

The 65th National FFA Convention

PROCEEDINGS

November 12-14, 1992



November 11, 1992

Dear Mom and Dad,
This convention is too cool. Never seen
so many blue jackets before. Thought
I would be scared so far from home,
but everybody's friendly.

Tonight there were balloons everywhere
and the Kentucky Headhunters put on
a concert. They were kickin'.
I really feel like I belong here.
Gotta go! We're getting up early
to get a good seat tomorrow morning.
Miss you guys.

Love,

Jennifer

P.S. Keep Wayne out of my stuff,
please



Mr. & Mrs. Donald
110 Granger Road
Fairfield, CA 94533



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It was the best party we've ever seen.

Trying to make the 65th National FFA Convention fit inside this 76-page report was no small task. We couldn't find a way to package the pounding bass drum beat of the Kentucky HeadHunters as it boomed through the auditorium or the electric tension as we waited to hear the names of the 1992-93 National FFA Officers. We couldn't figure out how to include a sample of the crisp Kansas City morning air or the laughter of a bus load of eager FFA members headed off for their first visit to a big-city restaurant.

But here's what we could do. On the pages that follow, you will find unforgettable images of FFA's 65th birthday party. You will see the joy as well as the quiet moments. You will find the concentration of competition and the satisfaction of achievement. In these pages, there are people who are letting go of FFA and those who are just beginning to sense the world that awaits them. In short, this convention proceedings is the official record of 29,541 people from across this nation, coming together for the sole purpose of improving the lives of young agriculturalists.

This publication was put together in a seldom-seen corner of Municipal Auditorium's Little Theatre by a group of people who know the importance of looking back to appreciate the magic that is the national FFA convention. Jeri Mattics is a member of the National FFA's Communications Resources Team and came to the convention as Colorado's state reporter in 1982. Thelma Schoonmaker is a former American Farmer Degree recipient and works for the National Dairy Board in Arlington, Va. Linda Flint designs the *FFA New Horizons* magazine in her position at the National FFA Organization. Molly Wilson once milked cows on a Swiss dairy farm as part of Work Experience Abroad and now works for a Decatur, Ill., advertising agency. Jody Mattics is a graphic designer from Olathe, Colo., who played the part of a six-year-old girl in the 1987 national convention vespers program, and Jennifer West is a member of the Hesperia, Calif., FFA chapter. As for me, I can still remember how it felt to attend my first national convention in 1973 as a reward for winning the Paris, Mo., creed speaking contest. Those memories, like the ones in this book, were the most treasured of my high school years.

Enjoy,

Shirley Sokolosky

Shirley Sokolosky
Managing Editor





These FFA members modeled confetti on the main floor of Municipal Auditorium while wholeheartedly celebrating with the masses during Wednesday night's opening gala.

A Time to Celebrate

It was a rockin' good time.

The opening night gala was what a party ought to be, with high spirits, hot lights and music loud enough to raise the roof.

But you can't have a party without something to celebrate, and for FFA, the list was long. Membership jumped by 18,000, the first increase in 12 years. The National FFA turned 65, and Kansas City was full of convention spirit.

It began innocently enough, with '50s tunes and a trip down the memory lane of conventions past. The mood exploded into the future with strobe lights and the national officers puttin' on the ritz in black ties, top hats and tails. Confetti splashed out from the balconies as the National FFA Band and Chorus paraded in, flanked by waving flags. 17,000 members and guests chimed in for a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" to the FFA, as 5,000 balloons

floated from the ceiling, and the hall turned into a giant popcorn popper as the balloons met their demise.

That was all a warm-up for the main attraction, a rollicking, rolling concert courtesy of the Kentucky HeadHunters, who put out more sound in 45 minutes than the combined decibels of the remaining convention. This was destined to be a gathering like no other, and it was just the beginning.



A Time For Independence

Members piled out of buses, leaning sideways as they tried to balance the bulging suitcases they dragged into their hotel rooms. It was bright lights, big city time for many members making their first trek outside their home state borders. Had they packed enough, too much? How soon should they call home? Where was the nearest McDonald's?

All these and more would be answered in due time. It was a chance to hail a taxi, ride an airplane, get lost underneath Bartle Hall and wind your way out, and generally find out about being on your own.

Some members learned lessons the hard, expensive way; several were left behind as their buses rolled out after Thursday night's session. They had to taxi to their hotel in a remote end of Kansas City, and they didn't miss the bus again.



With no chaperones, parents or friends in sight, this FFA member from Gackle, N.D., stood inside the doors of the convention hall, drinking in his independence.



The National FFA Convention gave delegates and members a chance to learn from each other. Kevin Ragland (left), convention delegate and secretary of the Tennessee Association, explained a recommendation for realigning the four FFA regions. The proposal was approved by convention delegates and will be voted on by the board of directors in January. (See page 55 for details on the proposal.)

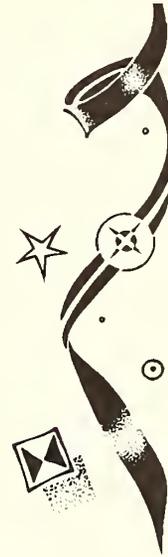
The senses were pounded during the week with the sights, sounds and smells of the convention. The "In Your Face" video crew spent hours digging out the weird, the incredible and the downright inane snippets of life outside of the convention halls, and broadcast their investigations before each session.

New faces at the convention were school administrators and state education policymakers who learned more about agricultural education and each other through a W.K. Kellogg Foundation-sponsored program.

Members listened to speakers' stories, from the victory recap of Mary Lou Retton's Olympic gold in gymnastics, to one of perseverance and hope by former hostage Thomas Sutherland who was held in Beirut for nearly seven years. Retton was partially sponsored by DVB Enterprises, Inc., while Farmers Hybrid Companies, Inc., sponsored Sutherland's travel expenses.

Other convention speakers included Dave Yoho, sponsored by Universal Dairy Equipment, Inc., which also sponsored convention organist, Peter Olé. Miss America Leanza Cornett was sponsored by Chevy Trucks, and Zig Ziglar's appearance was sponsored by United Telephone-Midwest.

A Time to Watch, Listen and Learn



Although gymnastics might seem like an individual sport, Mary Lou Retton, Olympic gold medalist, told a packed convention hall that's just not the case. "A strong team helps everybody equally," Retton said.

A Time to Perform

Nervous energy was in high supply during the convention as public speakers sweated it out on stage, contest participants pitted their knowledge against one another, and panels of judges picked the brains of proficiency, star and national officer candidates.

Early mornings and late nights were the rule of the day for band, chorus and talent members as they strained their lungs and vocal chords to reach musical perfection. The eyes of Kansas City were on every member at the convention. It was their time to show the world what it meant to be an FFA member.



Performers took all shapes and sizes. This Holstein cow tried to look her best in the dairy cattle judging contest. Her handler worked to be the best exhibitor, and the contest participant blocked out all distractions to place the class correctly. Each had different jobs, but all turned in their best performances for the national contest.



The Kentucky HeadHunters set the pace of this year's convention with a solid bass beat in a free concert on Wednesday night. Richard Young, a former Metcalf County, Ky., FFA member and HeadHunters guitarist said, "I always wanted to come to the convention, but I wasn't an officer so I never got to. We're here to be a part of it." Not only did the Kentucky HeadHunters play, band members Young (lower right), Greg Martin, Mark Orr, Anthony Kenny and Fred Young, gave autographs following the performance.

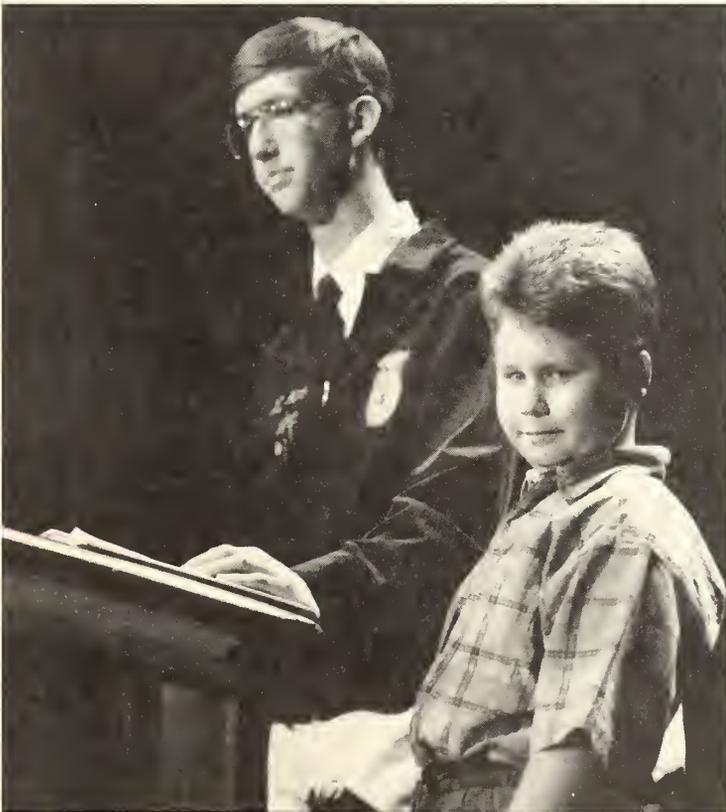


If this FFA member was nervous during his performance in the talent show, you couldn't tell it from his trumpet playing.

A Time to Grow and a Time to Lend a Hand



Former hostage Dr. Thomas Sutherland held the crowd in the palm of his hand as he delivered a powerful message on perseverance and determination. A former dean of agriculture, Sutherland emphasized the important role American agriculture plays in world trade and politics.



FFA member Matt March and his friend Johnnie Loomis, both of Beal City, Mich., told convention attendees of the friendship they have forged, thanks to Project Pals. The mentoring program has matched 800 FFA members in Mich., Ark., and Texas with elementary students in search of role models and friends. A special Project Pals audiovisual presentation sponsored by W.K. Kellogg Foundation premiered at the convention.

For first-time convention attendees, the sight of jackets from Guam, Hawaii, or even Texas broadened their horizons. Accents ranged from the clipped New England to the southern drawl, giving members new linguistic experiences and leaving some wondering if their new friends were even speaking English. The convention was interpreted in sign language for the hearing impaired. Members could go beyond national boundaries by making new friends with exchange students from Germany or the Ukraine.

The convention itself grew, hitting an all-time record attendance of 29,541. Politeness abounded throughout; friendly "Howdy, ma'am's," on the hotel elevators and the smiles in the convention hall made you realize the FFA convention brings out something special in people.

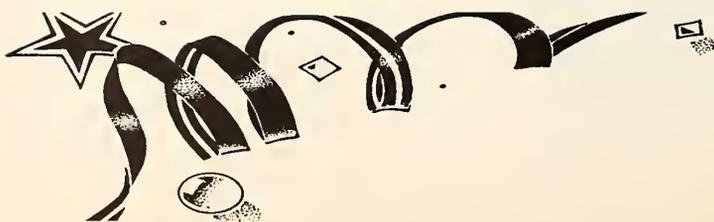
A Time to Dream



After an exhausting day of leadership workshops, convention sessions, career show browsing and mingling, this FFA member took a break, resting backstage on the platforms used for the Stars Over America Pageant. That break gave him a moment to dream about the day he might be American Star Farmer or Star in Agribusiness, or of how this week has changed his life.

If the convention had one purpose, it was to show all in attendance that boundaries could be broken, and the time-worn phrase "anything is possible," really is true. Members who never thought of chairing a committee returned home with visions of dashing up to the stage one day as a national officer. Teachers returned to their classrooms with morales boosted and heads full of new ideas. Sponsors who had never seen FFA in action headed back to their companies with a renewed hope for the future of agriculture. Everyone was shaped by their experiences. They realized they were part of an incredible, never-to-be-duplicated experience.

