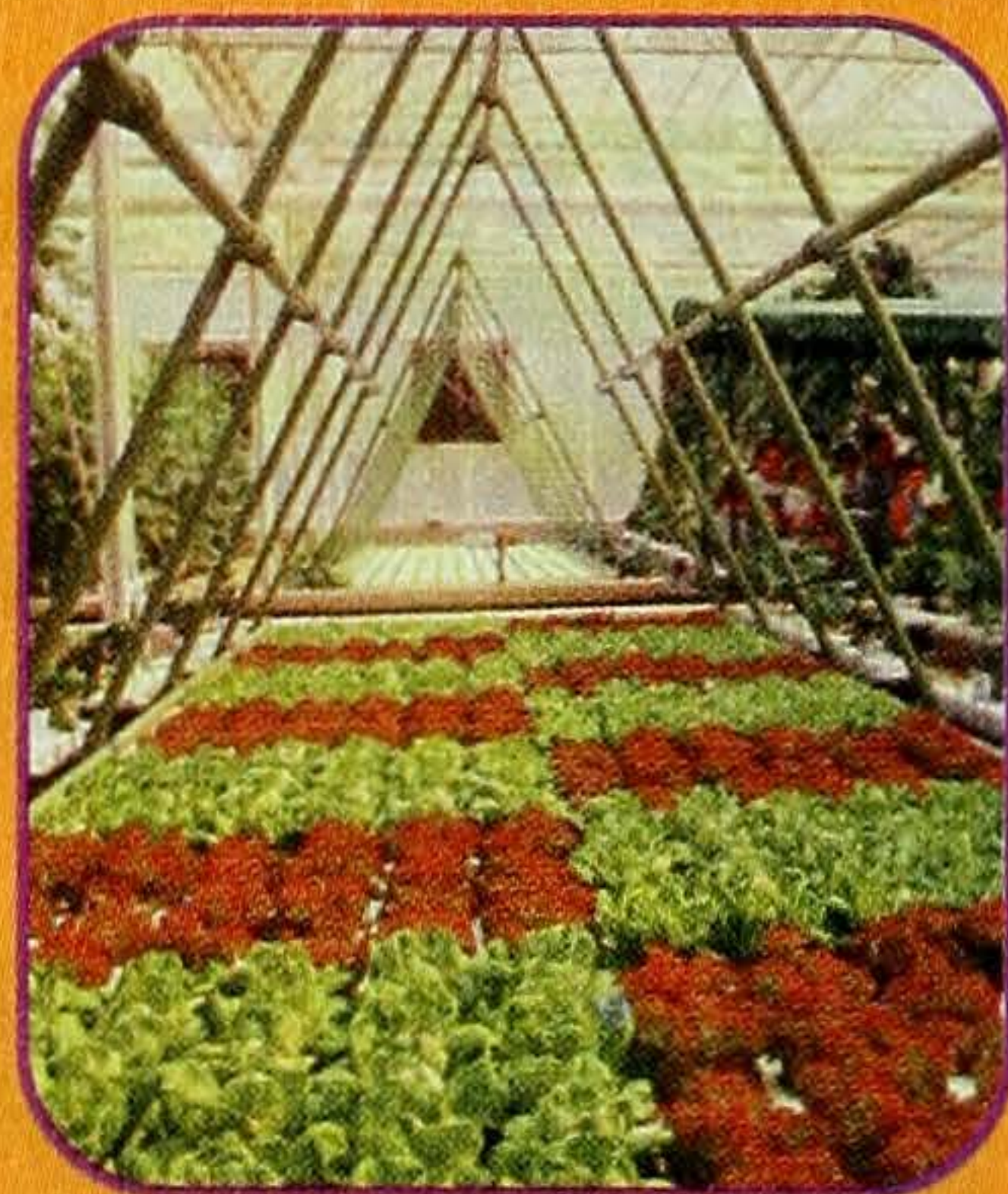


Walt Disney World's "The Land at Epcot" near Orlando, Florida. Here, guests take a boat ride through greenhouses and an aquaculture facility. Dr. Mary Schon, manager of science communications for the project, says the exhibits "are a unique and entertaining way for our guests to discover where our food comes from ... and the importance of making environmentally sound decisions for how we use the land."

### In Chicago and L.A.

In October, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry launched "The Farm," one of its newest permanent exhibits. In the 4,000 square foot space, guests can make their own cereal, view plants produced through biotechnology, witness the effects of weather on crops and climb aboard a new John Deere combine. Visitors can also find out what it's like to live on an Illinois farm.

In Los Angeles, Darren Schmall (the pizza farmer) is working with a community college that will soon be



Inside a greenhouse at Disney's "The Land at Epcot."

opening its own pizza farm. When it's open, Schmall anticipates it will draw 100,000 visitors annually. "All of a sudden, you've got maybe 100,000 people that might have had a negative opinion or lack of understanding of agriculture. Now they realize farmers are pretty important because they grow pizza—and they grow blue jeans and they grow ice cream. And visitors are paying for the education. That's the beauty of it." ★

*Find more information on the agri-tourism industry at the University of California-Davis' Agriculture Tourism website: [www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/agri-tourism/agritour.html](http://www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/agri-tourism/agritour.html)*

### Don't live on a farm?

If you're interested in getting involved in agri-tourism but don't live on a farm or a rural area, there are plenty of places you can interact with the public in an agricultural setting. Here are some places you could develop an SAE or build a career: zoos, golf courses, museums with agricultural exhibits, public gardens and forest preserves. SAE opportunities could exist also in turf grass management, horticulture, wildlife management and environmental science.

## Careers and opportunities in agri-tourism

As you've seen, agri-tourism comes in all shapes and sizes. The most common types include pumpkin patches, you-pick farms (where customers pick their own fruit or vegetables), Christmas tree farms, hayrides and petting zoos.

According to Gil Meyer at DuPont, agri-tourism is a great opportunity for a young person to set up a small business within a farm setting. As an FFA member, you are eligible to develop a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) related to agri-tourism that could fit into such proficiency award areas as agricultural communications, outdoor recreation forest management or diversified crop or livestock production. Eventually, you could make a career out of it—or at least use it as a source of added income.

If you're interested in starting an agri-tourism enterprise on your farm or land, here are some things to consider: Are you a people person? Will you have enough potential customers in your area? Can you handle the workload? Are you patient enough to stick with it until profits come? Do you have a business plan? If you can answer "yes" to these questions, you're on your way.



Kendra Butters (left) and Noelle Dunckel.



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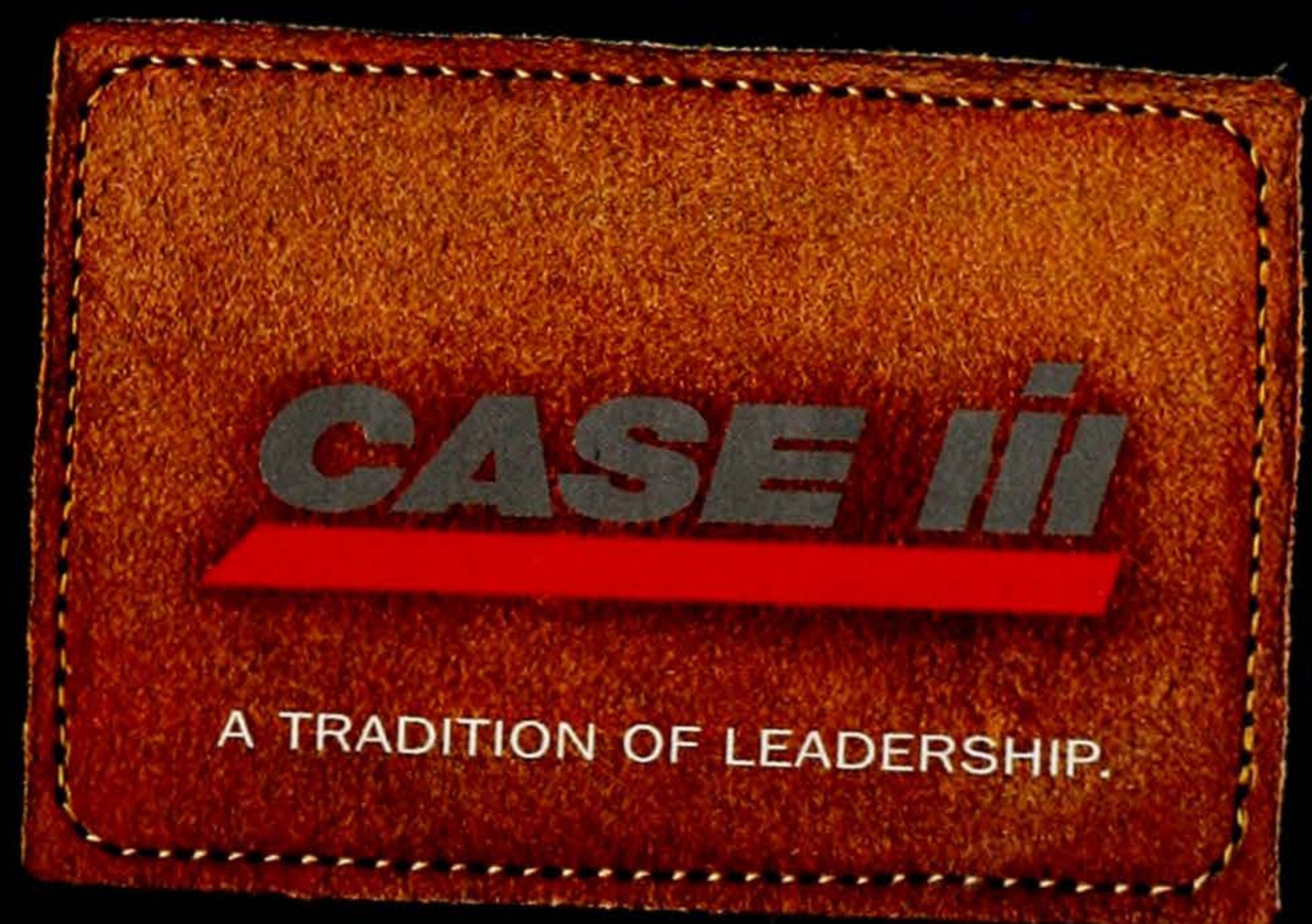


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# the giant slayer

## Rulon Gardner beats the unbeatable

**R**ulon Gardner is a very big, very strong man. At six feet, two inches, he towers over most people. At 285 pounds he's almost larger than life. It might come as a surprise, then, that Gardner, a competitor in the heavy-weight division of Greco-Roman wrestling, had the odds stacked against him in his Olympic gold-medal match.

His opponent, the Russian Aleksandr Karelin, was, by all accounts, a giant. Karelin had not lost a match since 1987.

In that time he had snagged nine World Championships, won three consecutive Olympic titles and lifted and thrown multiple 285-pound opponents—including Gardner in 1997—through the air and onto their backs. "I didn't think I had a shot," Gardner recalls. "This guy never lost. I knew the silver was guaranteed, but not the gold."

Still, Gardner wasn't about to give up without a fight.

A 1989 graduate of Star Valley High School in Afton, Wyoming, and a four-year member of the Star Valley FFA, he had spent much of his youth working long, hard hours on his family's dairy farm. He had wrestled his way to victory at the Wyoming State High School Championships his senior year, gone on to win three national championships, and had even beaten the four-time world and Olympic medalist Matt Ghaffari in the finals

of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials. He had earned his degree in physical education from the University of Nebraska. He knew where hard work could get him. And looking out on the Olympic mat, with Karelin ready to go, he knew the only way he stood a chance was if he worked like an ox.

When the match began, nearly everyone watching in Sydney and on television around the world believed Karelin would waste little time in dispatching Gardner to claim his fourth gold medal. But in the end, it was Gardner who prevailed. When the whistle finally blew, Gardner held a 1-0 lead. The gold was his. He had defeated the Russian giant.