The best part was that through sharing with others in the coming weeks and months, the experience will linger and grow. The memories will last a lifetime, and even as we add this convention to the book of our lives, we dream about the possibilities of conventions to come.



National Parliamentary Procedure Contest

Sponsored by the United Soybean Board

First Place:

Ritzville, Washington

Second Place:

Portales, New Mexico

Finalists:

ARKANSAS: Lincoln

NEW MEXICO: Portales

WASHINGTON: Ritzville

WISCONSIN: Clear Lake



These members of the Ritzville, Wash., FFA Chapter showed convention attendees the proper way to conduct a meeting. They won the first National FFA Parliamentary Procedure Contest.

Advocates of a national parliamentary procedure contest saw their dream come to fruition in 1992. The addition of the first national team leadership contest added a new kind of excitement to the convention.

Each competing team faced this challenge: present a 10-minute demonstration, correctly using motions chosen by contest officials, and answer questions posed by the judges. Discussion was based upon one of three pre-announced topics: regional realignment, national award selection, and a name change for the organization.

Friday morning, 30 teams assembled for the first round of competition. Following semi-finals and an award luncheon, the finals took place that afternoon in the auditorium's Music Hall.

After Friday night's announcement of the national winner and presentation of plaques and medals, the program took a novel twist; the winning team presented a demonstration on stage for the convention audience.

Stars Over America

Film sponsored by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Recognition awards sponsored by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.

For many, Thursday evening's Stars Over America pageant was a dramatic and exciting lesson in achievement. With the aid of film, the convention audience was transported to farms and agribusinesses across the nation for profiles on the eight stars.

Each star was then joined on stage by family members and advisors for the results of the afternoon's judging.

The American Star in Agribusiness and the American Star Farmer each received \$2,000, and regional stars were presented with \$1,000. All eight were presented with plaques and invitations to join the 1993 Stars International Marketing Experience.



*Chad Wells, 21
McMinnville, Tennessee
Warren County FFA Chapter
American Star in Agribusiness*

Wells owns and operates Middle Tennessee Landscaping and Nursery. He employs five people and provides landscaping services for individuals, shopping centers and industrial parks.



*Kelby Paske, 22
Arlington, Wisconsin
DeForest FFA Chapter
American Star Farmer*

Paske raises corn, soybeans and peas on 1,675 rented acres. He hedges his corn and soybeans on the futures markets and forward contracts with Del Monte for his canning crops. Paske also manages a trucking operation.



Kelby Paske, left, and Chad Wells were walking on air after being named the American Star Farmer and American Star in Agribusiness.



*Terrill Strnad, 21
Formoso, Kansas
Mankato FFA Chapter
Star in Agribusiness
Central Region*

Strnad operates a custom farm service business with his brother, Troy. Harvesting wheat, corn, soybeans and milo is their primary activity, along with custom drilling, spraying, swathing and haying.



*Jeff Martin, 21
East Earl, Pennsylvania
Grassland FFA Chapter
Star in Agribusiness
Eastern Region*

Martin is part owner of a tree service called Two in a Tree. He invested his profits in equipment, allowing the business to serve customers more efficiently and economically.



*Randall Bogden, 22
Ulm, Montana
Cascade FFA Chapter
Star in Agribusiness
Western Region*

Bogden works in his family's meat packing plant and plans to become a full partner within five years. He has experienced every facet of the business, from working on the kill floor to dealing with customers.



*Darren Funk, 19
Burley, Idaho
Burley FFA Chapter
Star Farmer
Western Region*

Funk has a 71-acre operation, raising sugar beets, edible beans, spring wheat and potatoes. To supplement his crop income, Funk does custom work for neighboring farmers.



*Hal Glaze, 21
Eastanollee, Georgia
Franklin County FFA Chapter
Star Farmer
Southern Region*

Glaze owns six poultry houses and raises more than 810,000 birds per year. His poultry operation is highly technical, using the latest innovations in watering and ventilation equipment and design to keep birds healthy.



*Brian Lake, 21
Big Cove Tannery, Pennsylvania
Warfordsburg FFA Chapter
Star Farmer
Eastern Region*

Lake owns the largest spotted swine operation in the state—a herd of 300. He believes artificial insemination in swine has great potential and is helping to develop a line of prominent boars for semen collection.

Proficiency Awards

Friday night's proficiency awards pageant recognized members for their achievements in 29 specific agricultural areas. All 116 national finalists started at the local level and advanced through district, state and regional judging. The 1992 convention was the last time finalists represented regions; future finalists will be chosen "at large."

Proficiency judging took place Thursday afternoon, and finalists passed some anxious hours until Friday evening's announcement.

A national winner was chosen in each category and these winners took home \$500, a plaque, a cash convention travel award and an invitation to take part in the 1993 European Travel Seminar, courtesy of their National FFA Foundation sponsors. Other finalists received \$250, a plaque and a cash convention travel award.

National winners' names are printed in **boldfaced** type.

AGRICULTURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Sponsored by the National Food & Energy Council, Incorporated; and the General Fund

INDIANA: Jeffery B. Koontz, Bremen

LOUISIANA: Chris Ezernack, Noble

NORTH CAROLINA: Kevin G. Gurganus, Newport

OKLAHOMA: Brian Barnes, Sperry

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Sponsored by Case IH

CALIFORNIA: Matthew Lasiter, Chowchilla

INDIANA: Brad Pickard, Frankfort

LOUISIANA: Bryan K. Matte, Welsh

NORTH CAROLINA: James K. West, Kinston

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

Sponsored by Ag Processing Inc.; Archer Daniels Midland Company; and Supersweet Feed (AGP, L.P.)

FLORIDA: Danny Baez, Miami

INDIANA: Janis K. Enfield, Hamilton

OHIO: Timothy J. Roush, Salineville

WASHINGTON: Gregory W. O'Neal, Yelm

AGRICULTURAL SALES AND/OR SERVICE

Sponsored by Chevy Trucks; ICI Americas Inc.; Northrup King Company; and Vigortone Agriculture Products

CALIFORNIA: Jana M. Barstow, Turlock

IOWA: Todd L. Roberts, Marengo

NEW YORK: David Snyder, Hamilton

TENNESSEE: Benny J. McDonald, Mt. Juliet

BEEF PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Nasco Division/Nasco International, Incorporated; and Pitman-Moore, Inc.

ARKANSAS: Jason A. Umberson, Cane Hill

INDIANA: Andy Wilson, Bainbridge

OHIO: Chad McDowell, Winchester

OKLAHOMA: Lynda L. Blakley, Oologah

CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Kellogg Company; and Unocal 76

INDIANA: Bryan J. Penrose, Bremen

NORTH CAROLINA: Jack A. Davis, Kinston

LOUISIANA: Patrick D. Hayes, Welsh

MONTANA: Quentin J. Burdick, Ekalaka

DAIRY PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Alfa-Laval Agri, Inc.; American Breeders Service; and Manna Pro Corporation

ALABAMA: James A. Racine Jr., Robertsdale

OHIO: J. Clark Morgan, Urbana

WASHINGTON: Ryan A. Lancaster, Ferndale

WISCONSIN: Jamie S. Judd, Reedsburg

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Cargill

ARIZONA: Tyson Stuhr, Wellton

IOWA: Shaun E. Lambertsen, Martelle

TENNESSEE: Jim Barbour, Friendship

VIRGINIA: Robert W. Pollok, Danville

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Sponsored by the Livestock Marketing Association; and Wayne Feed Division/Continental Grain Company

FLORIDA: Matt T. Childress, New Smyrna Beach

OKLAHOMA: Devin DeLozier, Adair

VIRGINIA: Adam D. Shiflett, Grottoes

WISCONSIN: John Offer, Auburndale



National Secretary Mike Stevenson and Mark Yates, Fishtail, Mont., exchanged "the secret handshake" after Yates won the Home and/or Farmstead Improvement Proficiency Award.

FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

NORTH DAKOTA: David Rotenberger, Milnor

OHIO: Stephanie N. Gompf, Cardington

OKLAHOMA: Eric W. Johnson, Afton

TENNESSEE: Daren L. Helton, Sevierville

FIBER CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Sandoz Agro, Inc.

LOUISIANA: Matthew M. Fortenberry, Oak Grove

MISSOURI: Jeff D. Dorris, Bernie

NORTH CAROLINA: Chuck Johnson, Dunn

TEXAS: Timothy G. Kitten, Slaton



Michael Davis, Opelika, Ala., held high the fist of a champion after hearing his name echo through the auditorium. He won the Fruit and/or Vegetable Production Proficiency Award. His advisor, Al Griffin, won the forestry proficiency award four years ago.

FLORICULTURE

Sponsored by the American Floral Endowment; The Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch; The Lerio Corporation; and the Professional Plant Growers Association

MINNESOTA: Dustin J. Benes, Jackson
 NEW JERSEY: Dawn M. Moskowitz, South Amboy
 TENNESSEE: Brandon K. Lowery, Bartlett
 TEXAS: Earnest R. Welch Jr., Brownsboro

FORAGE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Gehl Company; and Northrup King Company

OHIO: Mark A. Ruff, Circleville
 OKLAHOMA: Larry P. Bridwell, Blanchard
 TENNESSEE: Mitchel L. Bohannon, Athens
 WISCONSIN: David A. Lulich, Mason

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by the Homelite Division of Textron Inc.; Stone Container Corporation; and the General Fund

ALABAMA: Jason A. Daugherty, Delta
 INDIANA: Allan McBride, Spencer
 MONTANA: Jesse J. Best, Arlee
 OHIO: Scott W. Bauer, Norwalk

FRUIT AND/OR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Incorporated

ALABAMA: Michael C. Davis, Opelika
 CALIFORNIA: Corinna Durling, Fallbrook
 KANSAS: Phillip Vering, Marysville
 OHIO: Matt Shane, Upper Sandusky

HOME AND/OR FARMSTEAD IMPROVEMENT

Sponsored by The Upjohn Company/ Agricultural Division

ALABAMA: Robert J. Hickey, Goodwater
 INDIANA: Marc A. Werling, New Haven
 MONTANA: Mark Yates, Fishtail
 VIRGINIA: Spencer E. Nolen, Danville

HORSE PROFICIENCY

Sponsored by the Equicare Division of Zoexon Corporation; and Justin Boot Company

COLORADO: Cyndi Jones, McClave
 MINNESOTA: Nancy Hinrichs, Randolph
 NORTH CAROLINA: Billy J. Brown, Dunn
 TENNESSEE: Cheraton E. Donner, Dyersburg

NURSERY OPERATIONS

Sponsored by Chrysler Motors Corporation—Dodge Trucks; and Merck AGVET Division

MINNESOTA: Susan M. Sikkila, Iron
 OHIO: Becky J. Wilkin, Lynchburg
 OREGON: Brenda D. McPheeters, Culver
 TENNESSEE: Donald S. Hutson, Church Hill

(Continued on Page 14)

OIL CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by the Chicago Board of Trade; and FMC Foundation

FLORIDA: Travis S. Howell, Sneads

MINNESOTA: Chris T. Matzdorf, Buffalo Lake

NORTH CAROLINA: Jamie Backey, Weddington

TEXAS: Curtis L. Jennings, Rhome

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Sponsored by the General Fund

MINNESOTA: Jon P. Finnegan, Litchfield

NEW YORK: Tammy J. Smith, Neversink

TENNESSEE: Keith E. Sims, Morrison

WYOMING: Tye Cicci, Cody

PLACEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Sponsored by DEKALB Genetics Corporation; and Pitman-Moore, Inc.

FLORIDA: Jeanette P. Koch, Summerfield

MARYLAND: Eric Troxell, Thurmont

MONTANA: Shad C. Powers, Clyde Park

WISCONSIN: Chad L. Halverson, Mondovi

POULTRY PRODUCTION

Sponsored by the Chore-Time Equipment Division of CTB, Incorporated; ConAgra Poultry; Red Brand fence/Made by

Keystone Steel & Wire Company; and Schering-Plough Animal Health

MINNESOTA: Troy R. Stauffenecker, Greenbush

NORTH CAROLINA: Everette D. Little, Marshville

OKLAHOMA: Obie Pigeon, Kansas

TENNESSEE: Timmy L. Smith, Cleveland

SHEEP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by the American Sheep Industry Association; Kent Feeds/ Evergreen Mills; and the General Fund

ARIZONA: Holly Sharp, Roll

LOUISIANA: Ron S. Doise, Elton

NORTH DAKOTA: Kari Jo Warner, Baldwin

WEST VIRGINIA: Christine K. Baxter, Marlinton

SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Division

FLORIDA: Jeremy S. Lowery, Walnut Hill

MINNESOTA: John C. Scott, Sargeant

NORTH CAROLINA: Jeffrey Baumgartner, Princeton

OKLAHOMA: Kristal D. Cyphers, Guthrie

SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Sponsored by American Dairy Goat Association; Country General Stores; and Purina Mills, Inc.

ARIZONA: Ted Brooks, Humboldt

ILLINOIS: Tim Marriott, Mt. Carmel

TENNESSEE: Eric W. Gibson, Toone

WEST VIRGINIA: James Pursley, Sandyville

SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by CENEX/CENEX Foundation; Kubota Tractor Corporation; and the General Fund

OKLAHOMA: Kevin J. Koscelny, Delaware

TENNESSEE: Jason D. Howard, Athens

VIRGINIA: John Walker, South Hill

WISCONSIN: Daniel Brattlie, Cambridge

SWINE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health

CALIFORNIA: Thomas P. Albin, Del Rey

GEORGIA: Lindsey E. Parrish, Adel

MISSOURI: Timothy J. Scheulen, Loose Creek

PENNSYLVANIA: John P. Risser, Lebanon

TURF AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by The O.M. Scott & Sons Company

KENTUCKY: Neal C. Floyd, Nicholasville

NORTH CAROLINA: Sean B. Turner, Harmony

TENNESSEE: Russell W. Dalton Jr., Morristown

TEXAS: John P. Dineen III, Waxahachie

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by Buck Knives and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ALABAMA: Brett J. Speegle, Hartselle

IOWA: Thomas S. Macke, Lake City

MONTANA: Sierra D. Stoneberg, Hinsdale

VIRGINIA: Brian R. Lowenbach, Warrenton



No, Daniel Brattlie, Cambridge, Wis., wasn't flexing his biceps for the "Hans and Franz" contest. He was celebrating victory in the Specialty Crop Production Proficiency Award area.

American FFA Degrees

Recognition program sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Division; Case IH; Farm Credit System; Na-Churs Plant Food Company; and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

The conferring of FFA's highest degree was an exciting moment for 1,208 members on Friday afternoon. The recipients were seated in state groups for the ceremony and walked through the traditional arch to

receive their keys and certificates.

American FFA Degree recipients enjoyed a luncheon prior to the convention session, courtesy of their National FFA Foundation sponsors.



Success was sweet for Nancy and Jason Bachmann of Frazee, Minn. The young husband and wife were both recipients of the American FFA Degree.

ALABAMA: Gary W. Barnett, Killen; Rebecca L. Birdsong, Hartford; Richie Carr, Enterprise; Randy J. Chandler, Talladega; Troy Fillingim, Jack; Scotty L. Hovater, Russellville; Gordon R. Jackson Jr., Moulton; Stephen L. Kiser, Piedmont; Vickie S. McCluskey, Athens; Chad E. McDuffa, Russellville; James J. Porter, Munford; Michael L. Putnam, Auburn; Michael A. Reeser, Calera; Mark W. Shehee, Daleville; Jody Thompson, Henagar

ALASKA: Priscilla L. Mandulak, Delta Junction; Sara F. Walezky, North Pole

ARIZONA: Heath L. Accomazzo, Buckeye; Wade Accomazzo, Tolleson; Cori E. Allen, Roll; Bradley S. Blackwell, Wittman; Bobbie Bolt, Gilbert; Shannon A. Burks, Wellton; Debra S. Cline, Kingman; Nicholas A. Cline, Kingman; Tyler J. Grandil, Mesa; Kristopher L. Harman, Wellton; Brandy McDonnell, Wellton; Brian W. Miley, Queen Creek; Amberdawn M. Moore, Dobson; Holly S. Sharp, Roll; Rusty J. Shill, Wellton; Tyson Stuhr,

Wellton; Matthew E. Thelander, Tacna

ARKANSAS: Clay Austin, Austin; Jeffrey R. Black, Prairie Grove; Jeffrey L. Britt, Royal; Lisa Cantrel, Siloam Springs; Brian W. Carlton, Lincoln; Teresa L. Davis, Camden; Wendy Dillahunty, Gentry; Frank Fowler, Melbourne; Tim Franklin, West Fork; Keith Griffin, Austin; Anthony L. Hicks, Mountain Home; Alesha Hogue, Marshall; Tim James, Siloam Springs; Jeff Jennings, Marshall; Reggie Lamb, Delight; Les McCormic, Hoxie; Michael W. Pounders, Cabot; Walter H. Tubbs II, Des Arc; Jenifer D. Webb, Harrison; John Westerman, Lonsdale

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Camacho, San Luis Obispo; Dana M. Chamberlain, Laton; Shane Charest, Visalia; Melissa Claverie, Holtville; Jenna Coble, Visalia; Miranda Council, Chowchilla; Callie L. De Rose, Atascadero; Jeanette Dose, Chino Hills; Tamara L. Doster, Littlerock; Scott Dow, Fullerton; Chris Dunn, Holtville; Tony M. Dutra, Hanford; Nick Echarte, Dixon; Kimberly A. Ford, Fullerton; Heath B. Fulk, Riverside; Travis Fusi, Holtville; Keith Gilbert, Tipton; Daren Gomes, Gustine; Joey Gonsalves, Modesto; Dominic S. Grossi, Novato; Sherri Grumbles, Kingsburg; Keith Hartnett, Lancaster; Leon Hath, El Nido; Gabriel J. Hightman, Modesto; Elizabeth D. Hinojosa, Fresno; Greg Hughan, Tulare; Timothy M. Kreslake, La Puente; Jonathan Larsen, Lancaster; Matthew Lasiter, Chowchilla; Jeffery Logan, Chowchilla; Loren Lopes, Turlock; Mark Lungren, Kingsburg; Lynnette McGill, Atwater; Chris McMahon, Kingsburg; Brenda M. Moore, Hughson; Lynn Newsome, Denair; Bill Nicoletti, Chowchilla; Keri C. Nimphius, Oakdale; Mary M. Paasch, Chicago Park; Craig Pafford, Dos Palos; Stephanie R. Perez, Clovis; Jeff Perry, Hilmar; David L. Porter, King City; Stacey A. Ransom, Kingsburg; Daniel E. Ray, LeMoore; Joshua R. Richards, Fall River Mills; Mike Richardson, Fillmore; Saul Rios, Visalia; Jason E. Rodrigues, Stratford; Jaime S. Salcedo, Fullerton; Bruce Santos, Denair; Nathan Sedlander, Petaluma; Tobin Sheehan, El Cajon; Matthew Sherman, Fallbrook; Christopher R. Simas, Woodland; Shawn J. Slate, Merced; Douglas R. Smith, Acton; Michael A. Swanson, Mira Loma; Denise M. Terry, Denair; Jessica R. Thoene, Glennville; Jennifer L. Thomas, Bodfish; Remi Van Der Linden, Holtville; Laura L. Varosi, Fallbrook; Corrie Veenstra, Chino; Philip Wagner, Denair; Kevin G. White, Wilton; Dan Wood, Hemet; Tania L. Wood, King City

COLORADO: T. J. Albreicht, Fort Morgan; Kristy Brunelli, Monte Vista; Cory L. Carritt, Fort Morgan; Jimmy D. Flowers, Montrose; Chris Flynn, Cedaredge; Kshell L. Gardner, Wray; Aaron Gebauer, Otis; John J. Guy, Seibert; Kevin Hahn, Grover; Robin Halley, Brush; Jennifer A. Hatch, Greeley; Justin W. Iacovetto, Eaton; Jodi L. Jacoby, Bennett; Robert Johnson, Greeley; Frank Jones III, Grover; Chad Liddell, Alamosa; Nick Maneotis, Craig; Michael Miller, Greeley; Mark A. Mummert, Delta; Brett W. Nelson, Genoa; Lance Nichols, Flagler; Kenton D. Ochsner, Ft. Collins; Ryan Ross, Woodrow; Kimberly Ruppel, Platteville;

(Continued on Page 16)

American FFA Degrees

Roc Rutledge, Yuma; Chad Schafer, LaSalle; Kerry L. Sherman, Akron; Michael T. Simon, Holly; Donald C. Thorn, Yuma; Kevin Villard, Craig; Kellie S. White, Holyoke; Troy Wulf, New Raymer; Glen A. Yearous, Fort Morgan; Michelle M. Yost, Sterling

CONNECTICUT: Amy Jasmine, Falls Village; DeAnne L. La Mere, Winsted

DELAWARE: Stephen E. Cook, Newark; Kimberly E. Messick, Millsboro; Lisa Marie Ralph, Harrington

FLORIDA: Peter R. Benton, Bartow; Lisa J. Bunn, Citra; Lori J. Bunn, Citra; William W. Carr, Oxford; John Delker, Ocoee; Brad Hatcher, Winter Garden; Michael L. Henry, Ocoee; Eric Hill, Sneads; Todd Hingson, Welborn; Tracy McCormick, DeLand;

Michael C. McCracken, Avon Park; Chris Nelson, Mulberry; Douglas Newsom, Belleview; Kelly D. O'Neill, Trenton; Ronald L. Palmer, Lake City; Mary K. Parton, Miami Shores; Matthew C. Peterson, Bushnell; Howard W. Record, Citra; David A. Smith, Starke; Michael Stotler, Apopka; Dan C. Thomas, Bell; Timothy W. Weber, Sarasota

GEORGIA: Jasen Allison, Gainesville; David C. Anderson, Alpharetta; Herbert G. Bolt Jr., Winder; Michael W. Brannon Jr., Sparks; Darryl T. Bruner, Jakin; Jason R. Carey, Winder; Ben Echols, Crawfordville; Hal H. Glaze, Eastanollee; John S. Humphrey, Royston; Joshua I. Maddox, Appling; Thomas B. Marks Jr., Covington; Allen W. Martin Jr., Thomasville; John E. McAvoyn, Crawfordville; Lindsey E. Parrish, Adel; Loren Rathel, Iron City; Marvin H. Simmons, Mershon

IDAHO: Jeremy Burgess, Castleford; Natalie Burrie, Melba; Larry H. Claar, Hazelton; Travis Cook, Rupert; Myron C. Durfee, Almo; Darren E. Funk, Burley; Tracey L. Funk, Burley; Holly Hendren, Monteview; Jeffrey L. Jarolimek, Burley; L. Dax Keller, Clifton; Merri J. McLain, Bancroft; Arlen Mickelson, Grace; Bart T. Place, Hamer; Kathryn R. Southwick, Glens Ferry; Marcee R. Stastny, Eden; Jeanette Wells, Buhl; Kent O. Whittig, Caldwell

ILLINOIS: Joe D. Ash, Onarga; James L. Berry, Lexington; William P. Boyle, Sycamore; James L. Brain, Bismarck; Barry S. Doughty, Mendota; Ryan W. Drake, Sycamore; Adam L. Gilbert, Waterloo; Kathy Jo Graul, New Baden; Thomas M. Grober, Seneca; Craig S. Guebert, Red Bud; Stephen D. Hartley, Amboy; Sheila Heide, DeKalb; Raquel A. Lacey, Nokomis; Constance C. Paul, Worden; Karla A. Rose, Salem; David Rupert, Nokomis; Jason M. Schuette, Centralia; Ernie Stabenow III, Lena; Daniel P. Toohill, Leroy; James C. Toohill, Leroy; Thomas J. Toohill, Leroy; Chet A. Walters, Weldon; Julie B. Wetzell, Waterloo; Gregory F. Wiegand, Red Bud; Norman A. Wilson, Paris; John G. Woodcock, Valmeyer

INDIANA: Aaron P. Adams, Rockville; Amber P. Anderson, Rossville; Melissa A. Beale, Delphi; Angela M. Burger, Fairland; Blaine B. Butler Jr.,



Brothers Bill and David Wood of the Eminence, Ind., chapter relaxed during Wednesday's rehearsal for the American FFA Degree ceremony.