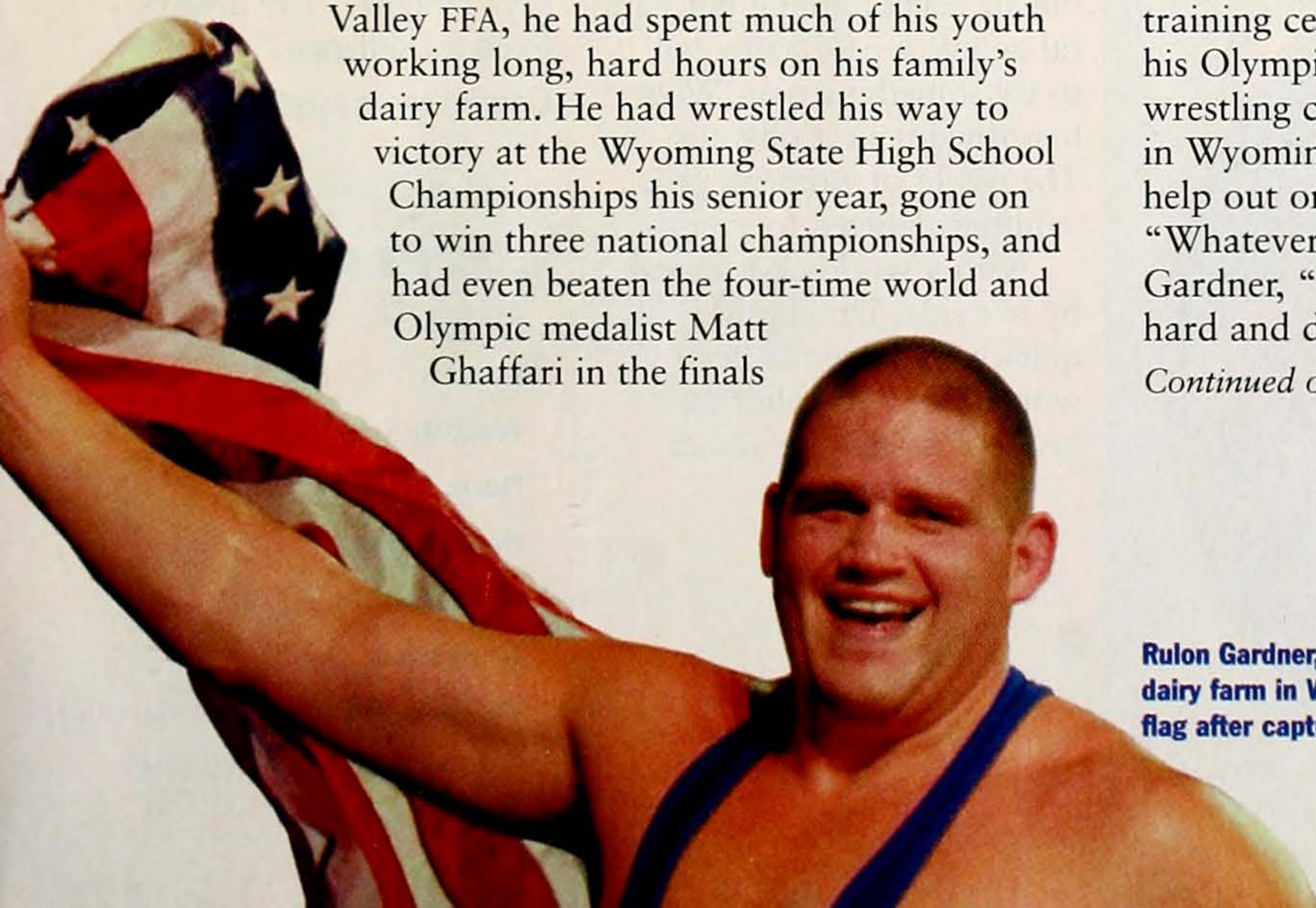
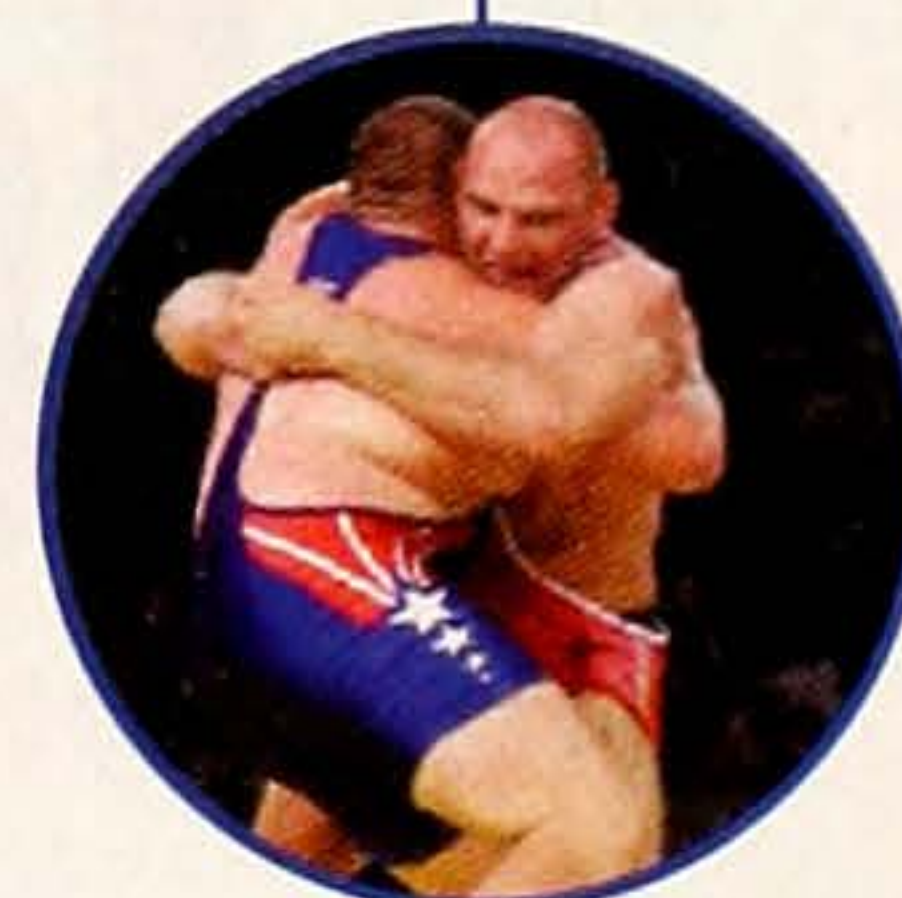
"The feeling was incredible," says Gardner, describing the moment the gold medal was draped around his neck.

"The blood, sweat and all that hard work had finally paid off."

Gardner hopes to be back in the Olympic ring in 2004, and to that end is now living in Colorado, staging clinics for young wrestlers and training at the U.S. Olympic training center in Colorado Springs. Eventually, when his Olympic days are over, he hopes to be a teacher and a wrestling coach, perhaps back in Wyoming where he can help out on the family farm.

"Whatever happens," says Gardner, "I'm going to work hard and do my best." ★

*Continued on page 12*



Rulon Gardner, who grew up on a dairy farm in Wyoming, waves the flag after capturing the gold.

### Rulon's stats

**Event:** Greco-Roman wrestling

**Height:** 6'2"

**Weight:** 285 pounds

**Born:** August 16, 1971

**Hometown:** Afton, Wyoming

**FFA Chapter:** Star Valley

**Graduated:** 1989

**Words of Advice:** "Never give up on your dreams. Never underestimate the power of your ability."



# learning to fly

Stacy Dragila is sitting on top of the world

**H**ere's a suggestion: If you're afraid of heights, don't even think about trying to pole vault. And if you do take up pole-vaulting, pray you don't ever have to compete against Stacy Dragila.

Dragila, a 1990 graduate of Placer High School in Auburn, California, and ex-treasurer of the Placer FFA, is at the very top of her sport—literally. Last summer, in winning the U.S. Olympic Trials in Sacramento, California, she set a women's world pole-vaulting record when she cleared 15 feet, 2.25 inches. She's a four-time U.S. outdoor pole-vaulting champion. She's a four-time U.S. indoor pole-vaulting champion. She's the

current world champion. And, finally, thanks to the debut of women's pole-vaulting at the 2000 Summer Olympics, she's the first-ever woman Olympic champion.

Dragila didn't pick up a pole until she was 23, but she learned almost everything she needed to succeed in the sport while still in high school. She was an athlete during her years at Placer as a star hurdler on the track team. But she mastered her competitive spirit in the FFA, which had her riding horses, roping goats and showing steers and heifers. "I spent a lot of time judging and showing," recalls Dragila. "I had two or three different steers to look after. I had to be dedicated and motivated

to work hard to meet my goals." Feeding and working her cows, traveling to various fairs, and staying in top condition for the track team was not exactly easy. But Dragila was up to the challenge. "The days were long," she says, "but it was worth it."

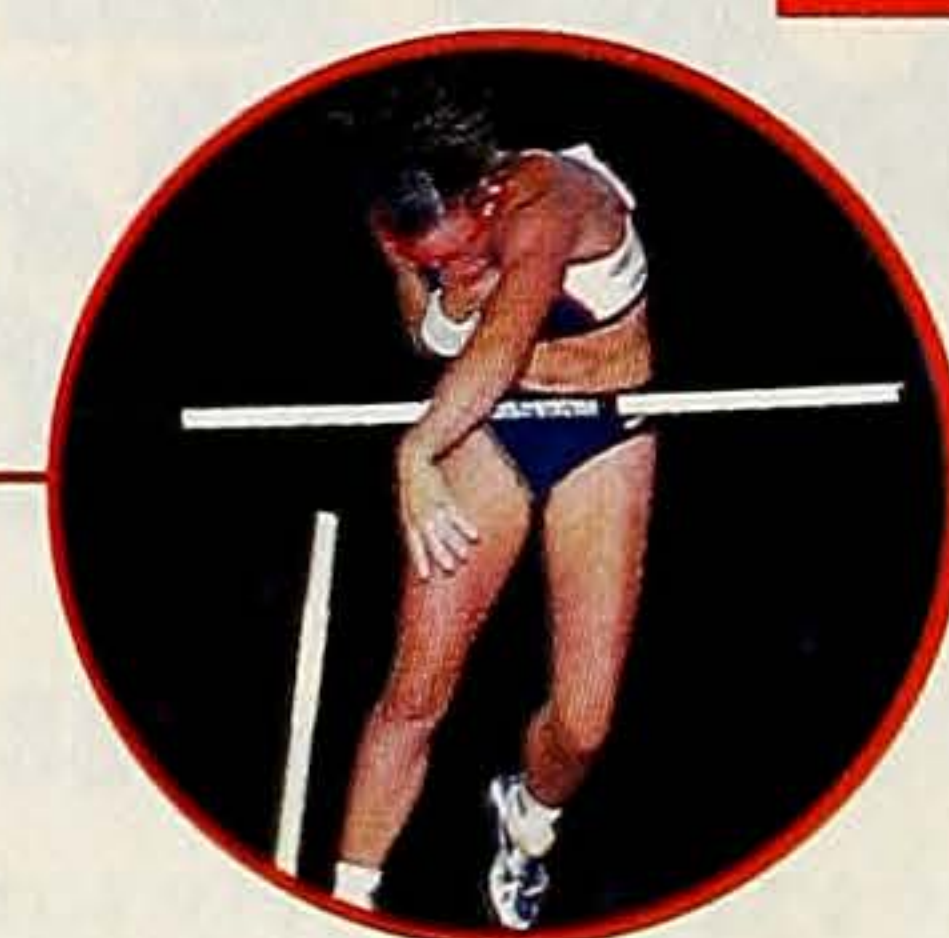
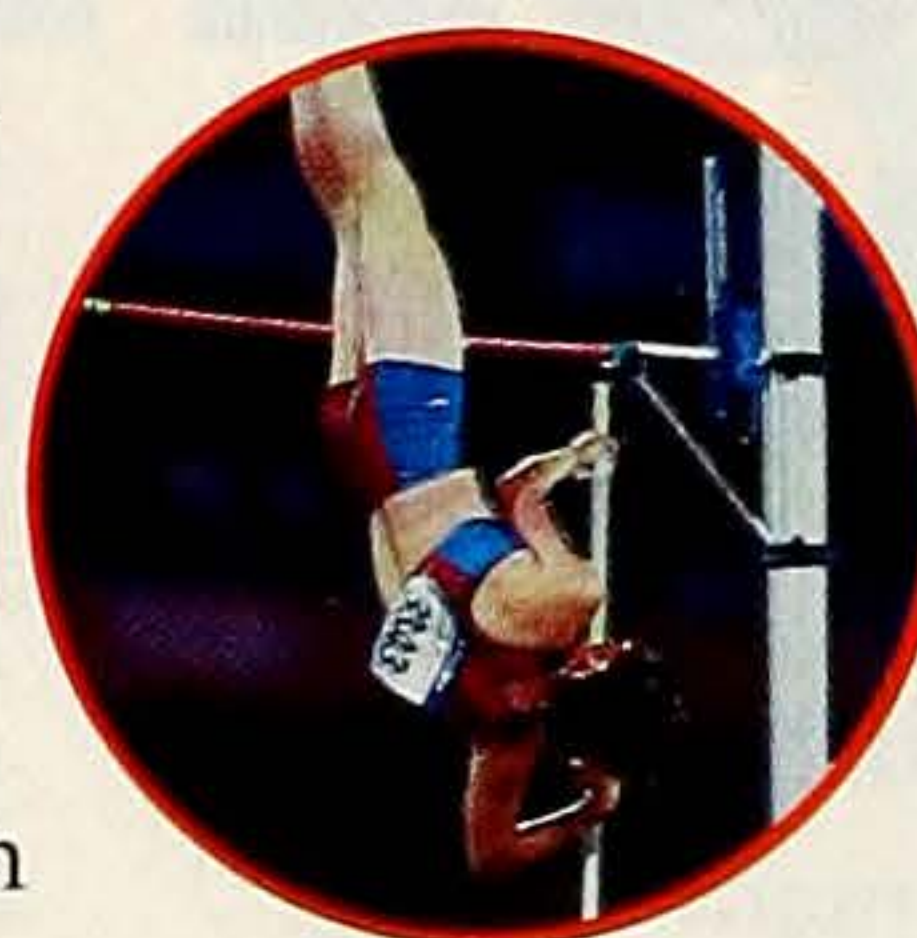
The pole-vaulting chapter of Dragila's quite-active life began in 1993. It was then, as a student and track athlete at Idaho State University, that she first launched herself into the air using nothing but natural agility, a pole and a will to try something new. What happened next is obvious: The world of women's pole-vaulting changed forever.

With a world-class coach by her side, Dragila has quickly become the best women's pole-vaulter in history. Yet despite all her

success in the years leading up to the Olympics, it was there, in Sydney, that she had what she called "the jump of my life"—a 15-foot, 1-inch vault to capture the gold.

Today, back in Idaho with her pet Labrador retriever "Sydney," Dragila's back to work. Her mission: a spot on the 2004 Olympic Team. "I'm going to keep training, keep working hard and keep setting goals," says Dragila. "I've always liked a challenge." ★

*Continued on page 14*



Stacy Dragila, who showed steers and heifers as an FFA member in California, is the world record holder in women's pole vaulting.

## Stacy's stats

**Event:** Pole vault

**Height:** 5'7 1/2"

**Weight:** 140 pounds

**Born:** March 25, 1971

**Hometown:** Auburn, California

**FFA Chapter:** Placer

**Graduated:** 1990

**Words of Advice:** "Stay committed and you'll reach your goals. Anything is possible."





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# from diamonds to gold



## Roy Oswalt baffles Korean hitters on the way to gold

**A**s far back as Roy Oswalt can remember, sports have been his thing. A standout athlete in high school, he played football, ran track and field and, of course, starred on the baseball team. Ultimately it was his pitching arm—a near-lethal weapon capable of hurling 97 mile-per-hour

fastballs with pinpoint accuracy—that took him to the top. “My coaches always told me to keep at, and I did,” says Oswalt.

The hard work paid off when, after high school, Oswalt enrolled at nearby Holmes Community College on a baseball scholarship. From there it’s been a wild ride. Drafted by the Houston Astros in 1997, he quickly established himself as a power in the professional leagues. He moved up through the ranks, and soon

found himself pitching for a double-A minor league team in Texas called the Round Rock Express, just a hop, skip and jump from the majors. In his first game with Round Rock, he struck out 15 batters and didn’t allow a single run.

The wins kept coming, and before long the U.S. Olympic Baseball Team was knocking on his door. “I wasn’t in the running at the beginning of the year,” recalls Oswalt. “I was surprised when I made the team. Really surprised. I had always wanted to play in the Olympics.”

Eventually Oswalt got over the shock and, in Australia, focused on the task at hand: winning the Olympic gold. He took to the mound twice during the tournament, both times against Korea. While he pitched Team USA to a solid victory in the first match, it was the second game—a 3-2 win in the semifinals that sent the team to the gold-medal round—that Oswalt will remember forever. “I can’t even begin to explain the

feeling,” says Oswalt, recalling how the game was won in the very last inning when a U.S. batter smashed a home-run. “It was incredible.”

The next game, against top-ranked Cuba, was for the gold, and Team USA was up to the challenge. Oswalt didn’t pitch in the game, but he did cheer his team on from the sidelines. Final score: Team USA four, Cuba zero. For the first time in history, a U.S. baseball squad had taken home Olympic gold. The players—the world, for that matter—were stunned. “It didn’t hit me until they started playing the American anthem,” recalls Oswalt. Then, of course, he knew: His Olympic dreams had finally come true. ★



Roy Oswalt, a former FFA member from Mississippi, won gold and then moved closer to the big leagues after being placed on the Houston Astros’ 40-man roster in November.



### Roy’s stats

**Event:** Baseball

**Position:** Pitcher

**Height:** 6’0”

**Weight:** 170 pounds

**Born:** August 19, 1977

**Hometown:** Weir, Mississippi

**FFA Chapter:** Weir

**Graduated:** 1995

**Words of Advice:** “If you have a talent, stick with it.”



# VIRGINIA STATE FFA NEWS

*Presented by the Virginia FFA Association,  
the Student Organization of students  
studying Agricultural Education in Virginia.*

*Chapter Chats*

## National FFA Convention Highlights



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001



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## Hello Virginia FFA!

*This year is going by so fast! I can't believe that it is the beginning of the new year already! We hope that all of you are having a good school year and that each and every one of you are having a wonderful year in FFA! I know that the State Officers are having an awesome year traveling around visiting so many great FFA chapters. The state officers have already visited over 50 chapters! The schools range from Park View Middle to Cedar Lee Middle, and Holston to Virginia Beach Tech Center! These are only to name a few. The chapters we visited have truly made us feel right at home. It's great to know that we all have made such wonderful friends and have awesome supporters in FFA. We truly hope that all of you have enjoyed the visits and activities that we bring to you. Just to leave you with a thought - We, the 2000-2001 Virginia FFA Officer Team wants you to "Dare to Believe" in Yourself, Team, and Purpose. Remember, "It is never easy reaching dreams....but those who reach walk in stardust"*

### Johanna Kocsis

Central Area Vice President

## UPCOMING DATES

February 18-24 ..... National FFA Week  
February 22 or 23 ..... State FFA Day at Capitol  
March 17 ..... State Parliamentary Procedure Event, Staunton  
March 30-31 ..... EDGE, MFE and ALD Conferences - Culpeper HS  
May 12 ..... State Forestry Event - King William HS  
June 25-28 ..... 75th State FFA Convention, Virginia Tech

## 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FFA BEAR AVAILABLE!

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Future Farmers of Virginia, the Virginia FFA Foundation is proud to present Henry C. Bear! This plush toy bear is primarily white with blue feet and hands and proudly displays the FFA emblem on his chest. He is appropriately named after Mr. Henry C. Groseclose, the Founding father of the FFA. What a neat reminder of present and past memories of FFA. Last year's Dream bear (shown in photo) nearly sold out in 3 days at the State FFA Convention. With a limited number available and each bear individually numbered, this is sure to be a prized collectable. If you are interested in inviting Henry C. Bear into your home, send \$10 per bear plus \$3 per bear - checks made payable to:

Virginia FFA Foundation  
P.O. Box 702  
New Market, VA 22844

If you have a volume order, please call Cathy Hughes, Executive Director, Virginia FFA Foundation at (540) 477-9620





## Hello Virginia FFA!

I hope each of you have been blessed with a great year so far, and I wish nothing but more success for the remainder for the year. In November we, as state officers had the chance to represent the 10,000 Virginia FFA members at the 73rd National FFA Convention. One of our duties was to serve as Delegates and discuss national issues during the Delegate sessions. By doing so we helped to make decisions for the future of our organization. This was an awesome experience where we had the chance to learn more about how the organization works and how decisions get made.

No matter what you take part in at the National Convention, it is an experience that will last for a lifetime! The sight of 40,000 plus Blue and Gold jackets is breath taking, and the energy is just as amazing. I hope that each of you sometime in life, whether as a FFA member or as a

future friend of the organization, will have the opportunity to attend a National Convention.

Speaking of Conventions...our state convention is right around the corner. Consider this a personal invitation for you to attend. This is an exciting year for the state of Virginia. We will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary in a big way! We are planning to have an extra special Convention in order to celebrate this historical year. I hope to see each of you at convention in June! Remember you are the one who makes this organization so special! I believe in you!

God Bless and Best wishes!

*Laura Grove*

State Secretary

## IS YOUR CHAPTER COOPERATING?

By: Eric Fitzgerald, State Agricultural Education Curriculum Specialist

Cooperation is the key to a successful chapter. Working with other student organizations, community groups and agencies is essential to good public relations for your FFA chapter. That's the belief that Patrick County High School FFA members have. The Agricultural Business classes at Patrick County High School are currently working with Fashion Design classes to construct display racks to be used in making displays. It all started when a Fashion Design teacher asked advisor, Mr. Roland Hall, if he could make a display stand for her class. Mr. Hall said yes and the order

came in for eight of the racks. "I didn't know that they wanted that many," said Mr. Hall. "I mentioned it to the class and they said that they would like to build them as a project. The students have really taken a lot of pride in it." The project required the students to cut some irregular shapes. FFA members Danny Lawson, Jeremy Collins and Jason Meadows came up with a solution to the problem. According to Lawson and Collins, "We just used a new chop saw blade as a guide and cut them with a jig saw." The display stands should be finished before the end of the semester.

Projects that sharpen FFA members' skills have always been an important part of the agricultural mechanics program. Community service and cooperation has been key to successful FFA chapters since the beginning of our co-curricular organization. By combining the two, the Agricultural Education program becomes an essential part of the school and community. So, the Patrick County FFA chapter leaves you with this question: "Is your chapter cooperating?"

## The 2001 Virginia Summer Residential Governor's School for Agriculture at Virginia Tech

**J**he faculty, staff, and administration of Virginia Tech will offer a world-class Summer Residential Governor's School for Agriculture beginning in summer 2001. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will serve as the administrative unit and host College, with collaboration from and in cooperation with the College of Natural Resources, College of Human Resources and Education, and Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Mission** ~ The School's mission will be to provide hands-on, cutting-edge scientific and academic instruction to these future leaders and scientists to develop their understanding of the scope, opportunities, challenges, and both academic and scientific rigor of the broad fields of agriculture and natural resources.

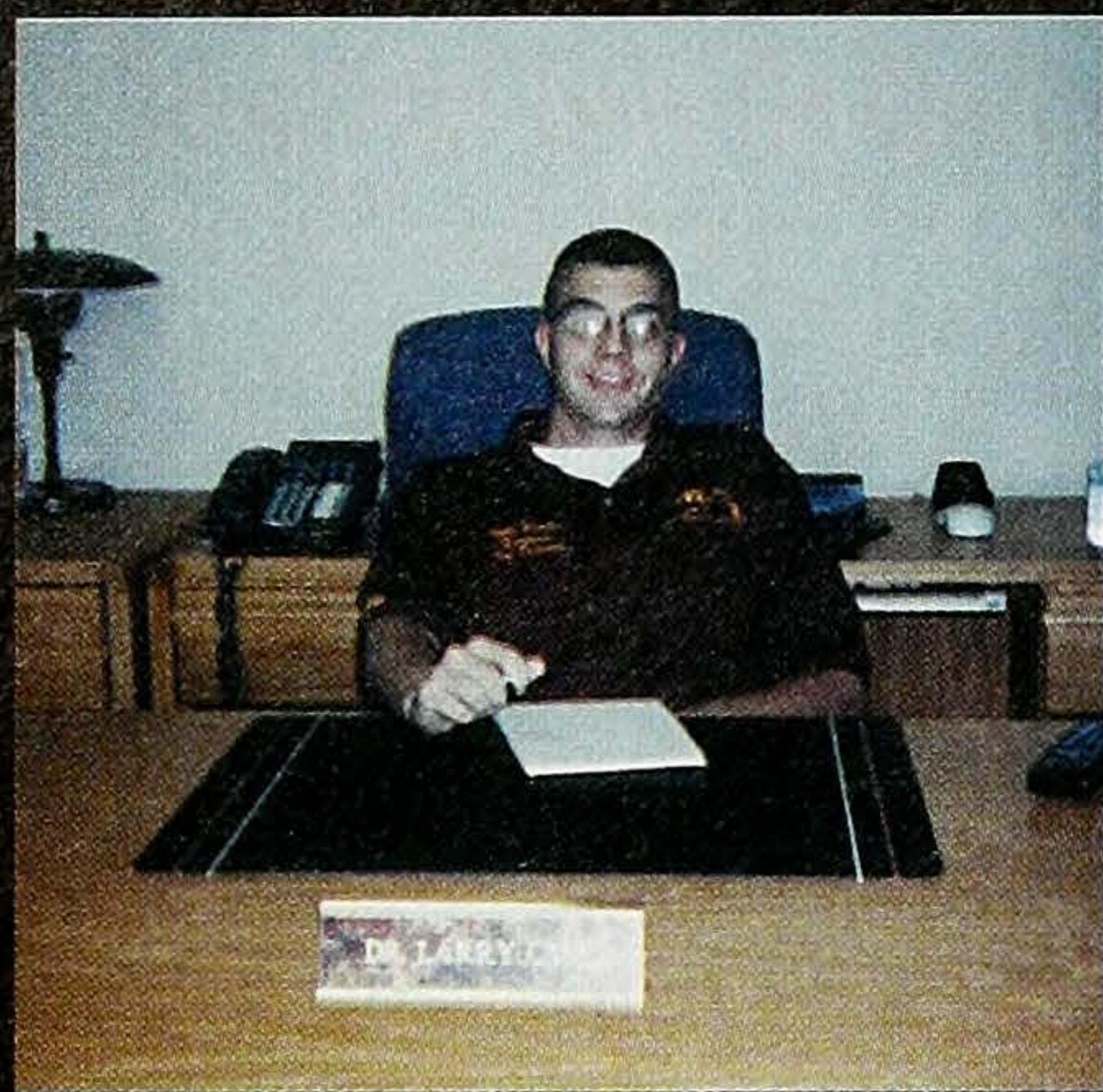
**Curriculum** ~ Each student will take six core courses. Core Courses 1-4 will be discipline-based and will be taught by university faculty members. Core Course 5, Computer Applications, will be graduated to beginning, intermediate, and advanced entry skill levels. Core Course 6 will be a communications course designed to provide multimedia and presentation skills that will build the students' ability to prepare and deliver multimedia-based professional-quality presentations.

Each student will request a "Major." Students in each Major will make up a cohort, which will consist of approximately 20 students. A Governor's School Leader will be assigned to work full-time with the cohort of students in that major. Students in a given cohort will complete the same two specialized courses designed to provide major-specific instruction and to

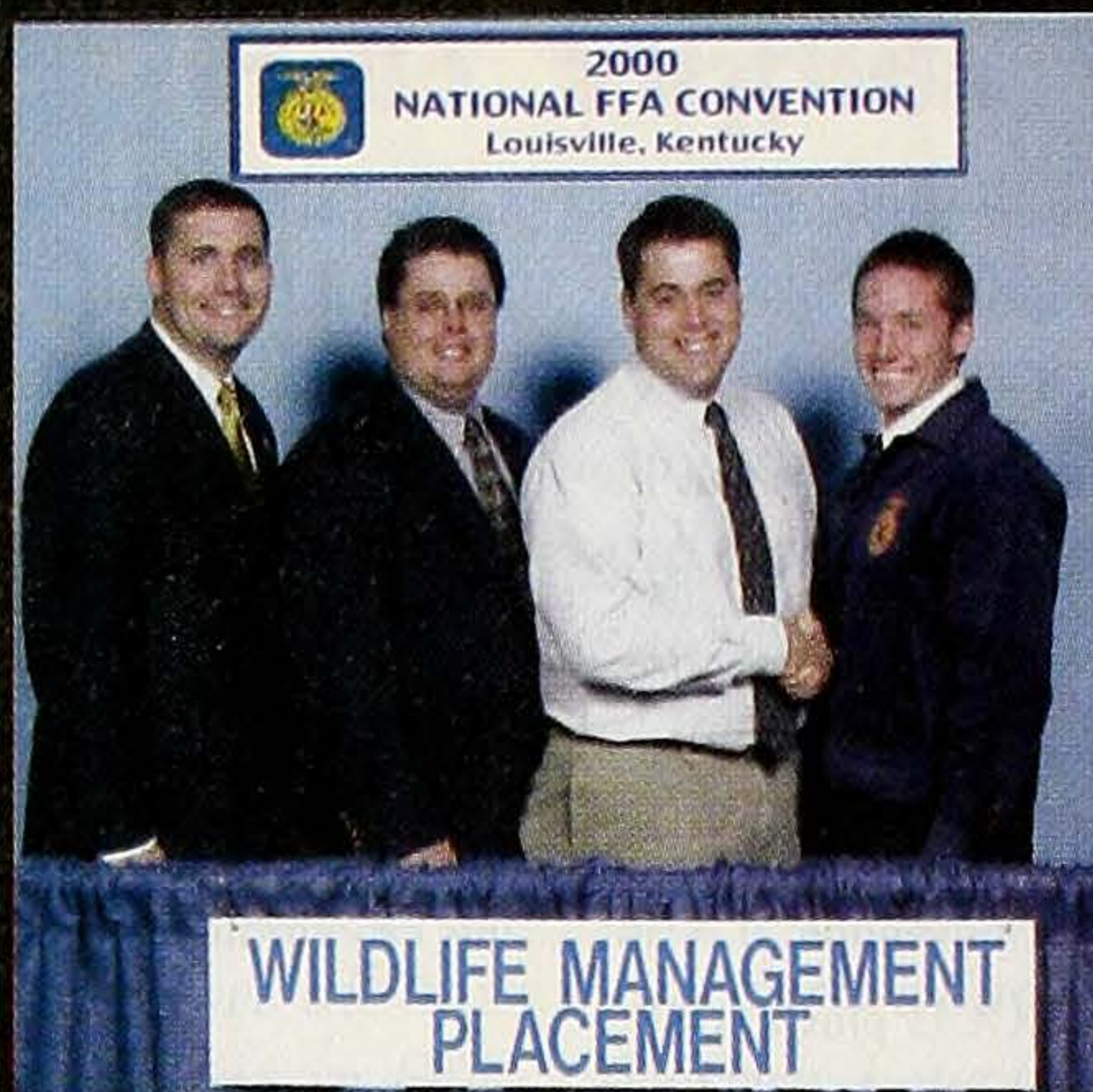
prepare the students to work on major-specific projects.