Frankfort; Janis K. Enfield, Hamilton; Scott C. Faulkner, Greenfield; John A. Filbrun, Flora; Chris Gardner, Rochester; Jeffrey L. Geiger, Columbia City; Tracie M. Goodnight, Frankfort; Stephen D. Harvey, Brookville; Neal E. Herr, Camden; Dwayne A. Huber, Bremen; Stephen J. Huckeriede, Woodburn; Deryl L. Hunt, Greenfield; Aaron L. Johnson, Orleans; Jeff B. Koontz, Bremen; Troy L. Manges, Bremen; Allen McBride, Spencer; Shawn G. Meek, Camden; Lisa R. Mundell, Forest; Karen E. Nelson, Cloverdale; Mike A. Nobbe, Greensburg; Greg Parsons, Oden; Bryan J. Penrose, Bremen; Brad Pickard, Frankfort; John J. Ritter, Plainville; Scott E. Smith, Frankfort; Julie D. Thompson, Lafayette; W. Edward Timmons, Frankfort; David Wood, Eminence; William W. Wood, Eminence; Stephen H. Wooten, New Lisbon

IOWA: Eric A. Andersen, Marion; Kimberly S. Anderson, Clarion; Daniel J. Arens, Belle Plaine; Alan L. Bennett, Creston; Barry Bieber, Anamosa; Regan Brader, Mediapolis; Greg P. Burlage, Coggon; Brent R. Cousins, Olin; Darin L. Dietz, Ionia; Dwayne D. Faidley, Colfax; Ann M. Feldpausch, DeWitt; Ted A. Greif, Central City; Jon E. Hansen, Red Oak; Mark M. Hawthorne, Lohrville; David D. Jolly, Pleasantville; Robert L. Nuehring, Rockwell; Curtis W. Orr, Morning Sun; Douglas E. Reynolds, Redfield; Todd Roberts, Marengo; Travis J. Thomas, Charles City; Chadd E. Tuecke, Guttenberg; Wade M. Weber, Rockwell; Jason J. Wirth, Thompson

KANSAS: Jeff Ast, Wellington; Jennifer L. Burch, Holcomb; Mark Colson, Mankato; Matt Greninger, Galena; Dale R. Helwig, Columbus; Aaron D. Higbie, Williamsburg; Becky L. Hopkins, Fredonia; Ron Knavel, LaHarpe; Jason M. Larison, Columbus; Robert J. Nelson, Iola; Auby Ninemire, WaKeeney; Curtis Ohlde, Linn; Thomas O. Phillips,

Burlingame; Matthew S. Schweer, Green; Pamela Sluder, Mayetta; Terrill D. Strnad, Formoso; Santana D. Towns, Palco; Shannon G. Washburn, Norton; Michael E. Zamrzla, Wilson; John C. Zwonitzer, Horton

KENTUCKY: Casey Bradshaw, Nicholasville; Melissa S. Buckingham, Fulton; Michael M. Burch, Demossville; William D. Butts, Fredonia; William M. Crawford, Hodgenville; Robert D. Dunning, Priceton; Timothy M. Ebelhar, Sturgis; Jeffrey T. Edwards, Olaton; R. Daniel Fisher, Scottsville; John H. Gentry, New Haven; Donald Gooch Jr., Stanford; Mark E. Gosney, Demossville; James C. Hagan, Henderson; Randy L. Harris, Paris; Larissa L. Hayes, Brodhead; Beth Henderson, Irvington; Charles A. Hinkle, Paris; Shawn V. Holt, Princeton; Timmy W. Lee, Hodgenville; Richard B. Lively, Big Clifty; Dawn H. McCormick, Princeton; Mark D. Morgan, Princeton; Johnny C. Norris, Lexington; Danny R. Oliver, Scottsville; Jason R. P'Pool, Cadiz; Dreama Reams, Harned; Brent Sanford, Bowling Green; Gary O. Smith, Cloverport; Todd Smith, Princeton; Matthew S. Snowden, Clay City; Arthur Teater, Lancaster; James B. Turner, Cave City; Lee Wages, Salt Lick

LOUISIANA: Robert J. Dettenhaim, Oak Grove; Barrett P. Lyons, Church Point; Brad D. Racca, Iowa; Amy Sandel, Florian; Donald W. Sebren, Noble

MAINE: Steven Beaulieu, Limestone

MARYLAND: Robert W. Fogle Jr., Walkersville; Michael T. Gates, Thurmont; Samuel T. Parker, Salisbury; Vivian R. Stottlemeyer, Rocky Ridge

MASSACHUSETTS: Bryan C. Armstrong, Sudbury

MICHIGAN: John L. Adams, Byron; Dennis L. Anibal, Durand; Carrie Beneker, Marshall; Robert Bissell, Shepherd; Mark R. Buning, Falmouth;

Donald Burnham, Alma; Brian E. Combs, Homer; Heather Combs, Homer; Paul A. Courtade, Conklin; Stephen C. Dailey, Port Hope; Todd W. Davis, Ithaca; Karen A. Geiger, Palms; Gregory E. Godley, Lennon; James S. Hrabal, Breckenridge; Jeffrey D. Hulbert, Morrice; Venessa C. Inda, Port Austin; Douglas W. Kiessling, Marshall; James Kronemeyer, Pickford; Melissa A. Memmer, Alto; Kris Morse, Owosso; Thad G. O'Boyle, St. Louis; Cynthia M. Place, Perry; Christopher M. Reames, Unionville; Joeseph H. Richards, Alma; Kenneth J. Schapman, Almont; Joseph Sherwood, St. Louis; Kelly Jo Siemen, Harbor Beach; Michael P. Smego Jr., Cassopolis; Eugene Stockwell, Dowagiac; Andrea L. Westedt, Nunica; Dale Whitmore, Ithaca; Robbie J. Windle, Concord

MINNESOTA: Jason O. Bachmann, Frazee; Terry R. Baumgardt, Sleepy Eye; Fredrick J. Bianchi Jr., Gibbon; Keith Brogan, St. Charles; Chad Bunne, LeRoy Ostrander; Chad E. Buysse, Tracy; Julie K. Eastvold, LeRoy; Mike Fischer, Hanska; Darcy Franz, Bingham Lake; Tami Griebel, Pipestone; Jed A. Hesebeck, Jackson; Sonie Holladay, Rochester; Jason D. Holt, Worthington; Cory D. Huiras, Sleepy Eye; Kyle J. Iverson, Hayward; Mark Jacobson, Audubon; Brad Karnitz, Belle Plaine; James D. Kruize, Elbow Lake; Chad Larson, Sargeant; Sean Limesand, Luverne; Joel Luhmann, Rushford; Denise Marti, Sleepy Eye; Jill D. Marti, Sleepy Eye; Rachelle L. Marti, Sleepy Eye; Michael A. Mastey, Foley; Chris Matzdorf, Buffalo Lake; Theodore M. Moritz, Elk River; Jim Nelson, Pipestone; Kristi Neprud, Shelly; Lorna L. Notsch, Kimball; Craig A. Raatz, Pipestone; Jeremy P. Refshaw, Mahanomen; Michael Richter, St. Charles; Scott H. Ruitter, Clara City; Francis Rynda, Montgomery; Michelle M. Schaufler, LeRoy; Kevin D. Scherber, Rogers; Nancy M. Schwantz-Bachmann, Frazee; Thomas Seitz, LaFayette; Hugh A. Simon, Spring Valley; Jerusha A. Solt, Reading; Tony Steinke, Elk River; Marcy Stockdale, LeRoy; Eric R. Stoffers, Atwater; Timothy J. Sullivan, Kellogg; Steven Tusa, Alpha

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MISSOURI: Ronnie Akers, Eolia; Brett E. Allen, Lincoln; Travis Anders, Harrisonville; Mark C. Atkinson, Olean; Matt Ballard, Niangua; Sarah L. Bange, Bowling Green; Cheryl Beery, Gower; Daniel M. Bock, Palmyra; Michael Boling, Hannibal; Heath J. Bonnett, Hemple; Travis Bowling, Harrisonville; Chris M. Brauer, Syracuse; April Bruffett, Carthage; Leigh Burkhalter, Wellsville; Michelle D. Case, Norborne; Becky J. Claypole, Polo; Stephen S. Collier, Rich Hill; Robert C. Cordell, Union; Bradley L. Curp, Polo; Aaron Dannenhauer, Baring; Timothy L. Davis,

Bronaugh; Jim Day, Luray; Kenneth L. Day, Luray; Clint Deitch, Norborne; Danny Dixon, Hamilton; Brian L. Dooley, Novelty; Daniel J. Drew, Keytesville; Melvin B. Driskill, Cross Timbers; Jason R. Earl, Jasper; Heath Eckler, Middletown; Travis J. Eichelberger, Tipton; Karen J. Eulinger, California; Tammy R. Ford, Sarcoxie; Jonica K. French, Smithville; Kevin E. Fulks, Clarksburg; Bradley Gabelsberger, Chamois; Robert S. Gannan, Bethany; Jeffery R. Gentry, Polo; Daniel Gibson, St. James; Samuel R. Gifford, Licking; Jennifer L. Gilbert, New Haven; Douglas Gooding, Silex; Kevin Green, Westboro; Mike Grosse, New Florence; Corey Hall, Williamstown; Chris Hammen, Monett; Stacy Handke, Garden City; Julia G. Hardy, Grant City; Melinda C. Hatfield, Strafford; Douglas S. Hawkins, Carrollton; Chris Homfeld, Higginsville; Jeff Honey, Carthage; Dana E. Huff, Eudora; Amanda C. Hulett, Vandalia; Steven R. Iles, Lexington; Michael S. Jackson,

Parish, Arbela; Tom Paxton, Raymore; Jerry Pemberton, Richland; Greg Potter, Chillicothe; Tammy D. Ratcliff-Allee, California; Wayne E. Requat, Wright City; Darren J. Reynolds, Centralia; Seth Ricketts, Salisbury; Jennifer L. Riddle, Huntsville; Anita K. Rigdon, Queen City; David J. Robinson, Lucerne; C. A. Salmon, Albany; Kristi Sampson, Hartville; Kirby Scheer, New Haven; Daniel W. Schroeder, Union; Bobbie Jo Schultz, Latham; Jody Shelenhamer, Bolivar; John P. Spear, Louisburg; Brad Springer, Aurora; Dana L. Steward, Sheldon; Julie W. Swigart, Springfield; Darrin E. Tellman, Eugene; Cherie M. Thomas, Liberal; Scynthia Thompson, Stotts City; Johnny D. Viebrock, Cole Camp; Duane R. Vogelsmeier, Sweet Springs; Rhonda Voris, Halfway; Shawn A. Wardell, California; Robert J. Weddington, Freeman; Danny Westcott, Trenton; Jim Whitlock, Buffalo; Karl J. Wilke, Mt. Vernon; Dax T. Wilson, Carthage; Gregg Wolf, Chillicothe; Paige Wright,



Parents Bud and Gloria Combs, Homer, Mich., were proud twice over. They watched both of their children, Heather and Brian, walk across the stage to receive the American FFA Degree.