Students in each cohort will be divided into cooperative work groups based on interest, to undertake an Independent Group Project (IGP). The IGPs will be developed by faculty members in each of the academic major areas to expand on and provide application in the content of the major. Each cooperative work group will be mentored by a faculty member who developed the respective IGP. The Governor's School Leader for the respective cohort will provide direct assistance and continuous mentoring for the work groups/IGPs for his or her cohort. The IGPs will provide the basis for the Symposium and Poster Session on the last full day of the School, to which high school teachers and parents will be invited.





While touring the National FFA Center, Northern Area Vice President Adam Wampler, got the chance to sit in the chair of the National FFA Advisor, Dr. Larry Case.



Charles Simmons from Central HS is being congratulated as a national finalist in the Wildlife Management Placement Proficiency Award.



Becky Mellott enjoys the Career Show at the national convention.



Seventy five members and advisors met at the Rockbridge County Armory for a BARC Federation leadership training day with four of the State FFA officers. The advisors served grilled hamburgers with all the fixins' for the group.



Under the watchful eye of Advisor, Roland Hall, FFA members Jeremy Collins, Danny Lawson and Jason Meadows construct a display for the Fashion Design class at Patrick County High School.

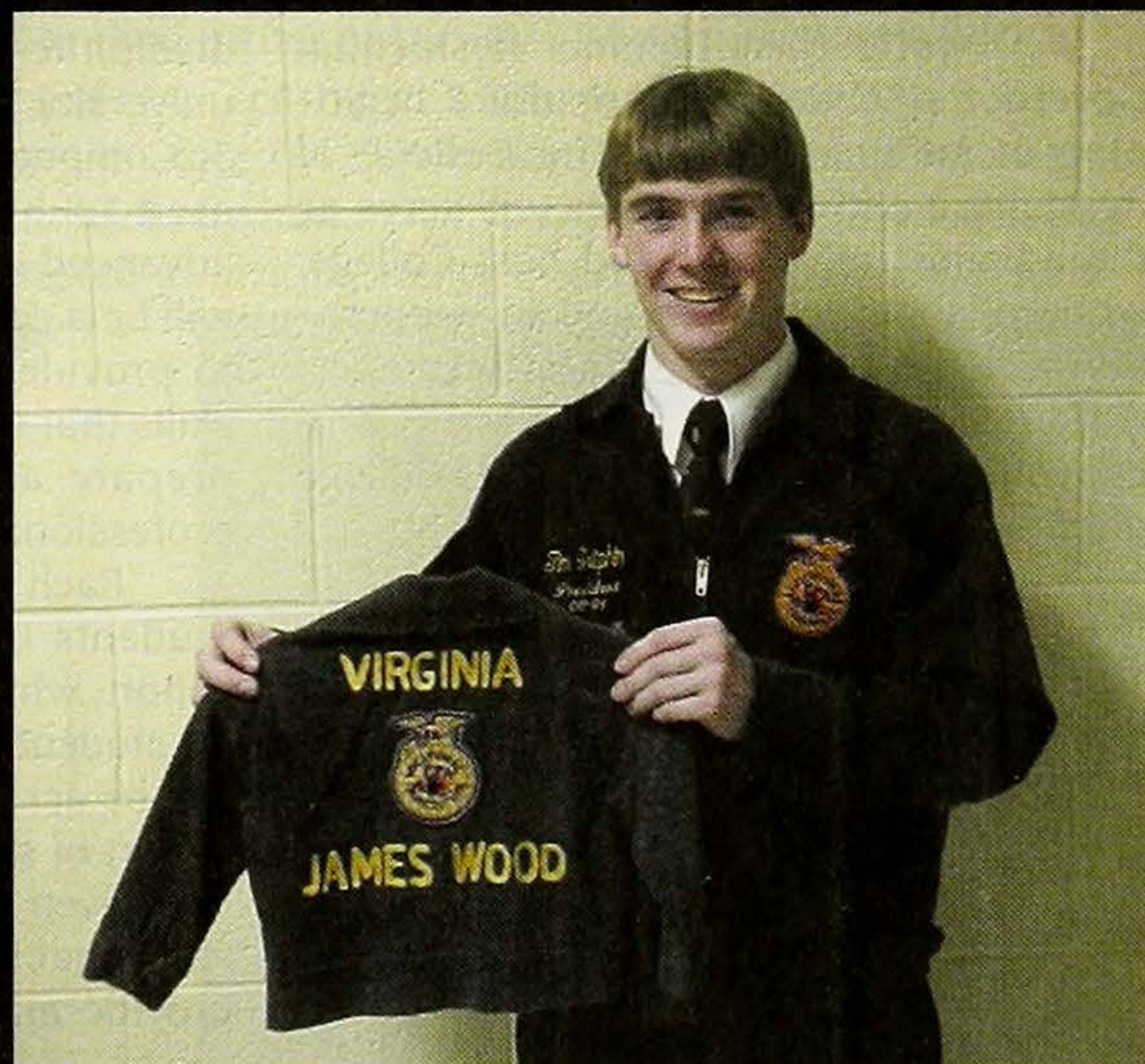


The James Wood Middle FFA Chapter sent four representatives to the National FFA Convention. While there they competed in the Invitational FFA Knowledge Contest. They placed 11th in the nation. Members attending were Kyley Clevenger, Lindsey Willett, Amanda Sirbaugh and Shiel Jhaveri.

## Spotlight Pics...

The FFA has always been a part of my life. At the age of 5, I wasn't old enough to be a member of the FFA, but my father, brother, and sister all showed me the organization's possibilities. When supporting my siblings at their banquets, I dressed up in my official dress, which consisted of a size 6 official FFA jacket. Even though I didn't understand the purpose and meaning of FFA at that age, I did understand the jacket's power of getting someone's attention. Not mentioning that all the older girls thought I was just the cutest when I wore it. Today as President of the James Wood FFA Chapter in Winchester, Virginia, I have benefited greatly from all my FFA experiences (including those of my younger days). FFA has enhanced my abilities to speak to people, allowed me to lead others, and improved my self-esteem. All of these qualities have made me the person I am today thanks to the FFA.

Written By: Tim Sutphin





# School Pride .....

## Horticulture and Introduction to Agriculture

students are working on landscaping the main school sign at Turner Ashby High School. The plan is to install more permanent landscape materials that will require less maintenance, such as shrubbery and ornamental trees. Additionally, a huge T.A. symbol will be planted in dark purple and white winter pansies. The students will be required to identify the kinds of plants used and method for planting. "We had a local landscaping company,



Spread By Hand, from Harrisonburg, sketch a drawing and give us an estimate so the students could get some experience planting the shrubs." The principal, Delmer Botkin, and our school beautification committee will be helping to pay for the project along with donations from the different school clubs. The mulch is being donated by Spread By Hand Landscaping and they are generously giving us a break on the plant material. Of course, dedicated, hard working students will provide the labor and keep up the area. "This is a great activity for the



students because they can return after they graduate and tell others they helped landscape that sign and take more pride in it," says horticulture/agriculture teacher, Mrs. Terry Lam. Currently, we are ordering a landscaping software package from a Tech Prep grant Mrs. Lam recently won to be able to design some of the landscape areas ourselves. Their plan was to have everything completed by the holidays.

## Randolph-Henry FFA Students Win National Contest

**K**risten Duffer and Teri Moorefield represented the state of Virginia at the National Junior Horticulture

Association Convention held in Washington D.C. November 3-7. Kristen and Teri won the State Fair Horticulture Demonstration Contest in September which earned them the right to represent the state in the National Competition.

The contest required the girls to present a 10-12 minute oral presentation that demon-



strated the steps required to complete a project. Kristen and Teri demonstrated the construction of a cornucopia (horn of plenty) arrangement suitable for a dining room table. They used various fruits and vegetables along with gourds and dried plant materials. After giving their demonstration the judges were allowed to ask five minutes of questions. The girls competed against demonstrations from all areas of the United States and were named the

Grand National Champions. They each received a plaque along with a cash prize. They were coached by Miss Melessa Harlvey.

While in attendance at the convention, the girls took a night tour of Washington D.C. and viewed the Capitol from the Potomac River on a dinner cruise. They also visited the National Arboretum as well as Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. The National Junior Horticulture Association is comprised of FFA and 4-H members from all 50 states that have an interest in horticulture. The association strives to provide horticulturally based contests and activities that enable students to broaden their knowledge of horticulture.

## CENTRAL FFA ACTIVITIES

By: Many George, Central FFA

**O**ver the past several months the Central FFA Chapter has been quite active. Some of our recent activities are Fall Festivities Meeting, students attended Board of Supervisors' meeting, junior officers were elected, and Christmas boxes for Kosovo were constructed.

On October 10, 2000 the senior officers of the Central FFA Chapter selected the Junior Chapter Officers. That same day, 20 members of the chapter attended the Board of Supervisors

meeting and a presentation summarizing the chapter's accomplishments was given. The Board of Supervisors then unanimously passed a resolution recognizing all FFA members and chapters in Shenandoah County.

On October 28, the Central FFA Chapter held their Fall Festivity meeting. Among those in attendance were the State Sentinel and State Treasurer, Jonathan Heishman and Andy Wakeman. The state officers gave a presentation emphasizing their motto "Dare to

Believe". Following the meeting, members participated in numerous fall activities, such as pumpkin carving, bobbing for apples, pie eating contest, and others.

Throughout the month of November the chapter officers collected items for children in Kosovo. The Central FFA Chapter and the Peter Muhlenberg Middle School combined to collect 38 boxes to be sent to children in Kosovo.



# 73rd National FFA Convention •

**Congratulations to everyone that either participated in an event or was recognized for an achievement at the convention. We are very proud of you!**

Career Development Events (Listed below is the team rating or ranking. If there was an individual rating it is indicated in parenthesis beside the individual's name)

## **AGRISCIENCE FAIR - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE -**

Division III - 1st place  
Bobby Winschel and Amber Dave - Signal Knob MS. Coach Mr. Jim Hisghman

**AGRICULTURAL ISSUES -**  
4th Place - Gold Team  
Turner Ashby - Amanda Lambert, Julia Gardner, Kathleen Sheap, Michaela Smith, Emily Rainey and Coach Ms. Mendy Beckman

**AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS -**  
Silver Team  
Strasburg HS - Andrew Deci (Silver), Joel Howard (Silver), Aaron Collegeman (Silver), and Coach Mr. Ron Roller

**AGRICULTURAL SALES -**  
6th place, Gold Team  
Fort Defiance - Caitlyn McAnulty (Gold - 4th High Individual), Aaron Shiflett (Gold), Britany Stansberry (Silver), Jeremy Arey (Silver), and Coach Mr. Andy Seibel

**CREEK SPEAKING -**  
Laurel Alexander - Dinwiddie HS (Bronze). Coach Ms. Cindy Blaha

## **DAIRY CATTLE -**

11th place, Gold Team  
Sherando - Sarah Orndorff (Gold), Billy Manuel (Gold), Justin Boyce (Silver), Laura Larrick (Silver), and Coach Mrs. Christina Whitacre

## **DAIRY FOODS -**

Bronze Team  
Spotswood - Eric Paulson (Silver), Josh Joseph (Silver), Elizabeth Dofflemyer (Bronze), Raymond Michael (Bronze), and coach Mr. Wayne Cupp

**DAIRY SHOWMANSHIP -**  
Anthony Rhodes, Turner Ashby - 3rd high individual (Gold)  
Coach Mrs. Terry Lam  
Angela Hinton - Riverheads (Silver), Coach Mr. Gene McIlwee

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES -**

8th place, Gold Team  
Central HS - Jarris Sperry (Gold), Bradley Orndorff (Silver), Andy Wakeman (Silver), Nathan Rutherford (Bronze), and Coach Mr. George Bowers

## **EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Allen Jackson - Magna Vista HS (Bronze). Coach Mr. Henry Foster

## **FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

Silver Team  
Nelson County HS - Joe Landry (Gold), Ed McCann, Jr. (Silver), Chris Pearson (Silver), and coach Mr. Ed McCann

## **FLORICULTURE -**

7th place, Gold Team  
John S. Battle - Brittany Ketron (3rd High Individual - Gold), Elizabeth Jordan (Silver), Lawrence Cox (Silver), and coach Mr. Phil McCroskey

## **FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

7th place, Silver Team  
Buffalo Gap - Elizabeth Fuller (Silver), James Ramsey (Silver), Hock Jones (Silver), Tina Wilson (Bronze), and coach Mrs. Shirley Kaufman

## **FORESTRY -**

Silver Team  
Carroll Co. HS - Matthew Spears (Gold), Aaron Horton (Gold), Adam Mount (Silver), Travis Akers (Silver), and Coach Mr. Gary Cockram

## **HORSE -**

Bronze Team  
Randolph Henry - Meredith Pack (Silver), Jean Tams (Bronze), Bethanne Ridgeway (Bronze), and Coach Mr. George Jones

## **LIVESTOCK -**

14th place, Gold Team  
Rockbridge Co. HS - Matthew Spencer (Silver), Zack Hileman (8th High Individual, Gold), Drew Mackey (Silver), Jennifer Showalter (Silver), and Coach Ms. Amy Trout

## **MARKETING PLAN PROJECT -**

4th place Gold Team  
Fort Defiance - Lee Roadcap, Jessica Auville, Wendy Slusher, and Coach Mr. Andy Seibel

## **MEATS EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY -**

Silver Team  
Central HS - Nicole Ross (Silver), Mark Brill (Silver), Derek Ritenour (Silver), Renee Sine (Silver), and coach Mrs. Sherry Heishman

## **NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE -**

8th place, Gold Team  
Laurel Park - Lane Toler (9th High Individual - Gold), Leslie Earles (Gold), Katrina Daniel (Silver), and Coach Mrs. Deborah Barker

## **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

Silver Team  
Turner Ashby - Lindsay Brubaker, Jordan Liskey, Tiffany Reeves, Tiara Saufley, Margaret Kyger, Jacklyn Varela, and coach Mr. Brian Crickenberger

## **POULTRY -**

Silver Team  
Spotswood - Adam Bowman (Silver), Caleb Davis (Silver), Chris Threewitts (Bronze), Lee Threewitts (Bronze), and Coach Mr. Wayne Cupp

## **PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Casey Hale - Randolph Henry (Silver). Coach Mr. George Jones

**Chapter Awards Program**  
These are the chapters that received gold rating on the state level. At the national level they are rated with either a 3.2 or 1 star rating with 3 stars being the highest rating.



# Virginia FFA Association Results

Central HS - 3 Stars  
 Laurel Park - 3 Stars  
 Stonewall Jackson HS - 3 Stars  
 Turner Ashby - 3 Stars  
 Culpeper Co. HS - 3 Stars  
 Strasburg - 3 Stars  
 Dinwiddie - 2 Stars  
 James Wood HS - 2 Stars  
 Signal Knob MS - 2 Stars  
 Fort Defiance - 2 Stars  
 King William - 2 Stars  
 Fauquier - 2 Stars  
 Northumberland - 2 Stars  
 Sherando - 2 Stars  
 Stewart MS - 2 Stars  
 Beverley Manor MS - 2 Stars

## PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Agricultural Communications - Jessica Auville, Fort Defiance - Silver  
 Agricultural Mechanical Technical Systems - Placement - Kenneth Campbell, Buffalo Gap - Silver  
 Agricultural Processing - Joseph Wilkes Harris, Fort Defiance - Silver  
 Agricultural Sales and/or Service - Doug Britt, Buffalo Gap - Silver  
 Beef Production - Entrepreneurship - Wes Marshall, Fort Defiance - Silver  
 Beef Production - Placement - Mindy McCroskey, John S. Battle - Bronze  
 Cereal Grain Production - Jarrett Wayne Motley, Gretna HS - Bronze  
 Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship - Bridget Sine, Central HS - Bronze  
 Dairy Production - Placement - Randy Trent, Appomattox - Silver

Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship - Chris Haskins, Gretna HS - Bronze  
 Diversified Crop Production - Placement - Donald Lee Smith, Fort Defiance - Gold  
 Diversified Livestock Production - Entrepreneurship - Cassie Ann Reed, Appomattox - Silver  
 Diversified Livestock Production - Placement - Matthew Lester Switzer, Turner Ashby - Bronze  
 Environmental Science - Claire Foster, Turner Ashby - Silver  
 Equine Science - Entrepreneurship - Joseph Hite, Bluestone HS - Bronze  
 Equine Science - Placement - Natasha Catherine Shantz, Turner Ashby - Bronze  
 Fiber Crop Production - James R. Jones, Walter S. Newman - Gold  
 Floriculture - Elizabeth Janelle Jordan, John S. Battle - Silver  
 Forest Management - Bradley Orndorff, Central HS - Bronze  
 Forage Production - Adam Hostetler, Fort Defiance - Silver  
 Food Science & Technology - Casey Rogers, Northumberland - Bronze  
 Fruit and/or Vegetable Production - Kevin Rudolph, King William - Gold  
 Home and/or Community Development - Matthew Spears, Carroll Co. - Silver  
 Horticulture - Mylinh Nguyen, Laurel Park - Silver  
 Landscape Management - Brandon Terry, Atlee - Bronze

Nursery Operations - Lisa Talley, Atlee - Bronze  
 Oil Crop Production - Placement - Byron Phillips, Fort Defiance - Silver  
 Outdoor Recreation - Beth Nicole Blackwell, Fort Defiance - Silver  
 Poultry Production - Gabriel Michael Graham, Christiansburg - Bronze  
 Sheep Production - Rosalea Riley, Buffalo Gap - Gold  
 Small Animal Care - Heather Dawn Mullins, Christiansburg - Silver  
 Soil and Water Management - Greg Jones, Northumberland - Silver  
 Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship - Daniel Lanier, Gretna HS - Silver  
 Specialty Animal Production - Placement - Travares Lamar Vessels, King William - Silver  
 Specialty Crop Production - Jamie Turner, Dinwiddie - Silver  
 Swine Production - Entrepreneurship - Emily Curry, Buffalo Gap - Silver  
 Swine Production - Placement - Lynn Eric Shaver, Fort Defiance - Silver  
 Turf Grass Management - Jared Andrew Fisher, George Wythe - Silver  
 Wildlife Management - Entrepreneurship - Mark Brill, Central HS - Silver  
 Wildlife Management - Placement - Charles Lewis Simmons, Central HS - National Finalist (photo 3)  
 H.O. Sargent Award National Finalist - Dajohn Washington, King William HS

National Officer Candidate - Johnny Davis, Atlee

## AMERICAN DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Rebecca Begoon - Spotswood  
 Beth Nicole Blackwell - Fort Defiance  
 Doug Britt - Buffalo Gap  
 Joshua William Coceano - Turner Ashby  
 Andrew Ray Cullip, Jr. - Pulaski  
 Jeremy Driver - Turner Ashby  
 Leslie Ellen Funkhouser - Strasburg  
 Ashley Gutshall - Fort Defiance  
 George Wade Hawkins III - Central HS  
 Michael Helsley - Central HS  
 Matthew Hickey - Buffalo Gap  
 Kenneth Hyden, Jr. - Fort Defiance  
 Mark Daniel Kipps - Stonewall Jackson  
 Johanna Marie Kocsis - Atlee  
 Wes Marshall - Fort Defiance  
 Gloria Beth Rhodes - Turner Ashby  
 Scott Talley - Buffalo Gap  
 Christy Marie Walther - Turner Ashby  
 Nick Yopp - Christiansburg

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Mr. Larkin Phillips, Associate Director Technical Education, Hanover County Public Schools



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just make your life better.

Your life is full of important people. Some you can't live without... and some you'll treasure forever. One person that you can always count on is your local Farm Bureau Insurance Agent. Offering broad coverage for your Home or Auto Insurance needs, as well as Life Insurance, Annuities, Long Term Care and Disability Income coverage, your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent is a friend and neighbor you can depend on. Plus, we back it all up with prompt, professional attention and fast fair claims service. So... remember who's by your side yesterday and today... and who'll be here tomorrow, your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent.



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In cooperation with the National FFA Organization, DuPont Crop Protection and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. invite you to participate in the New Century Farmer Program.

This event can help you to utilize all available resources in order to maximize your success in the future as a production agriculturist.

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# FFA New Century Farmer<sup>SM</sup>

*network  
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lots of fun  
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[www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)  
1-800-293-2387

The New Century Farmer Program is sponsored by DuPont Crop Protection and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



PIONEER





award winners american star farmer: James Bark, Wis. american star in agribusiness: Monte Else, Neb. agriscience student of the year: Patrick Black, Miss. agriscience student runner-up: Kendra Butters, Mich. agriscience teacher of the year: Sandra Dykes, Wis. national chapter models of innovation award winners student (Greg Hamons) horse evaluation: Arroyo Grande, Calif. (Andrea Troyer, Okla.) livestock selection: Central Point, Ore. (Summer Savage, N.M.)

Montezuma, Iowa (Allison Brinker, Mo.) floriculture: Ramseur, N.C. (Elizabeth Mathias, Minn.) food science technology: Florence, Texas (Daryn Garrido, Wash.) forestry: Dunmore, W. Va.

dairy foods: Hanford, Calif. (Julie Mello) environmental and natural resources: Yanceyville, N.C. (Bobby Boaz) farm business management: Montezuma, Iowa (Allison Brinker, Mo.) winners continued on page 18

# faces of the 73rd national ffa con



PHOTO BY HOWARD ASH

Danny Machado: National Proficiency Award Winner

## National Proficiency Award Winner

On Thursday of the 2000 National FFA Convention, in a huge convention hall in downtown Louisville, over 150 national proficiency award finalists gathered for a luncheon with their FFA advisors and the proficiency award judges and sponsors.

Danny Machado, a finalist in dairy production-placement hardly touched the food on his plate—not even dessert. He was too nervous, knowing that immediately following the meal he would have to face the judges behind closed doors.

He had spent the night before in his hotel room studying for the questions the judges might throw his way—questions that might cover such topics as BST (a product used to increase the efficiency of milk production in dairy cows), the top dairy sires, dairy feeds and nutrition.

For Danny, who attends Modesto Community College near his home in Snelling, California, winning this award wasn't about the cash prize or the plaque. It was about his pride in dairy farming, a career he's already living.

Back home, he has full-time duties both on the farm and at school. He has to stretch his days by waking at 5 a.m. each morning. By 7:30 p.m., he can finally

relax and recharge for the following morning, when it all starts again.

Unlike most of his friends back home, Danny has pretty much known he's wanted to be a farmer for as long as he can remember. Living on his family's 2,000-cow dairy operation, Danny learned early on about sacrifice. He gave up high school football so he could work on the farm. His social life is limited by the long hours it takes to help keep the operation running smoothly.

On Saturday, Danny took the main convention stage with the other three finalists. "When I was on stage, I couldn't stop shaking," Danny says. "My knees were just rattling." As his name filled the hall, Danny breathed a huge sigh of relief and ran across the stage to accept the award.

Danny says he couldn't have done it without the support of his FFA advisor, Mike Morales, and his parents, Joe and Maria Machado.

*FFA members pursuing the Dairy Production proficiency award use the best*



Some of the people who made  
convention 2000 worth remembering

# vention

*management practices available to efficiently produce and market dairy cattle and dairy products. Four finalists are chosen to compete at the national level. The finalists are interviewed by the judges and have their record books inspected. The event is sponsored by DeLaval, Inc. and Pharmacia & Upjohn Animal Health as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.*

## National Career Development Winner

On Friday morning, 33 of the best FFA poultry teams from around the nation gathered in the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center's West Pavilion to test their skills and knowledge.

Among them, a team that had arrived at the Louisville International Airport at two o'clock Wednesday morning. Jessica Geistweidt, Matthew Luensmann, Dustin Marsh and Jayme Mair started their journey in their hometown of San Antonio, Texas. After

they arrived in Kentucky, they got some much-needed sleep, then spent much of the next two days locked in a hotel room, quizzing each other and taking practice tests.

Matthew, who, at 16, is the team's youngest member, says preparing is an ongoing effort—and it's not an easy one. He says they put in a lot of extra hours after school and whenever they could find time.

When Friday morning at the convention came around, Jessica, Matthew, Dustin and Jayme felt they had done their best to prepare for the event. Even though they had won at district, area and state competitions, Jessica says past successes don't guarantee future results: "Our state competition is a lot different from the national competition, so there's a lot of additional preparing and learning before we can come and be competitive here."

In the course of the morning, each of the 120-plus individuals in the competition endured challenging

group problems, took an examination and, with clipboards and pencils in hand, worked through several hands-on stations, where they evaluated chicken and turkey carcasses, breaded chicken patties, eggs and more.

At a breakfast for all participants the next morning, the results were announced.

In the overall individual competition, all four East Central FFA Chapter members placed in the top five. Jayme took first, followed by Lacy Hobbs from Anderson, Missouri. Matthew, Jessica and Dustin rounded out the top five. Before the team results were announced, it was clear the Texas team had first place.

*Continued*



San Antonio FFA Chapter: National Career Development Event Winner



ag mechanical/technical systems (placement): Eli Whitener, Mo. ag processing: Kelvin Heiman, Wis. ag sales and/or service: Ryan Sweeney, Mich. beef production (entrepreneurship): Cody Quam, Wis. beef production (placement): Cory Haiar, Neb. cereal grain production (entrepreneurship): Ben Bennett, Mo. emerging agricultural technology: Nathan Hemming, Minn. environmental science: Amanda Streit, Ill. equine science (entrepreneurship): Darren Rismiller, Ohio dairy production (entrepreneurship): Chadwick Griffith, Ohio dairy production (placement): Denny Machado, Calif. diversified crop production (entrepreneurship): Ashley Fackler, Ky. diversified crop production (placement): Kyle Cott, Kan. diversified livestock production (entrepreneurship): Caleb McNally, Kan. diversified livestock production (placement): Ben Bennett, Mo.

After the breakfast, the relieved group from Texas posed for photos and started making plans for their remaining hours in Louisville. "We're hoping to get a little sightseeing in today," Matt said, "but we're going to be stretching for time since our plane leaves later on tonight and we still have to pack."