Kirkville; Scott A. Jacob, Hermann; Jeffery W. Johnson, Granby; Darin Kleindl, Granby; David Kleinsorge, Middletown; Mark E. Lemmon, Williamstown; Charles Leonard, Keytesville; Katherine E. Lewis, Holt; Michael R. Little, Monticello; Caren L. McCoy, Wellsville; Andrew McCrea, Maysville; Lori K. McDaniel, Springfield; Joey D. Moore, Cabool; Kelly A. Nelson, Skidmore; Leslie W. New, Sheridan; Warren S. Nolting, Florence; Wayne F. Oelrichs, Mora; Kalia M. Orr, Mt. Vernon; Brandon Oswald, Watson; Jeffery A. Owen, Long Lane; Harley Page, Butler; Cyrena D.

Marshall; Brian R. Zerr, Williamsburg
MONTANA: Randall E. Bogden, Ulm; Daniel P. Cather, Stevensville; Justin Fastje, Wilsall; Koy Holland, Dillon; Brandi K. Linhart, Hobson; Shad C. Powers, Whitefish; Jessie A. Strobbe, Sun River; Lisa Jo Swanz, Judith Gap; Ryan G. Tooke, Ekalaka

(Continued on Page 18)

American FFA Degrees

NEBRASKA: Lynn Becker, Scribner; Candice D. Berndt, Lakeside; Kelly J. Brunkhorst, Wauneta; Jim Bugbee, Steele City; Mark Buoy, Bassett; Jeff Cuba, Genoa; Torrey A. Dauel, Malmo; Jim L. DeHart, Wauneta; Rebecca Donahue, Raymond; Emily Drozd, Genoa; Duane L. Eberle Jr., Mason City; Jim D. Epp, Henderson; Tara Eurek, York; Andrea D. Farr, Cambridge; Renee Ferguson, Decatur; Darin J. Gable, Waverly; Merle D. Glathar Jr., Fairmont; Brent J. Goertzen, Bradshaw; Kiley Hammond-Criffield, Hazard; Corey Henkel, Bayard; Barry D. Hiebner, Hampton; Jennifer J. Hongsermeier, Ravenna; Judd D. Houser, Wauneta; Jeff Jacobs, Ceresco; William R. Jacobs, Ceresco; Bradley S. Jensen, Holdrege; Andrew L. Klug, Columbus; Rick Kment, Norfolk; Stephen Kyes, Central City; Stacy Mathis, Atkinson; Dennis Nelson, Genoa; Lee W. Nelson, Hooper; Steven J. Nelson, St. Edward; Jarrod M. Nielson, Whitman; Thomas R. Nun, Geneva; Peter Olson, Sargent; Lance D. Otte, Hazard; Bryan J. Perry, Kimball; Douglas D. Quaring, Ravenna; Ami Ruf, Wilsonville; Roger Schuett, Central City; Jon C. Simonsen, Superior; Shawn Simpson, Taylor; Kevin Standage, Ravenna; Brian D. Ternus, Genoa; Michael S. Thede, St. Paul; Lu Ann Thole, Milford; Mark D. Tinkham, Sargent; Mark J. Wray, Scotia

NEVADA: Melissa F. Barnes, Elko; Robert Duval, Fallon; Viktoria Rask, Gardnerville

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Bruce Scamman, Stratham

NEW JERSEY: John H. Pool, Mickleton

NEW MEXICO: Tammy D. Lieb, Portales

NEW YORK: Travis Armison, Fillmore; Paul V.

Burns Jr., Vernon Center; Harold Dettmer II, Fort Plain; Gary T. Eastman, Munnsville; Richard D. Gaige Jr., Schoharie; Matthew T. Hibbard, Penn Yan; Sarah Hook, Cobleskill; Ernest E. Kiehn Jr., Knoxboro; Jennifer Kohlmeyer, Verona; Mark P. Lewis, Hamilton; Colleen A. McKeon, Woodbourne; Bruce R. Paddock, Remsen; Kim R. Ryan, Moravia; Russell L. Turner Jr., Grahamsville; Richard G. Welsh, Millerton

NORTH CAROLINA: Homer G. Baggett Jr., Roseboro; Braxton R. Barger, Salisbury; George F. Bartlett, LaGrange; John R. Blackwell, Yanceyville; Jeannie M. Bowen, Newport; James W. Brown III, Mt. Ulla; Jeff Chandler, Mt. Gilead; David Collier, Wade; Tonia L. Foster, Cleveland; Patrick L. Gilleland, Taylorsville; Jim Guard, Poplar Branch; Mark R. Hammill, Gold Hill; Bryant Hampton, Troy; Richard S. Herman, Taylorsville; William G. Howell II, Goldsboro; Kevin D. Kinlaw, Bladenboro; Philip Lackey, Hiddenite; Troy Leary, Shiloh; Brian G. Lewis, Cary; Kim Morris, Troy; Christian A. Overton, Shiloh; Bruce Parnell, Mt. Gilead; Trina M. Pierce, Pikeville; Hank Purvis, Lumberton; Brad Shive, Salisbury; Brett Staples, Shiloh; John B. Thompson, Statesville; Brian L. Threadgill, Ramseur; Robert D. Trivette, Harmony; William B. Vernon, Milton; Christopher L. Weaver, Mt. Olive; Brian L. Wood, Raleigh

NORTH DAKOTA: Tracy D. Amsbaugh, Bottineau; Vaughn Cornell, Williston; Kyle Nelsen, Leeds; Paul R. Nelson, Battleview; Jason Pulver, Beulah; Wayne Rasmussen, Fort Ransom; Richard Reinke, Lisbon; Craig Saxlund, Lisbon; Jason A. Schmidt, Medina; Kyle Schroeder, Carrington; Christopher J. Seeger,

Turtle Lake; Frank A. Senn, Minot; Paul Wagenman, Cando; Michelle Wall, Mercer

OHIO: Rodney S. Adams, Fresno; Brett Baker, East Rochester; Douglas P. Baughman, Botkins; Beth Becker, Perrysburg; Tony Bensman, Sidney; Matthew L. Berner, Springfield; Randy A. Boes, Fostoria; Kelly J. Bohl, Sardinia; Lou Brough, Port Clinton; Matt Burns, Irwin; Neal Callender, Wauseon; Jeff Croucher, Oxford; Kevin Cummins, Pioneer; Joe A. Darr, Coshocton; Amy Dinnen, Yellow Springs; Doreen M. Evans, Ashland; Scott Ewing, Circleville; Eric L. Flora, Grand Rapids; Scott A. Fory, Morral; Pamela Frederick, West Salem; Jim Friedrich, Delphos; Richard V. Gardner, Port Washington; Michael D. Gilligan, Junction City; Jeromy Greiwe, Sidney; Scott Heimlich, Cardington; Galen J. Hellwarth, Celina; Joe Herrmann, Oxford; Michelle A. Hoewischer, Irwin; Darrell E. Hoffman, Amanda; Craig Hudson, Bucyrus; Timothy F. Isler, Prospect; Allen Johnson, Mt Gilead; Steve M. Juhasz, Edon; Keith C. Kemp, West Manchester; Kyle K. Knief, Lewistown; Patrick Knoble, Wellington; Karen E. Kolb, Eaton; Mike Leatherman, Liberty Center; Andy Lohr, Galion; Bob Mann, Edon; Chad McDowell, Winchester; Cynthia M. Meier, Ft. Recovery; Scott Meyer, Portage; David Miller, Lakeville; J. Clark Morgan, Urbana; David A. Niederhuber, Marion; Geoff Oates, Kenton; Richard Perkins, Bloomville; Jesse Peters, Ansonia; Alan Post, Celina; Greg Raines, Seaman; Timothy J. Roush, Salineville; Matthew W. Rudy, Hillsboro; Mark A. Ruff, Circleville; Sara Sue Ryan, Monclova; Patricia A. Saltzgeber, Ashland; Mark K. Schumm, Van Wert; Ronald C. Seitz, Coshocton; Kyle A. Sharp, Stoutsville; Cassandra C. Sheaffer, Lexington; Jill Smith, West Liberty; Steven A. Snider, New Lexington; Gene R. Starkey, Paris; Thomas R. Steurer, Nevada; Andy Stirr, Crestline; Matt Taylor, Grover Hill; Chris Trotter, Manchester; Jamie Troxel, Upper Sandusky; Jason L. Unger, Greenfield; Julie Watts, Killbuck; Victor Weaver, Arcanum; Chris Williams, Hamersville; Amy Wittman, Graytown; Christopher M. Wood, Shreve; Jody Woods, Carroll; Brian D. Wylie, New Carlisle; Scott Zieber, Bellevue

OKLAHOMA: Lisa C. Bayless, Arnett; Amy E. Beene, Skiatook; Brian L. Benson, Coyle; Justin Boyle, Agra; Kevin Boyle, Agra; Michael A. Brinkley, Clinton; Sammy Burns, Hastings; Tommy Caldwell, Shady Point; Troy D. Campbell, Jet; Bryan C. Candler, Cushing; Tracee A. Carter, Holdenville; Clint A. Chew, Konawa; Brad Coon, Carnegie; Bryan S. Day, Terral; Myron W. Dupler, Temple; Tresa J. Edwards, Fairview; Aaron Elam, Reydon; Julia Evans, Beaver; Dusti D. Fritz, Mountain View; Greg E. Garrett, Kingfisher; Andrea K. Gosney, Fairview; Kirk A. Hicks, Crescent; Heath Hull, Fort Cobb; John F. Igo, Cement; Thomas J. Irwin, Hartshorne; Chuck Johnson, Marlow; Phillip Johnson, Temple; Shandell Kinnett, Meeker; Douglas R. Little, Rosston;



The convention was a double celebration for Bruce and Darla Murray and their grandson, Kenton Murray, (center). A member of the Powell/Shoshone, Wyo., chapter, Kenton earned the American FFA Degree. His grandfather, Bruce, finally got to make up for the convention he missed 61 years ago, when he wasn't able to come to Kansas City to receive his American Farmer Degree.