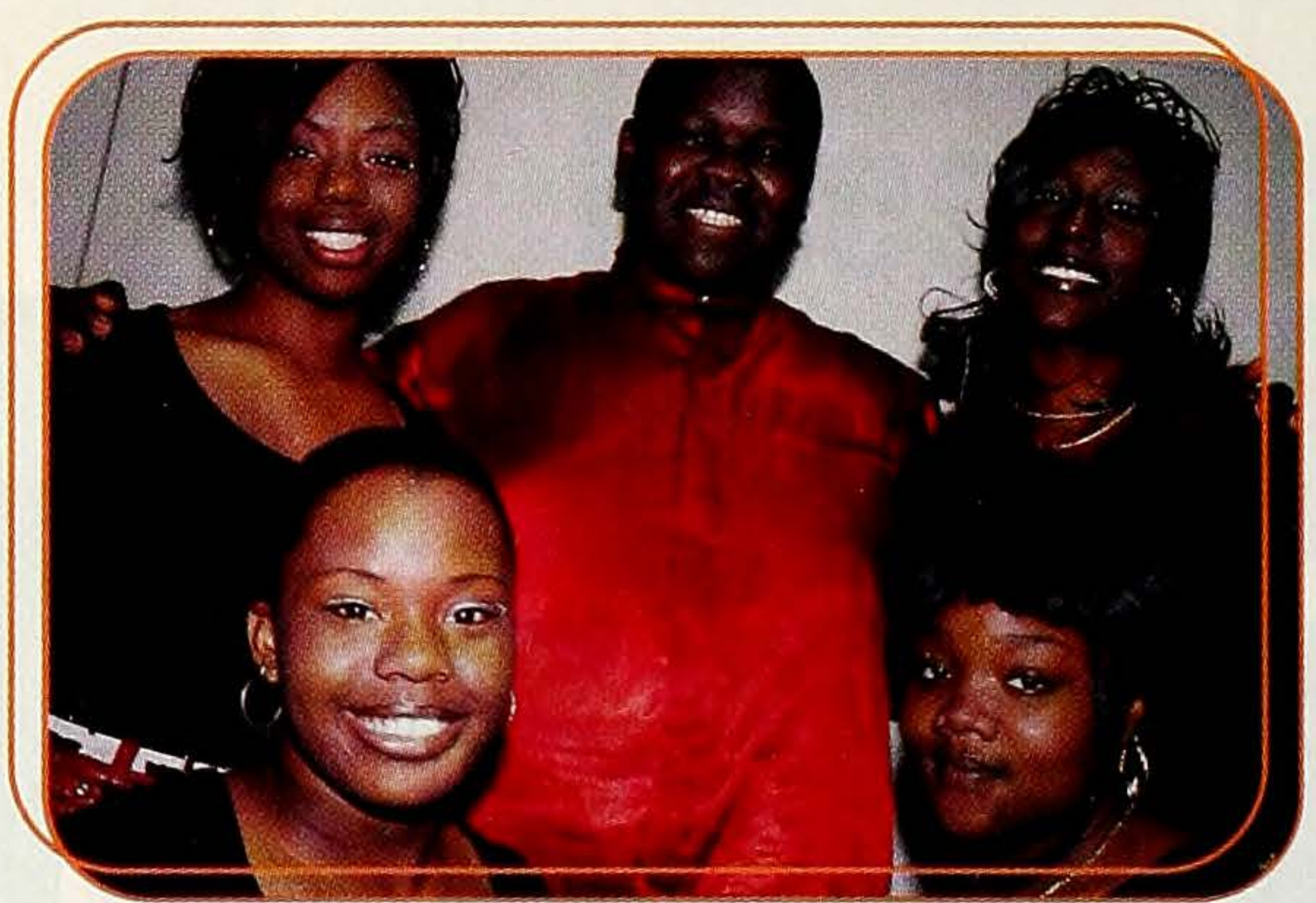
*The National Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE) is a competitive activity that tests the student's knowledge and ability to select top quality poultry and poultry products needed for successful production and marketing. Each team competed at local and state levels for the privilege of representing their home state at the national FFA convention. The event is sponsored by Aventis Animal Nutrition and Tyson Foods, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.*

## National FFA Talent

Music has always been a big part of the national FFA convention experience. This year, FFA members filled the seats in Broadbent Arena to hear such country acts as The Wilkinsons, Toby Keith, Bryan White and Sawyer Brown.

FFA members, who spent countless hours rehearsing, also performed in the National FFA Band and National FFA Chorus. Some FFA members also performed as individuals or in small groups as part of the National FFA Talent program.

One such group is The Bowman Quintet, an acappella soul and gospel group from the Bowman FFA Chapter in South Carolina. A departure from the traditional country acts in the National FFA Talent program, the quintet captured the attention of convention-goers with their soulful singing.



National FFA Talent: The Bowman Quintet

The group, consisting of Cierra Montgomery, Saverna Darden, Shaneima Montgomery, Victoria Glover and Patrick Stephens, formed about a year ago. They were thrilled to perform for a crowd of over a thousand at National FFA Partners in Active Learning (PALs) mentoring conference. Here, 540 FFA members paired off with local third-graders to talk, have lunch and make crafts. The quintet energized the crowd and made a lasting impression on the youngsters. Many of the third-graders rushed over to pose

for pictures with the group afterwards. On Thursday, the quintet electrified a crowd of over 10,000 at Freedom Hall prior to the second general session.

*The National FFA Talent is sponsored by Ford Division-Ford Motor Company. The National FFA PALs Mentoring Conference is sponsored by Fifth Third Bank of Kentucky and Kraft Foods, Inc.*

*Continued on page 19*

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*national president*



**Doug Kueker, Missouri**  
*national central region vice president*



**Katy Poth, Ohio**  
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*national western region vice president*

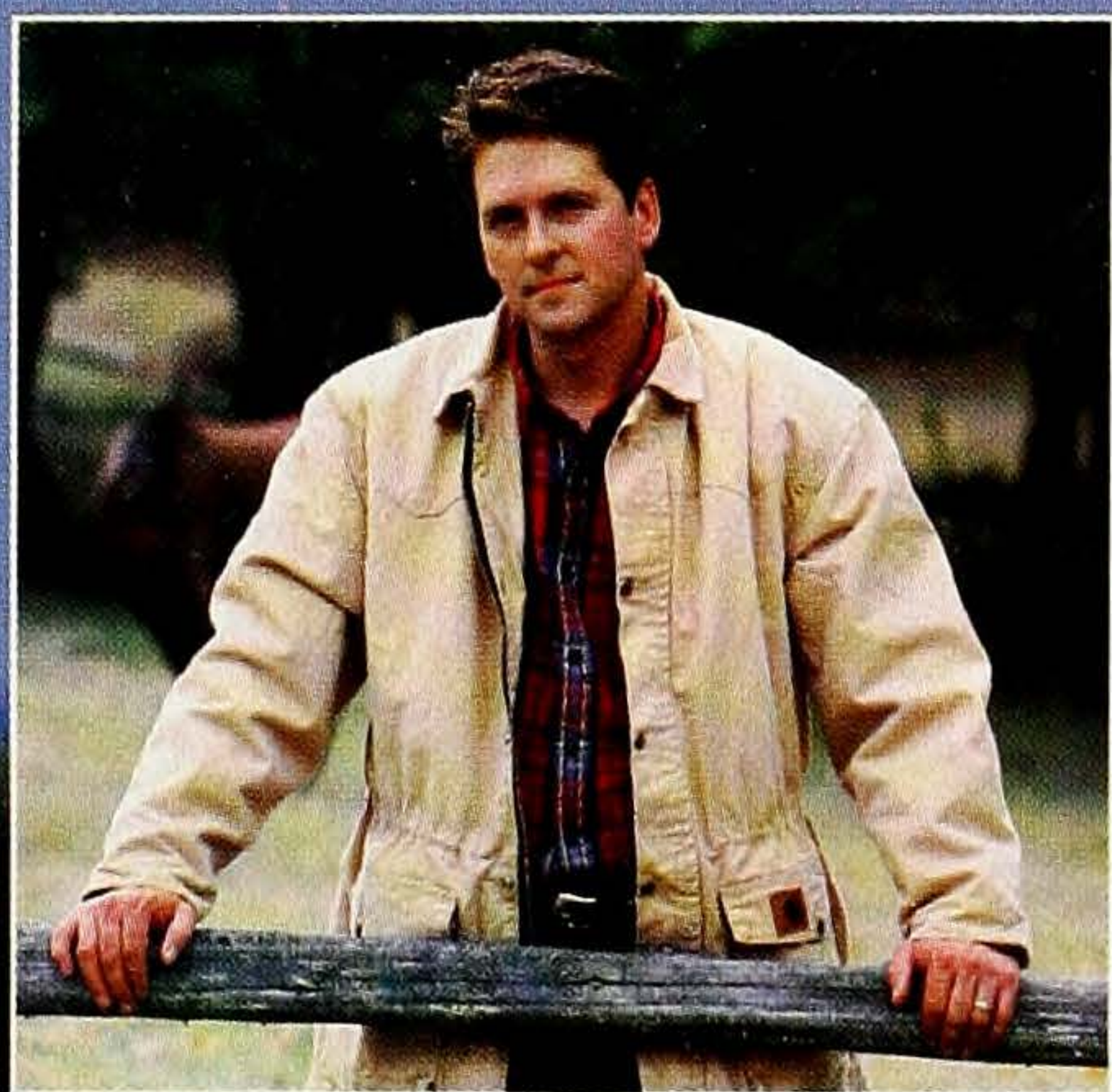


**Ronnie Simmons, Florida**  
*national southern region vice president*



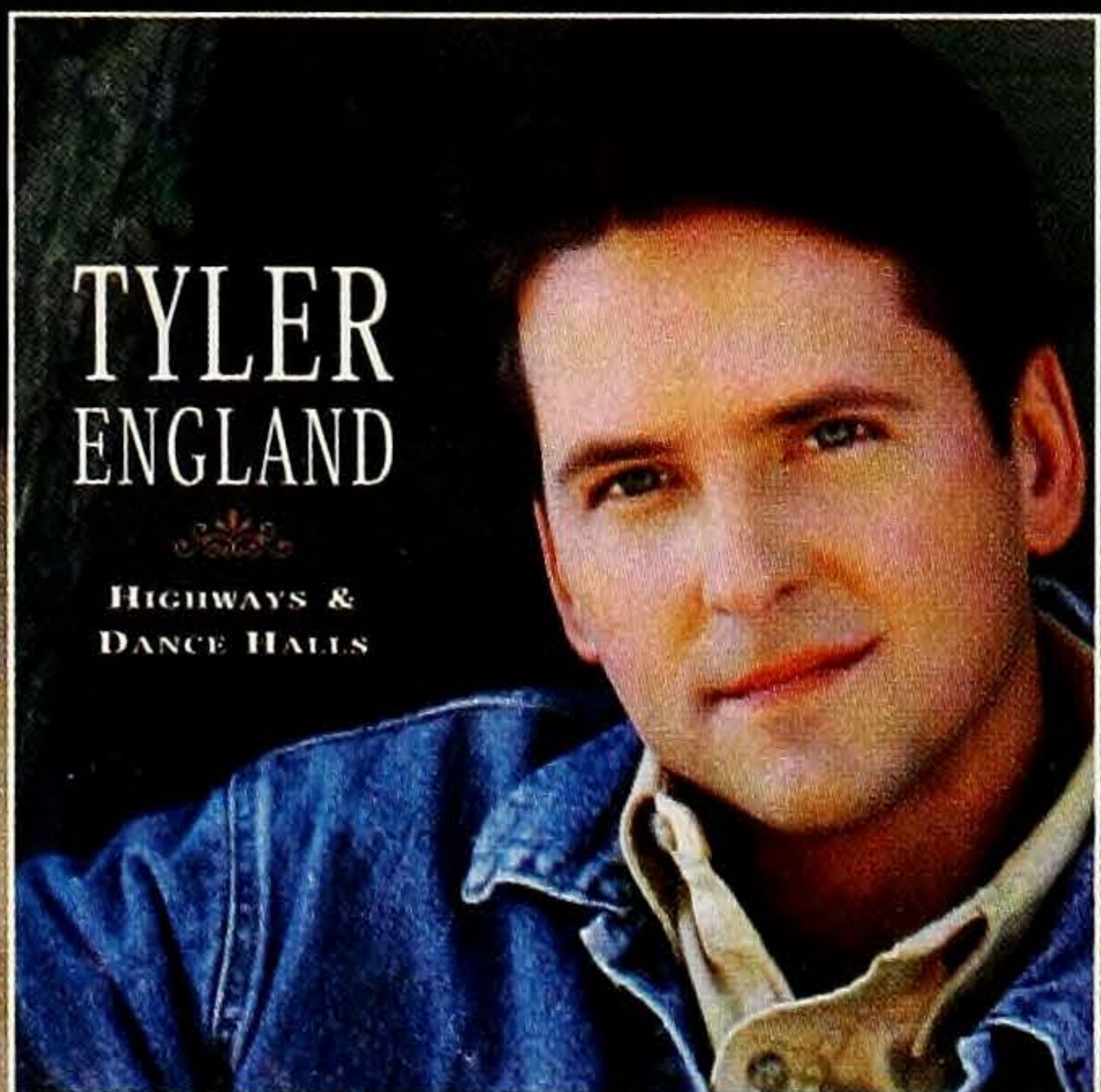
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H.O. Sargent award for diversity (FFA member): Jennifer Kidd, N.C. H.O. Sargent award for diversity (non-FFA members): Gonzalee Martin, Ind.; Mamie Oatis, Fla.; Alvin Larke, Texas. **Other winners:** Chevron's FFA tractor restoration competition. Individual winners: Mark Scherer, Ill.; Travis Gottschalk, Minn.; Curt Frazee, Iowa. Chapter winners: Abernathy FFA, Texas; Cotton Center FFA, Texas; Greenwood FFA, Wisconsin. **John Deere Credit's classic John Deere 4020 tractor giveaway winner:** Jimmy Schueller, Ill.; Quality Farm & Country's "Farmers Make America Great" essay contest winner: Tami Shannon, Ohio

By Kim Berndtson

# Racing the clock

FFA members team up at the career show

**A**t the FFA National Agricultural Career Show, FFA members filled bags with literature, discussed career opportunities, tried their hands at rock climbing, sat in the latest trucks and tractors and sent e-mail messages home. Above the din of conversation, you could hear the distinct whir of an air wrench. The noise became louder and louder as you approached the Goodyear booth. Here, FFA members and advisors gathered to cheer on participants in the 2000 Pit Crew Challenge.



The interactive event pitted five-member teams in a race against time to change two tires on a retired NASCAR racecar. "The key—to work together," says Goodyear spokes-person Rob Whitehouse, "and to keep your hand on the trigger of the air gun all the time."

Lewie Villines, advisor at the Flippin FFA Chapter in Arkansas, stood on the sidelines readying his team as they donned safety glasses, protective kneepads and gloves. As they waited in the wings, Villines imparted some last minute wisdom to his crew: "Go fast and win!"

Villines liked the event because it taught his students the value of teamwork. "It's also a way to teach them how to lose graciously," he says. The Flippin crew finished in 19.33 seconds. While they moved faster than most teams, they couldn't

top the 13.52-second record set earlier in the day. Nor could it surpass the average 16 seconds it takes a professional NASCAR pit crew to change four tires, refuel a car and rehydrate a driver.

The Charles City, Iowa, team found it impossible to beat the lightning-quick times already on the board. Tanner Wegner and his fellow chapter members finished in 20.16 seconds. "The experience really showed us how we have to work together to accomplish a goal," Wegner says.

In some cases, when a chapter didn't have five members present, they would join forces with members from other chapters. In one case, members from Indiana and South Carolina (pictured above) teamed up and finished in under 18 seconds—at that point, a record time. ★

Travis Gottschalk, Minn.; Curt Frazee, Iowa. Chapter winners: Abernathy FFA, Texas;



# It's all you need...

**Chapter Resource Guide 2000-2001**

**Macintosh:**  
68040 or Power PC Processor  
32 MB available RAM  
System 7.1 or higher  
256 Color graphics capability  
Internet Explorer 5.0

**PC:**  
Intel Pentium Processor or better  
32 MB available RAM  
Windows 95, 98, 2000 or NT  
Internet Explorer 5.0

If disc does not start automatically, do the following:  
**PC Users:** Double-click My Computer then double-click the CD-ROM icon.  
**Mac Users:** Double-click the CD-ROM icon then double-click START.HTM

# really.

**D**id you know everything you need to apply for proficiency awards, the American FFA Degree and many other FFA programs is all available on the **2000-2001 Chapter Resources Guide CD-ROM?**

This awesome disk was already sent to chapters, and contains not only the computerized application forms (as Microsoft Excel templates), but also all the handbooks and other information to help you complete the task. All award application templates for FFA programs are included on this CD-ROM.

When you get ready to work on your applications, ask your advisor for this helpful resource.

**You can also download  
any of these items from  
National FFA Online,  
[www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)**

## The CD contains:

- *A Guide to Local Program Success*
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- Agriscience student, teacher and fair applications
- Agri-Entrepreneurship application and examples
- *Career Development Events Handbook*
- *Chapter Planning and Recognition Handbook* and national chapter application
- *Career Development Event Handbook*
- H.O Sargent Application
- *Proficiency Award Handbook* and applications, including more supplemental information and example applications
- Leadership and Personal Growth Series information
- Information on many more programs and opportunities for members, teachers and partners.
- In fact...it includes all items included in the annual summer mailing!





**send your picks to:**

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**Chapter** \_\_\_\_\_

# Survey

## what's hot

**Female actor** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Male actor** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Female singer** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Male singer** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TV sitcom** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TV soap opera** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Movie (now in theaters)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Movie (on video)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**NBA team** \_\_\_\_\_  
**WNBA team** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Website** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Book** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CD** \_\_\_\_\_

## what's not

**Female actor** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Male actor** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Female singer** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Male singer** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TV sitcom** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TV soap opera** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Movie (now in theaters)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Movie (on video)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**NBA team** \_\_\_\_\_  
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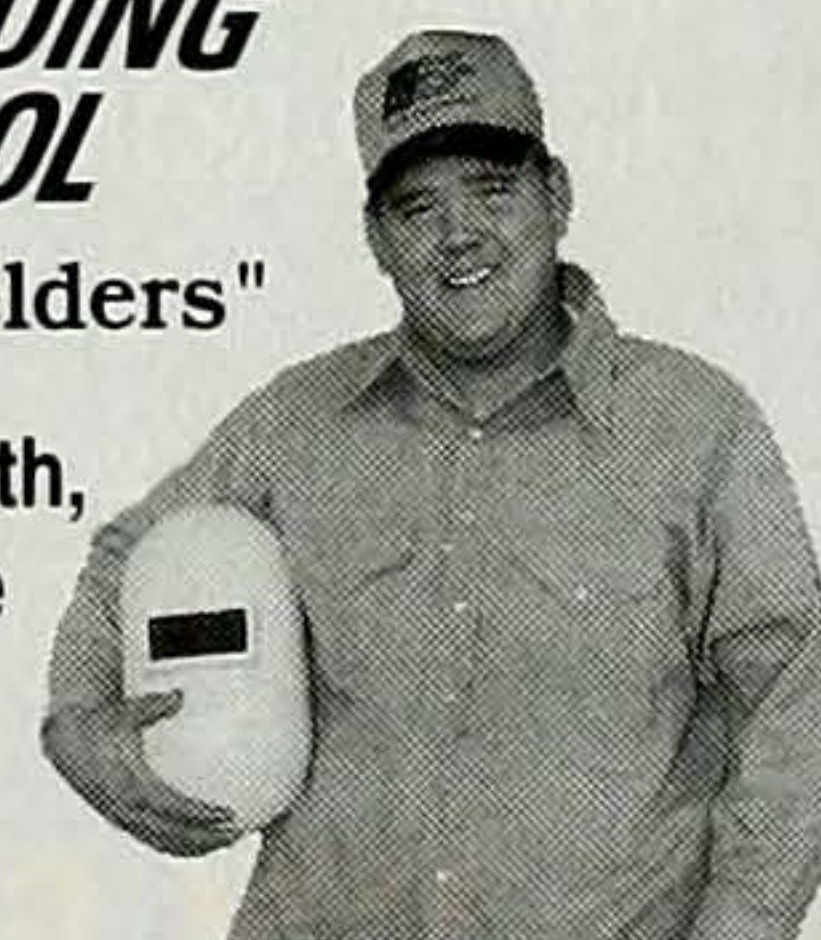
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Here's what you had to say in our last What's Hot/What's Not survey. Be sure to fill out the current What's Hot/What's Not survey on the opposite page.

<b>hot</b>	<b>FFA</b> after school activity	<b>homework</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>hot</b>	<b>short</b> hair style for males	<b>long</b>	<b>not</b>
<b>hot</b>	<b>french</b> foreign language class	<b>spanish</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>hot</b>	<b>long</b> hair style for females	<b>short</b>	<b>not</b>
<b>hot</b>	<b>science</b> non-agriculture class	<b>math</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>hot</b>	<b>pizza</b> school lunch food item	<b>chicken patty</b>	<b>not</b>
<b>hot</b>	<b>no drugs</b> school policy	<b>dress code</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>hot</b>	<b>yahoo.com</b> website	<b>mtv.com</b>	<b>not</b>
				<b>hot</b>	<b>chicken soup books</b> book	<b>romance</b>	<b>not</b>

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# your money

## closing the deal

By Steve Dinnen

**C**olor, make, model. Coupe or SUV. These all seem difficult decisions when it comes to buying an automobile. But once the vehicle is chosen comes the really hard part—paying for it.

Next to college, a car is the costliest purchase most young people will ever make. A new subcompact will cost \$11-12,000, while pickup trucks start in that range and quickly climb. Even a used car or truck can set you back \$5,000 or more.

Unless you have that much money in the bank, you'll need a loan. Therein lies another problem, since you need to be 18 or even 21 years old, depending on where you live, to enter a

purchase contract for a car. Even then, the going can get rough, because the younger you are, the less likely it is you'll have a credit record that a lender will approve without a parent or co-signer involved.

"If I'm a teenager, I'm going to qualify for a high interest rate because I have no credit record," says Kathy Wessel, finance manager at Inskip Ford, in Greenfield, Indiana.

### Stability is the key

Yes, a co-signer often is needed. But young people who have worked, or have steadily deposited money into savings accounts, can document a credit history that lenders like to see.



"Basically, all we look for is stability," says Tom Mays, a marketing manager at General Motors Acceptance Corp. (the lending arm of GM). "Can they demonstrate a track record of payments?"

If so, Mays says young buyers can look for special rate programs that dealers often offer on select vehicles. Finding 1.9 percent or 3.9 percent interest rates is not uncommon these days as

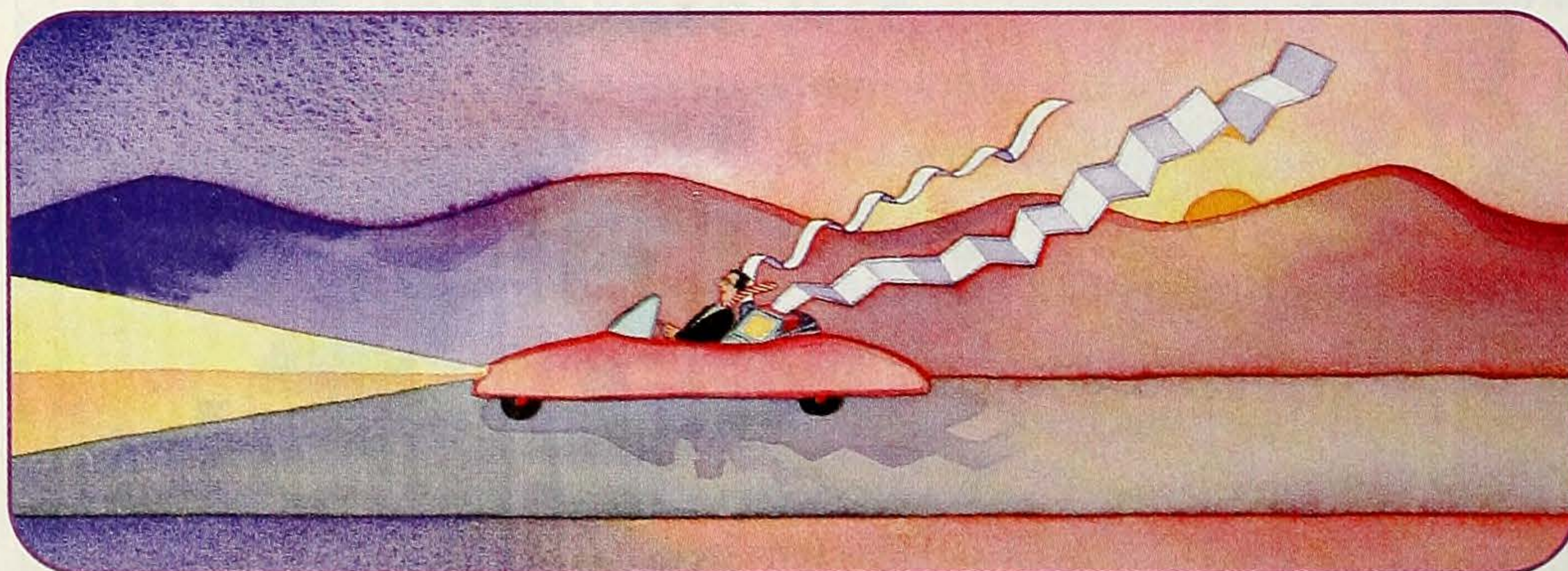
automobile manufacturers fight for market share. On a \$10,000 car repaid over 48 months, the difference between 3.9 percent and 8 percent interest amounts to \$912.

Automakers also offer "combo" programs, says Mays, which involve a rebate of \$500 to \$1,500 plus a lowered interest rate of maybe 4.9 percent.

### Other options

Wessel says that if a buyer has no credit history, she will consider a lease. When the driver turns in the car at the end of the 24- or 36-month lease period, he has by then established a credit record and then "he can buy pretty much anything he wants to."

Sometimes area banks will have promotional loans for first-time or young car buyers. And credit unions, which are owned by their members, typically charge lower interest rates. That doesn't make getting credit any easier, just more affordable. ★





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# point & click

A roadmap to the Internet

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GO!

## 10 websites you can use

**Useful and interesting websites abound on the Internet. The problem is finding them. Here's a list of some of the more useful—and free—sites we've come across. Get on the Web and give them a whirl.**

**E**ver wanted to know what your home looks like from above? At [www.terraserver.com](http://www.terraserver.com), you just type in your latitude and longitude or the name of your town or city. Up pops a U.S. Geological Survey satellite image of the area. You can zoom in to find precise locations. You can also view topographical maps of your area.

Are you a history buff? The Library of Congress website ([www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)) contains hundreds of pages of documents, photographs and audio files from America's rich history.

You'll find online collections on agriculture, performing arts, sports and much more. The site recently featured special exhibitions on Thomas Jefferson and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Need to know the weather in your area? You can turn on the TV to the Weather Channel and hope the forecast will be shown in the next 20 minutes, or you can just log on to their website ([www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)). Here, you just type in your zip code for a local forecast.

Wondering if George Strait, Britney Spears or Kid Rock will be performing nearby? Get the latest tour

information on your favorite singers and bands at [www.pollstar.com](http://www.pollstar.com), the site of Pollstar, a magazine that caters to music industry professionals.

Need some help translating a phrase or passage from a different language? At [www.freetranslation.com](http://www.freetranslation.com), you can translate English to Spanish, German, Portuguese, Norwegian, Italian and French. You can also translate Spanish, French and German to English.