Lance A. Mason, Ringwood; Kelly D. McIntire, Bennington; Douglas L. McKinney, Porter; Johnny Medcalf, Boswell; Marsha L. Merit, Miami; Darren L. Miller, Chandler; Shawn R. Morris, Ninnekah; Samantha M. O'Conner, North Collinsville; Bryan L. Ott, Enid; Dana L. Redgate, Waynoka; Bryan S. Riggins, Frederick; Jeff Robards, Chelsea; Kristi L. Roberts, Holdenville; Phillip Sebo, Spiro; Brandon C. Shepherd, Butler; Randall R. Smith, Weatherford; Trina Snyder, Billings; Sydney K. Stehr, Clinton; Heather M. Stone, Nash; Heather D. Voth, Fairview; Carl Wallace, Tahlequah; Erich N. Wehrenberg, Loyal; Michael L. White, Amorita; Aaron Whitfield, Guthrie; John R. Wilkerson, Wetumka

OREGON: Shawn Blodgett, Klamath Falls; Jason J. Chapman, Klamath Falls; David Dumler, Salem; Douglas D. Dyché, Amity; Mark S. Gaibler, Newberg; Steven J. Gould, Winston; Brenda R. Harris, Banks; Justin Henderson, Junction City; Mike House, Scottsburg; Rebecca Jones, Enterprise; Deborah Kreutzer, Myrtle Point; Michael K. Loomis, Klamath Falls; Kevin W. Melville, Enterprise; Carma Michaels, Days Creek; Tony Mullen, St. Paul; Nathan E. Pattee, Silverton; Mike Powell, Umpqua; Kelly S. Reynolds, Prineville; Kolleen J. Sander, Clackamas; Katharine Smith, Bonanza; Sarah E. Spencer, Gresham; Karen L. Stevenson, Madras; Jason Taylor, Klamath Falls; Christa L. Vibbert, Madras; Crinan A. Worthington, Klamath Falls

PENNSYLVANIA: Harold M. Barley III, Millersville; Randall L. Bleacher, Millersville; Jennifer K. Brown, Coudersport; Todd J. Cauffman, Millerstown; Duane S. Copenhagen, Lebanon; Michael S. Cotter, Berlin; Michael G. Daugherty, Greencastle; Brenda K. Dice, Fredericksburg; Larry B. Feeser Jr., New Oxford; Michelle L. Gockley, Mohnton; Jodi L. Hall, State College; Scott D. Hanna, Millersville; Christopher E. Hawn, Gettysburg; John R. Hess, Gettysburg; Teresa J. Hill, Lebanon; Kathy A. Hostetter, Jonestown; Steven M. Innerst, Ickesburg; Rodney L. Keller, Waynesboro; Joseph F. Kelly III, Woodbury; Jeffrey D. Kime, Bendersville; Edward K. Kosa, Ulysses; Brian L. Lake, Big Cove Tannery; Michael J. Lindenmuth, New Holland; Jeff L. Martin, East Earl; Anita K. Meck, Willow Street; Brian J. Meyer, Annville; Robert O'Toole, Loysville; Brian E. Pryor, Waynesboro; Todd M. Rabert, Mechanicsburg; Michael A. Riser, New Oxford; Andrew W. Smeltz, Lykens; Larry L. Smeltz, Lykens; Kermit P. Stahl, Somerset; Roy R. Thomas, Troy; Troy A. Waggoner, Shippensburg

PUERTO RICO: Roberto Zayas, Utuado

RHODE ISLAND: Elizabeth Johnson, Exeter; Seth A. Johnson, Exeter; Keith Moffat, Foster; Todd Perkins, Scituate

SOUTH CAROLINA: Stacey Bazen, Pamplico; Daniel H. Garrick Jr., Cope; Michael Hemingway, Gresham; Russell L. Mayfield, Wellford; James E. Stone III, Aiken; Tyson H. Waddell, Pendleton

SOUTH DAKOTA: Cory Airheart, New Underwood; Melanee L. Anderson, Hartford; Kindra S. Beitelspacher, Bowdle; Kurt A. Bies, Salem; Todd Bies, Salem; John Bovill, Beresford; Paul L. Fuller, Clark; Jill Heemstra, Dolton; Shawn E. Hofer, Marion; James Holec, Rapid City; Tammy L. Humble, Newell; Gregg A. Koerner, Brookings; Wade Lang, Freeman; Cory K. Mohling, Wessington Springs; Greg A. Salmen, Wessington Springs; Christopher J. Savey, Beresford; Brian S. Schock, Salem; Layton L. Strom, Centerville; Brad Vander Wal, Volga; Dean J. Vander Wal, Bruce; Jeff G. Voss, Andover

TENNESSEE: Tony Anderson, Jonesborough; Jim A. Barbour, Friendship; Rusty Barnes, Athens; Dennis Beavers, Decatur; Kelly Carmack, Gates; Ronald C. Davis, Charleston; Rodney M. Gallimore, Puryear; Joe Gibson IV, Dyersburg; Josh Guthrie, Riceville; Gary Hamby, McMinnville; Mike Hickman, Cleveland; Danny F. Hildreth, Smithville; Anthony T. Long, Shady Valley; Stefan R. Maupin, Newbern; Courtney Nichols, Readyville; Chad Seaton, Greeneville; Stephen B. Smith, Spring Hill; Steve Stark, Springfield; Ralph D. Stewart Jr., McEwen; William C. Taylor, Westmoreland; Melissa A. Thompson, Lebanon; William L. Underwood Jr., Old Fort; Kelly R. Watson, Smithville; Chad Wells, McMinnville; Robert S. Wilson, Delano; John H. Woodall III, Hermitage; Sam W. Young, McMinnville

TEXAS: Timothy E. Akers, Madisonville; S. Price Alexander, Georgetown; Mary K. Allen, Gilmer; Ryder Appleton, Midlothian; Trenton E. Ashby, Henderson; Mia Balko, Robstown; Allen S. Barker, Colmesneil; Bernita G. Barnes, Greenville; Scott Batson, Baytown; Billy F. Belew, Winters; Tal Bird, Bryan; Page A. Bishop, Winters; Mike Booth, San Antonio; Twain Butler, Bellevue; Brian Carr, Pleasanton; Jay N. Cass, Odem; Sergio Chapa, Pleasanton; Erica L. Clark, Mansfield; Craig A. Currie, Oakhurst; Dennis L. Degner, Malone; Lisa Devine, Arlington; Mechele Doty, Katy; Letty Duarte, Raymondville; Wendi K. Dubose, Angleton; Roy George, Brashear; Royce Gerngross, San Angelo; T. J. Gossett, Pleasanton; Greg Greenhaw, Hale Center; Eugene A. Hall Jr., Round Top; James Henderson, Hermleigh; Tracy Hicks, Detroit; Rodney B. Hughes, Flomot; Andy Huizar, Pleasanton; Brian Jasik, Pleasanton; Paul Kennedy, Prosper; Craig L. Kettler, Alvin; Kevin M. Kleibrink, Houston; Johanna Kurz, Somerset; Chance Leopold, Sweeny; Nicky Lindsey, Rhome; Julio G. Martinez Jr., Cotulla; Robert McCarty, Nacogdoches; Marci M. McKinzie, Dike; James W. Minix, College Station; Gary D. Moore, McDade;



Grinning in anticipation of his moment on the convention stage, Scituate, R.I., FFA member Todd Perkins waited his turn during the American FFA Degree rehearsal.

M. Trent Morrow, Bridgeport; Scott E. Neumann, Round Top; Mark A. Peak, Houston; Jo Ann Petty, Kennard; G. Alan Powers, Bridgeport; Paul B. Prazak, East Bernard; Charlie Rand, Kaufman; Justin R. Ransom, Wichita Falls; Billie Jo Reding, Normangee; Ramsey Robles, Pleasanton; Mandy R. Saunders, Follett; Steve Schimelpfening, Pleasanton; Larry W. Schmidt, Hondo; Justin Shearrer, Pleasanton; Greg Sherrrod, Hale Center; Alex Smith, Mabank; Leighton Stovall Jr., Odem; Wade Stuart, Poteet; Davon Taylor, Ropesville; J. Pat Tom, Campbellton; Todd J. Tucker, Pollok; Syd Vineyard, Lampasas; Russell Wenzel, Leming; Rodney White, Ira; David K. Whittlesey, Groveton; Donnie T. Wood, Caddo Mills; Devinie C. York, Mt. Pleasant

UTAH: Norman Banks, Spanish Fork; Sheri Briggs, Manila; Wade Colby, Sigurd; Candi Ercanbrack, Santaquin; Clinton M. Fairbourn, Elberta; Lana Freston, Logan; Monica A. Giffing, Grantsville; Lex C. Godfrey, Fielding; Jacob G. Osborn, Genola; Jeremy K. Price, Midway; Kenneth D. Roach, Spanish Fork; Brian Smart, Wallsburg; Curtis R. Stevens, Holden; Tara Thatcher, Payson

VIRGINIA: Michael J. Armstrong, Harrisonburg; Curtis A. Banks, Hillsville; Bradley W. Carico, Hillsville; Michael D. Gochenour, Woodstock; Duane Harlow, Mt. Solon; Ian Heatwole, Weyers Cave; James R. Howard, Tappahannock; Richard N. Kidd, Amelia; Brian B. Kiser, Warrenton; Thomas Lam, Mt. Crawford; Duane H. Lankford, Tappahannock; Scott A. Layman, Keezletown; Douglas L. Lineberry, Glade Spring; Meade W. McDonald, Linville; Andrew S. McIntire, White Post;

(Continued on Page 20)

American FFA Degrees

Beth R. Miller, Mt. Crawford; Bradley W. Miller, Mt. Crawford; Allen L. Musick, Damascus; Robbie Newcomb, Hanover; Patrick Newcomb, Hanover; Robert W. Pollock, Danville; Darin R. Quesenberry, Hillsville; Joey Reinhardt, Tappahannock; Jeffrey L. Rhodes, Dayton; Jamie E. Rouse, Glade Spring; Ralph Sheets, Glade Spring; Owen F. Showalter III, Broadway; Alan D. Webb, Hillsville; Joseph G. Whitacre, Whitacre

WASHINGTON: Tracy Barnes, Centralia; Corey J. Davis, Ephrata; Angela J. Dixon, Pomeroy; Jack Dolman, Yelm; Cindy Hackett, Custer; Julie Horst, Yelm; Timothy R. Norris, Yelm; Gregory W. O'Neal, Yelm; Terry Ostling, Cathlamet; Anton L. Schorno, Quincy; Troy Sheesley, Tenino; Krista Stangeland, Stanwood; Kjell Stangeland, Stanwood; Eric M. Stinson, Winlock; Alison E. Strotz, Ferndale; Colleen J. Trussell, Othello; Brian Ziese, Winlock

WEST VIRGINIA: Lee Anderson, Kenna; James A. Behm, Cameron; Stephen C. Broyles, Lindsie; Craig E. Canterbury, Ripley; Darrion S. Clemons, Martinsburg; Benjamin P. Cummings, Walton; Brian L. Deem, Harrisville; Kimberly A. Dransfield, Gap Mills; Richard L. Hamon, Given; Hallie M. Hart, Leon; Michael S. Hoschar, Cottageville; Amanda D. Hubbard, Glace; Alecia Larew, Tunnelton; John Meadows, Gassaway; Silas R. Milleson, Springfield; Miles Park, Baker; Joe Pursley, Sandyville; Jamie Pursley, Sandyville; Robert R. Williams, Moorefield; Steven D. Wilson, Union; H. D. Workman, Spencer

WISCONSIN: James G. Adamski, Antigo; Brian R. Alft, Green Bay; Matthew R. Bayer, Schofield; Scott R. Bayer, Schofield; Jennifer I. Bergmann, Clayton; Matthew J. Bignell, Westfield; Jay Binversie, Kiel; Lori A. Bodart, Pulaski; Todd A. Bonnin, Appleton; Kevin Bradley, Denmark; Traci Brewer, Albany; Brenda Bricco, New London; Tom Brooks, Lyndon Station; Kimberly A. Brown, Monroe; Linda Burton, Baraboo; Holly A. Buss, Ashland; Adam Cary, Glenbeulah; Dan Deering, Marshfield; Kevin E. Erickson, Granton; Nicole K. Fischer, Cecil; Kelly L. Fitzgerald, Newton; Wayne D. Fleishemann, Granton; Carlin A. Gay, Beaver Dam; Rick D. Gertsch, Gratiot; Barry Grimm, Marion; Paul Gross, Platteville; Chad M. Hankins, Prairie Du Sac; David Haselow, Spencer; Crispin B. Hediger, Neillsville; Michael D. Holloway, Randolph; Travis J. Holt, Baraboo; Brent M. Howard, Strum; Ben Jaeckel, Jefferson; Heidi K. Jansen, Turtle Lake; Craig Jennings, Chili; Velda Johnson, Waupaca; Jeanne Jones, Lake Geneva; Kurt Junghen, Sharon; Tamartha L. Kapinos, Denmark; Jeffery J. Kennicker, Cuba City; Mitch A. Kersten, DePere; Travis Kramer, Mindora; Jeff Kroenke, Shawano; Ryan Kurschner, Blanchardville; Catherine R. Larson, Amherst; Timothy Linskens, Watertown; Jeff D. Lisowe, Chilton; Carol M. Loosen, Hartford; David A. Lulich, Mason; Robert D. Massey, Barneveld; Steve Matchey, Independence; Michael Mattson, Marengo; Dawn M. Messmer, Johnson

Creek; Amy Meyer, Loyal; Derrick Meyer, Loyal; Jennifer Meyer, Loyal; Jeffrey A. Miesen, Potosi; Melody M. Milroy, Watertown; Nathan J. Modrzewski, Stevens Point; Patty Norton-McGowan, Blanchardville; Kevin Noth, Norwalk; Randy Oechsle, Fennimore; Denis M. Pagac, Ashland; Kelby W. Paske, Arlington; Dale R. Peterson, Amherst; Jeffrey J. Pickart, Malone; Dale Pieper, Beaver Dam; Jenny R. Pinnow, Delavan; Timothy G. Pitzen, Cuba City; Garry Preder Jr., New Holstein; Scott Rabe, Kiel; Brian Rademacher, Cottage Grove; Michael Redfearn, Cuba City; Rhonda Riedesel, Tomah; David A. Ristau, Osseo; Paul F. Roidt, Montello; Eric J. Ruger, Marshfield; Ronald R. Rule, Dodgeville; Ted A. Schafer, Medford; William Schier, Glen Haven; Paul M. Schley, Gilman; Marcia A. Schlueter, Wauzeka;

Brian Schroeder, Green Bay; Paul Siemers, Cleveland; Jon D. Stephenson, Edgerton; Dean Strauss, Sheboygan Falls; Jeffery J. Strupp, Hartford; Wade E. Stubrud, Alma Center; Ryan D. Stubrud, Alma Center; Justin Ulrich, Ft. Atkinson; Greg L. Van De Hei, DePere; Luke J. VanDenPlas, Maribel; Steve Verhasselt, Kaukauna; Ken Walsh, Newton; Sarah Walter, Darlington; Scott M. Weggen, Fall Creek; John H. Welke Jr., Fall Creek; Rachel R. Wolff, Warren; Dan R. Zernicke, Bonduel; Douglas F. Ziebarth, Fremont

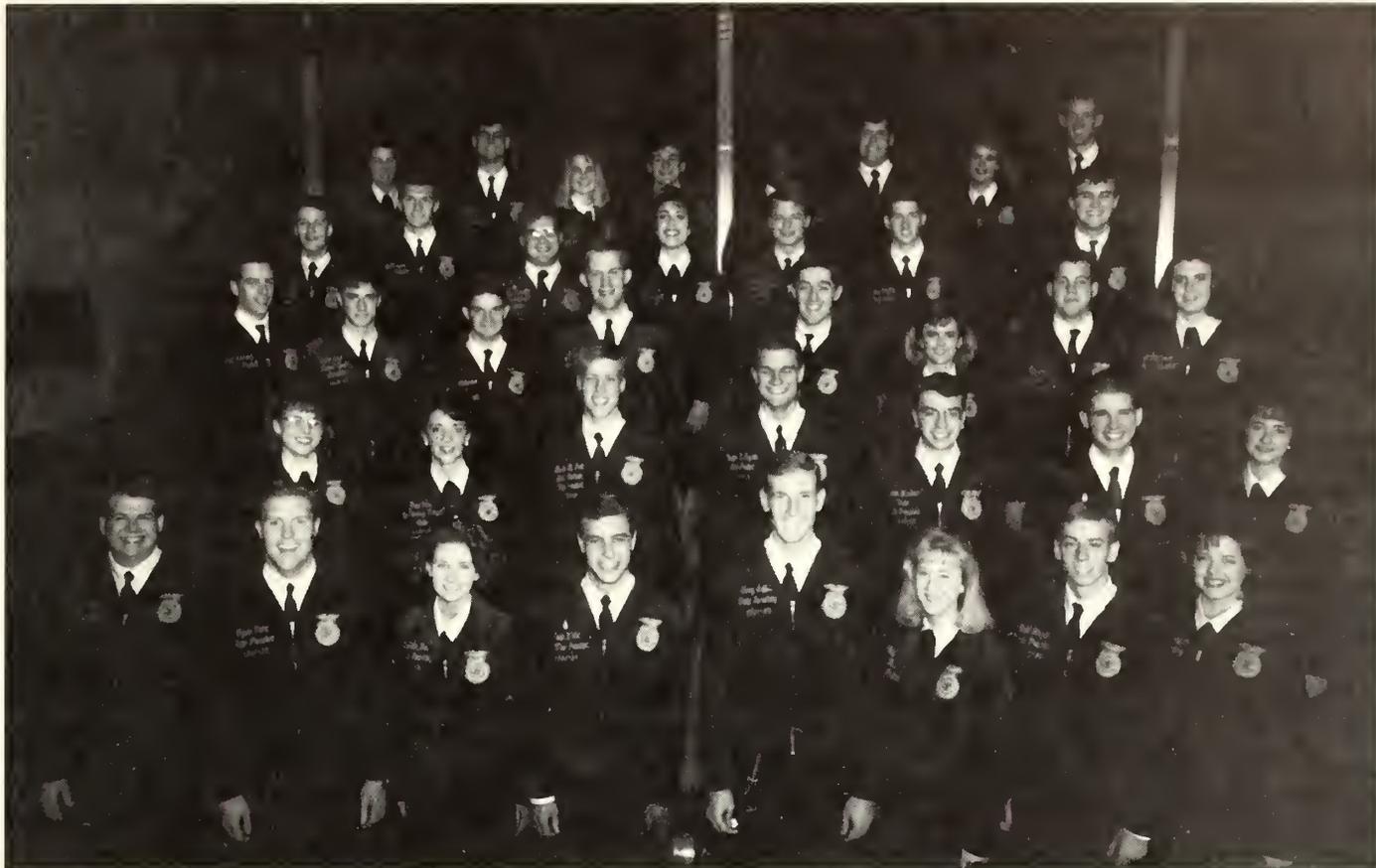
WYOMING: Allison M. Engle, Newcastle; Michael Gardner, Pine Bluffs; Ron Maurer, Pine Bluffs; Martin Mercer, Hyattville; James N. Miles, Riverton; Kenton E. Murray, Powell/Shoshone; Ron Rabou, Albin; Bill Russell, Basin



National Secretary Mike Stevenson congratulates Timothy Norris of Yelm, Wash., as he receives the coveted American FFA Degree.

National Officer Candidates

National Officer Candidates reception and dinner sponsored by Miles Inc., Agriculture Division



The 38 national officer candidates took time from their interviews to pose for a photograph.

National officer candidates, representing 38 states, pursued FFA's highest student leadership positions. Though the stakes were quite high, the national nominating committee had a straightforward task. Theirs was to assess the talents and strengths of each candidate and choose the six best suited to the duties of national president, secretary and vice president.

The "interview" lasted from Monday to Friday. The committee's emphasis was on getting to know the candidates, recognizing each as a highly capable individual.

The nominating committee presented its report to the convention Saturday afternoon. For a list of newly elected officers, please turn to page 69. For a glimpse of a whole bunch of winners, take a look at the photo on this page.

ALABAMA: Stephen L. Kiser, Piedmont
ARIZONA: Tyson S. Stuhr, Wellton
ARKANSAS: Teresa Davis, Camden
CALIFORNIA: Kevin White, Redding
COLORADO: Terry Saffer, Arriba
DELAWARE: Lisa M. Ralph, Harrington
FLORIDA: Todd Hingson, Live Oak
GEORGIA: Denise Thompson, Tifton
IDAHO: K. Renae Southwick, Glens Ferry
ILLINOIS: Sarah Ochs, Milford
INDIANA: Travis D. Park, Franklin
IOWA: Douglas E. Reynolds, Redfield
KANSAS: Shannon G. Washburn, Norton
KENTUCKY: Chris A. Schalk, Berry
LOUISIANA: Amy G. Sandel, Florien
MASSACHUSETTS: Bryan C. Armstrong, Sudbury
MICHIGAN: Michael P. Smego Jr., Cassopolis
MISSOURI: John C. Kleiboeker, Stotts City
NEBRASKA: Christopher M. Kalkowski, Bassett
NEVADA: Melissa F. Barnes, Elko
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Bruce Scamman, Stratham

NEW YORK: Shane Andrews, Oriskany Falls
NORTH CAROLINA: Michelle Bowen, Newport
OHIO: Rick Perkins, Bloomville
OKLAHOMA: Brent J. Kisling, Burlington
OREGON: Brian J. Gilmore, Canby
PENNSYLVANIA: Jodi L. Hall, State College
PUERTO RICO: Roberto Zayas, Utuado
SOUTH CAROLINA: Lee Mayfield, Wellford
SOUTH DAKOTA: Cory Airheart, New Underwood
TENNESSEE: Melissa Ann Thompson, Lebanon
TEXAS: Dennis Degner, Malone
UTAH: Shay Wright, Elberta
VIRGINIA: Douglas L. Lineberry, Glade Spring
WASHINGTON: Timothy R. Norris, Yelm
WEST VIRGINIA: Ben Cummings, Walton
WISCONSIN: Lori A. Bodart, Pulaski
WYOMING: Ron Rabou, Albin



Computers in Agriculture

Sponsored by the General Fund of
the National FFA Foundation

National Winner:

Dustin W. Harmon
Bainville, Mont.

Runner-Up:

Kelly Wallace
Pleasantville, Iowa



The FFA Computers in Agriculture program has boosted student interest in the effects of technological advances on traditional farming practices. South Dakota native Jason Zeissel examined the combination of agriculture and technology in action as he contemplated the correct answer to a computerized farm maintenance quiz located in the Deere & Company exhibit at the career show.