Want to stay on top of agricultural news, trends, discussion and information? Try Agriculture Online ([www.agriculture.com](http://www.agriculture.com)), a site devoted to the business of agriculture. You'll find crop prices from around the world and new products entering the market.

Looking for that long-lost friend from summer camp a few years ago? Begin the search at [www.switchboard.com](http://www.switchboard.com), a nationwide online telephone and address directory. Once you find that person's address, you can map it and get directions at [www.mapblast.com](http://www.mapblast.com).

Oregon State University maintains a website called Food Resource ([osu.orst.edu/food-resource/index.html](http://osu.orst.edu/food-resource/index.html)).

[www.terraserver.com](http://www.terraserver.com)  
[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)  
[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)  
[www.pollstar.com](http://www.pollstar.com)  
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[www.mapblast.com](http://www.mapblast.com)  
[osu.orst.edu/food-resource/index.html](http://osu.orst.edu/food-resource/index.html)  
[www.speakout.com](http://www.speakout.com)

It's a comprehensive site with facts and reports related to food. There's lots of basic information on foods, ingredients and nutrition, plus loads of links to related sites.

Have you ever wanted to write to your representative in Congress but didn't know how to go about it? Then visit SpeakOut ([www.speakout.com](http://www.speakout.com)), a site devoted to connecting citizens to the people they elect. With a simple search, you can obtain contact information for all the lawmakers who represent you. The site also has online polls, forums and news. ★

*If you have favorite websites, we want to know about them, too. Drop us an e-mail at [egaukel@mindspring.com](mailto:egaukel@mindspring.com)*

**Did you know? The National FFA Organization's website ([www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)) has bulletin boards where you can communicate with FFA members from across the country. Try it out today!**





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# Last Laff

**Q:** What do you call two medical doctors?

**A:** Paramedics (pair of medics).

**Becky Dukart**

Manning, North Dakota

**Q:** What violation do basketball players commit on a bus?

**A:** Traveling.

**Katie Linnebur**

Fall River, Kansas

**Q:** What kind of music do ghosts listen to?

**A:** Booggrass.

**Toni Munford**

Abbeville, Georgia

**Q:** Where do computers go on vacation?

**A:** The Big Apple.

**Joe Nunly**

Athens, Tennessee

**Q:** Why does a chicken coop have two doors?

**A:** If it had four doors, it would be a chicken sedan.

**Jessica Smith**

Wingate, North Carolina

**Q:** What did the strawberry say to the banana?

**A:** Didn't I see you on Sunday(sundae)?

**Jerry Downen**

Altus, Oklahoma

**Q:** Why do scuba divers flip backwards?

**A:** If they went forward, they'd fall in the boat.

**Paulette Taber**

Port Orange, Florida

**Q:** What do birds do when they are losing battle?

**A:** Re-tweet.

**Salinas High FFA**

Salinas, California

**Q:** Why did the kid take a ladder to school?

**A:** To see what high school was like.

**Nancy Jimenez**

Patterson, California

**Q:** What is a mouse's favorite game?

**A:** Hide and squeak.

**Jannetta Houghton**

Carlsbad, New Mexico

**Q:** What's the longest word in the English language?

**A:** Smiles. There's a mile between each S.

**Antonio DeRamces**

Prattville, Alabama

FFA New Horizons will pay \$5 for each joke selected for Last Laff. In case we receive more than one of the same joke, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

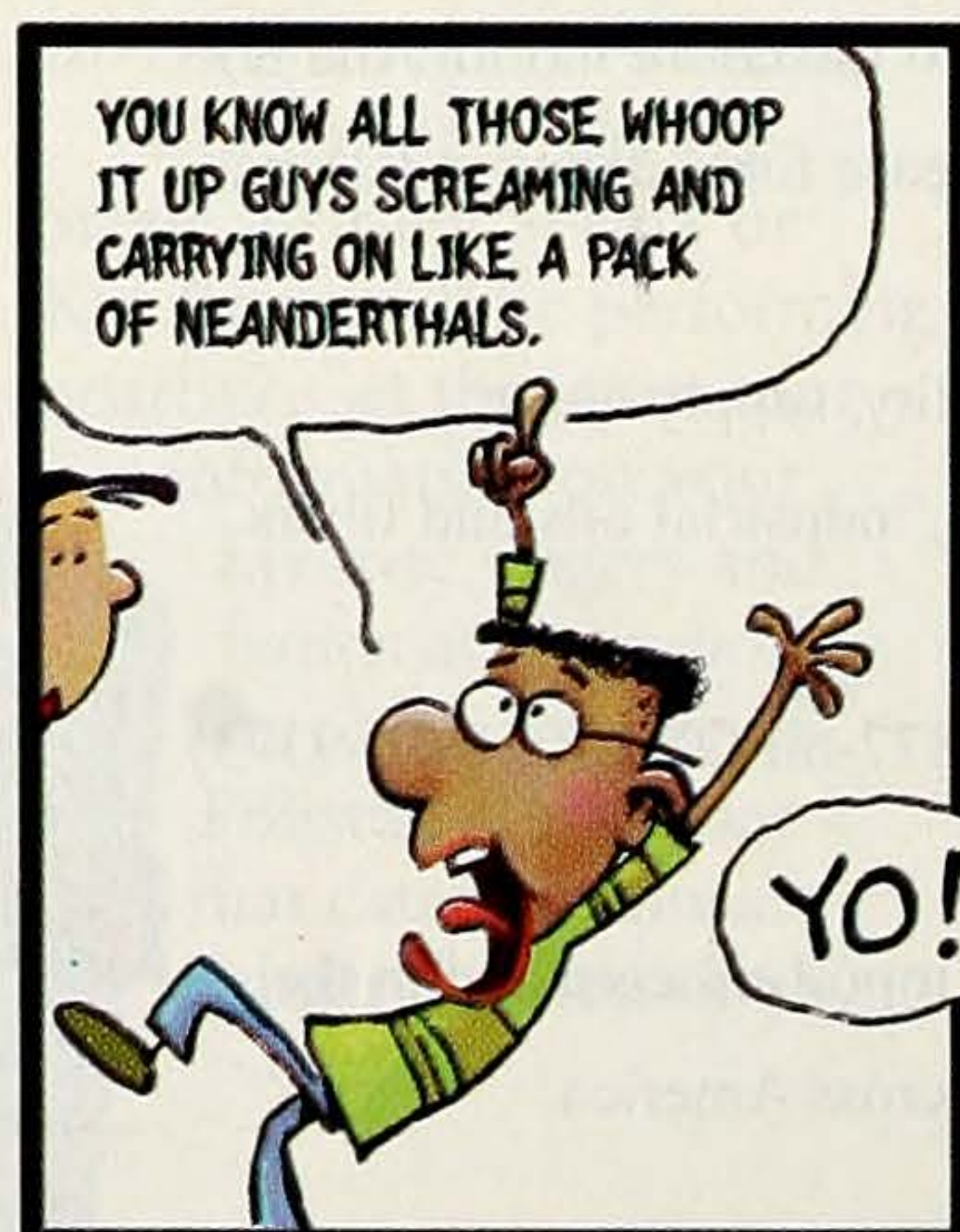
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## Agrinuts by Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf





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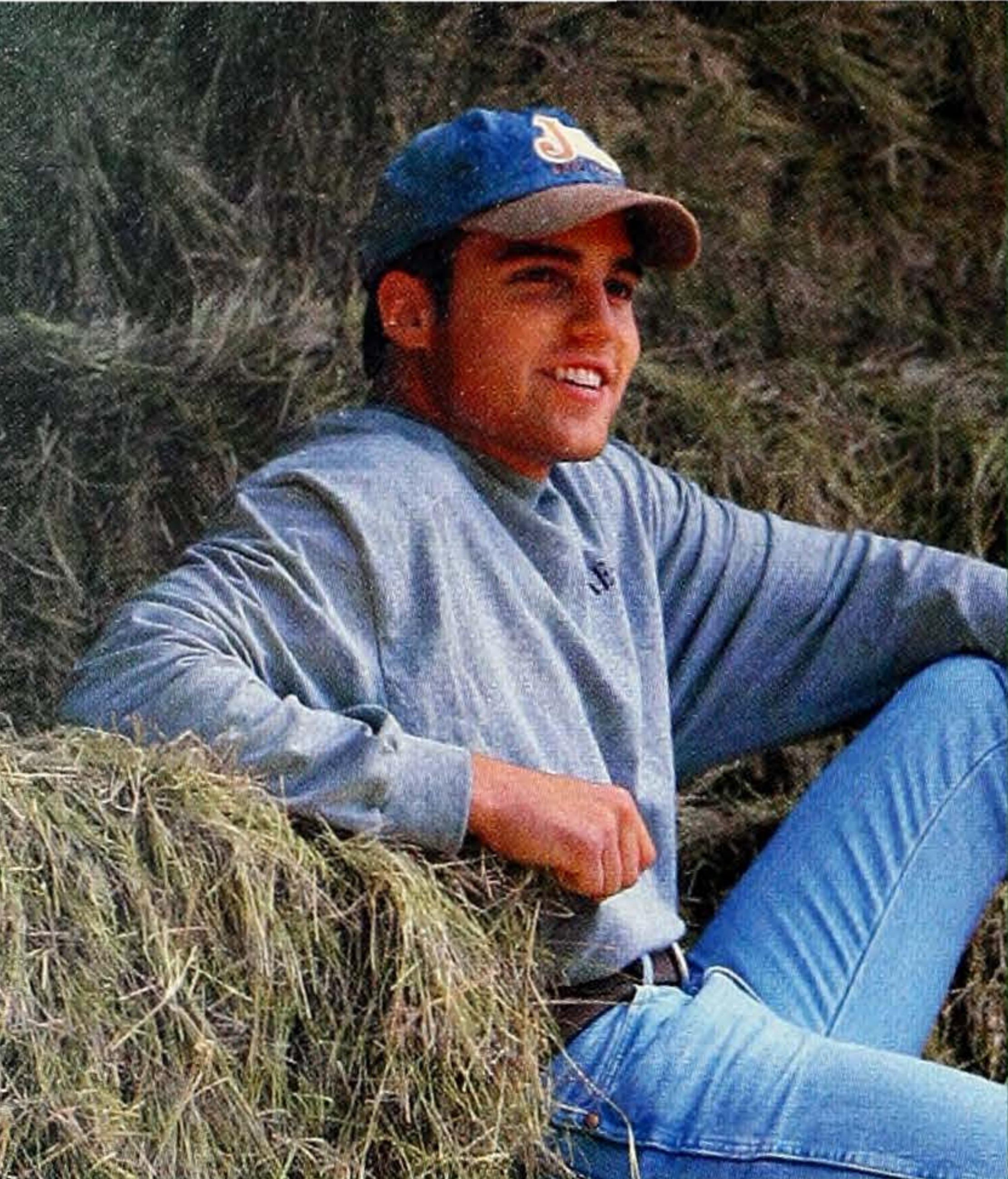
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\*\*\$200 minimum, pretax, annual purchase required. All other rules and regulations apply. See store for details.



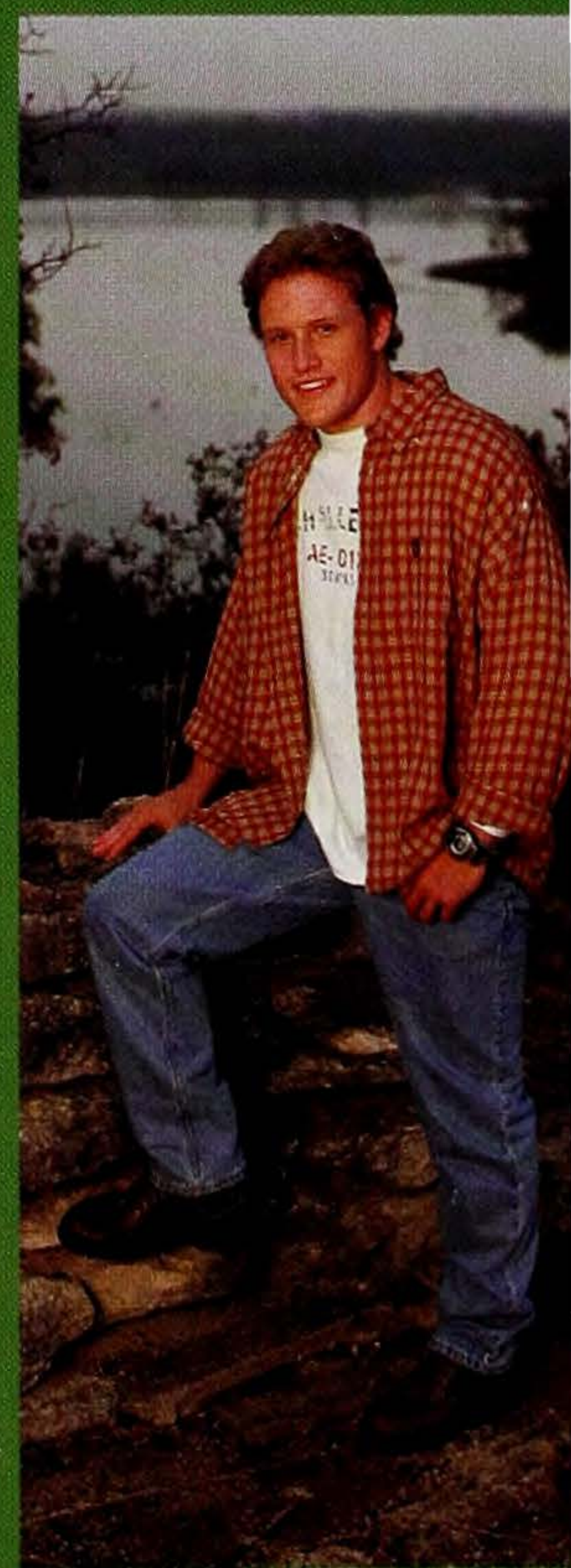


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