National Finalists:

INDIANA: Gregory S. Humburg, Frankfort
IOWA: Kelly Wallace, Pleasantville
LOUISIANA: Amy N. Lopez, Jennings
MAINE: Troy D. McCrum, Westfield
MINNESOTA: Matthew J. Lemke, Fergus Falls
MONTANA: Dustin W. Harmon, Bainville
NEVADA: Ben Matley, Fallon
NEW YORK: Nathan G. Lawrence, Canton

State Winners:

ALABAMA: Jacqueline F. Walker, Uniontown
CALIFORNIA: Anastasia Norris, Fullerton
FLORIDA: Dwayne McQuillen, Lake Placid
ILLINOIS: Kristie McDaniel, Eldorado
INDIANA: Gregory S. Humburg, Frankfort
IOWA: Kelly Wallace, Pleasantville
KANSAS: Dale R. Helwig, Columbus
KENTUCKY: Kara D. Winstead, Dixon
LOUISIANA: Amy N. Lopez, Jennings
MAINE: Troy D. McCrum, Westfield
MINNESOTA: Matthew J. Lemke, Fergus Falls
MISSOURI: Fred O. Stemme, Hermann
MONTANA: Dustin W. Harmon, Bainville
NEBRASKA: Gary L. Buller, Henderson
NEW YORK: Nathan G. Lawrence, Canton
NEVADA: Ben Matley, Fallon
NEW JERSEY: Gabby Gordon, Andover

FFA members showed off their technological skills and innovations in the Computers in Agriculture contest. Finalists gave public presentations of their computer wizardry at the National Agricultural Career Show on Wednesday and were recognized on stage Thursday morning.

Dustin W. Harmon earned the top award with a computerized record-keeping system for his beef operation. To make sure he gets maximum profits for his livestock, and to learn about the futures market, he uses his computer to chart fluctuations on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Kelly Wallace, runner-up, developed a multi-farm module computer system that allows him to keep records not only of his parents' farm, but also those of other farmers in the community.

Each national finalist received a \$250 award, the runner-up received an additional \$250, while the winner was awarded another \$500.

NEW MEXICO: Shannon Lasher, Animas
NORTH CAROLINA: Everette Little, Marshville
NORTH DAKOTA: Christopher Sundberg, Crosby
OHIO: Matt Burns, Irwin
OKLAHOMA: Travis Beams, Kingfisher
OREGON: Joe R. Ahre, Woodburn
PENNSYLVANIA: Stephanie Garrett, Pequea
SOUTH CAROLINA: Richard Ballentine, Honea Path
TENNESSEE: Andy Tucker, Sweetwater
TEXAS: Clay Blacksher, Nacogdoches
UTAH: Ben Isaac, Payson
VIRGINIA: Charles Calhoun, South Hill
WASHINGTON: Ryan A. Lancaster, Ferndale
WEST VIRGINIA: Kevin Haynes, Romance
WISCONSIN: Jason A. Winget, Colfax
WYOMING: Angie Boroff, Daniel



Agriscience Student Recognition Program

Sponsored by Monsanto Agricultural Company



Advisors of the Washington, N.J., chapter congratulated their student, Robin Boreman, on winning the top agriscience student award.

Environmental awareness opened the door to Robin Boreman's nationally recognized research project. Her interest in hydroponics and natural resources started her on the path to scientific success.

Boreman, of Washington, N. J., determined whether cadmium ions accumulate in plants when the element is present in the water and nutrient sources. Cadmium is a heavy metal that can be emitted by incinerators and is potentially dangerous to humans if absorbed by edible plants.

"One big worry in our community has been the amount of heavy metals that may be escaping into the surrounding air," Boreman said. "Because of my interest in hydroponics, I decided to experiment with growing plants in water to which cadmium had been added and then determining how the plants were affected."

Her inquisitive nature paid off, as she was awarded \$8,500 in scholarships.

Runner-up Stuart Wright, of Chicago, Ill., was awarded \$6,500 in scholarships in recognition of his research efforts. Wright

studied the effect of ultraviolet light on yeast to determine how a depleted ozone could affect soil microbes.

Each of the eight agriscience finalists was awarded \$1,000 for winning at the state level and \$2,500 for becoming a national finalist.

National Finalists:

CALIFORNIA: Stacy D. Tela, Orosi;
Stephanie A. Wilmeth, Kingsburg
FLORIDA: Gioia D. Massa, Cassadaga
IDAHO: Renee J. Burton, Boise
ILLINOIS: Stuart D. Wright, Chicago
MISSOURI: Connie M. McDevitt, Eldon
NEW JERSEY: Robin C. Boreman, Washington
NORTH CAROLINA: Henry C. McDade III, Durham

National Winner:

Robin C. Boreman
Washington, New Jersey

Runner-Up:

Stuart D. Wright
Chicago, Illinois

State Winners:

ARIZONA: Nick Cavalier, Glendale
CALIFORNIA: Stephanie A. Wilmeth, Kingsburg
COLORADO: Kelly E. Gettman, Lindon
CONNECTICUT: Kathleen C. Elgarico, Stamford
FLORIDA: Gioia D. Massa, Cassadaga
GEORGIA: Ryan O. Beard, Royston
IDAHO: Renee J. Burton, Boise
ILLINOIS: Stuart D. Wright, Chicago
INDIANA: Rita Smith, Corunna
IOWA: Jamie Romer, Algona
KANSAS: Jill Cannon, Fredonia
LOUISIANA: Kathy Jo Bruchhaus, Elton
MARYLAND: Karah Card, Frederick
MICHIGAN: Weston R. Wiler, Reading
MINNESOTA: Grant Adams, Wendell
MISSOURI: Connie M. McDevitt, Eldon
MONTANA: Erin Robertson, Judith Gap
NEBRASKA: Amy L. Emanuel, Aurora
NEVADA: Donald W. Unruh Jr., Elko
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Bruce Scamman, Stratham
NEW JERSEY: Robin C. Boreman, Washington
NEW MEXICO: Brett Barham, Carrizozo
NEW YORK: Robert Zehr, Adams
NORTH CAROLINA: Henry C. McDade III, Durham
NORTH DAKOTA: Kevin Kanzelman, Maddock
OHIO: Joe Forsythe, Rushsylvania
OKLAHOMA: Brent Casey, Kiowa
PENNSYLVANIA: Jenny Zerby, Beavertown
SOUTH DAKOTA: Michael Moeller, Brookings
TEXAS: Jason Belew, Tahoka
VIRGINIA: Colleen C. Coyle, Charlotte Courthouse
WASHINGTON: Malina A. Shulkin, Bonney Lake
WEST VIRGINIA: Amy M. Stephens, Cottageville
WISCONSIN: Rebecca D. Walker, Bloomer



Agriscience Teacher of the Year

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund; and PCS Sales

Thomas Hurst, 1992 Agriscience Teacher of the Year, believes students are never too young to learn about the science of food and fiber. While Hurst instructs high school students on global agriculture, natural resources, and plant and soil science, those same students are visiting elementary and middle schools, presenting workshops about such topics as water quality, microbiology and computers. More than 1,800 young students have benefited from this effort.

"The best way to learn something is to teach it," said Hurst, who is in his third year at Vicksburg Community Schools in Kalamazoo, Mich. "The students love it." The FFA members have spread the word to their fellow students about the program, and enrollment has increased from 35 students in 1989 to 165 students today.

Hurst's students have plenty to keep them busy, even when they're not teaching. Computers, a greenhouse, and labs for animal science, agriscience and land studies provide plenty of fodder for scientific inquiry. The program has received numerous grants to fund the science-based program.

Hurst received \$1,500 and a plaque for his efforts.

National Winner:

Thomas Hurst
Kalamazoo, Michigan

National Finalists:

CALIFORNIA: Ray A. Munir, Atwater

MICHIGAN: Thomas Hurst, Kalamazoo

PENNSYLVANIA: William Kronen, Freeport

TENNESSEE: Jeff Lipford, Selmer

State Winners:

ALABAMA: Phillip Williams, Albertville

ARIZONA: Gregory W. Thompson, Phoenix

ARKANSAS: Rocky W. Clements, Jonesboro

CALIFORNIA: Ray A. Munir, Atwater

COLORADO: Brent R. Young, Fruita

DELAWARE: Russell D. Stinson Jr., Clayton

FLORIDA: Murdock L. Gillis, Westville

GEORGIA: Gary L. Minyard, Royston

IDAHO: Terry L. Crawford, Culdesac

ILLINOIS: Larry Pfeiffer, Carlinville

INDIANA: Bryan D. Gause, Liberty

IOWA: Dennis L. Berry, Lake View

KANSAS: Kurt R. Dillon, Atwood

KENTUCKY: Bland Baird, Taylorsville

LOUISIANA: Brian M. Lejeune, Jennings

MARYLAND: Naomi W. Knight, Bel Air

MICHIGAN: Thomas Hurst, Kalamazoo

MINNESOTA: Dion Harste, Elbow Lake

MISSISSIPPI: Edward M. Settle, Rienzi

MISSOURI: Nick D. Boren, Holts Summit

MONTANA: James Larson, Columbus

NEW JERSEY: Patricia J. Denholm, Atco

NEW YORK: Benedict Conte, St. Johnsville

NORTH CAROLINA: Jerry R. Jones, Snow Hill

NORTH DAKOTA: Curtis D. Leslie, Kindred

OHIO: Michael E. Buchanan, Phillipsburg

OKLAHOMA: Bruce Farquhar, Altus

PENNSYLVANIA: William Kronen, Freeport

SOUTH CAROLINA: Benjamin J. Kolb, Beaufort

SOUTH DAKOTA: James Chilson, Florence

TENNESSEE: Jeff Lipford, Selmer

TEXAS: Erwin W. Janszen, Palacios

UTAH: Charles H. Bigo, Orem

VIRGINIA: Edith A. Coleman, Warrenton

WISCONSIN: Steven R. Zibell, Deerfield

WYOMING: Harry M. Petty, Wright



Thomas Hurst (center), Kalamazoo, Mich., received \$1,500 when he was named Agriscience Teacher of the Year. Hurst, joined by his principal at Vicksburg Community Schools, Ron Fuller, integrated his agriscience curriculum in the science department.

National Talent

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

As part of the National Talent program, FFA members showcased skills ranging from lasso twirling to dancing the "Achy Breaky." Ninety-one eager singers, dancers, strummers, drummers, fiddlers, and even a cowboy poet represented 53 FFA chapters and 26 states. The acts entertained crowds at approximately 200 different events throughout the convention, including six 2-hour performances in the food court in Bartle Hall and Thursday's review on the main convention stage.

Director Gary Maricle of Kansas City sees the talent program's role as one of support as well as entertainment. "We are here to assist in making the convention run smoothly. While different activities are being set up on stage, we provide entertainment to the crowd so they're focused on us rather than people resetting the stage."

Participating FFA members admit that pressure accompanies the privilege of performing before thousands. "We're not necessarily nervous about performing in front of a large crowd, but we want to do well, so we've put a lot of pressure on ourselves to do well," commented Holy Hagaman, a member of the 8-person gospel group representing the Madisonville, Texas, FFA chapter. "We were Texas state champions in vocal competition, and we sort of stick together and keep each other calmed down."

Assisting Maricle were Rob Enbody, Toledo, Wash., and Bill Williams, Kansas City, Mo.

ALABAMA: Chris Davis, Rachael Hall, Keelan Hastings, Sarah Johnson, Torrey Lewey, Kevin McCarthy, Jarod Massey, Rodney Pruitt, Jason Thrasher, Darrell Underwood, Lisa Winchester, Chris Wright, all of Red Bay

ARIZONA: Shawn Scroggins, Magnolia

CALIFORNIA: Sheila Louise Walker, McArthur

IDAHO: Karrie May, Troy

ILLINOIS: Keith Mulderink, Beecher; Nahum Hickman, Brenda D. Pryor, Allison Simpson, Denea L. Sims, Marcia A. Wade, Syrena Wadw, all of Chicago Ag Science

INDIANA: Carolyn Byrd, South Fulton



Entertaining the audience with a pleasing medley, Mary Wachter and Matt Karchesky, Pendleton, Ore., kept the crowd enthusiastic during Thursday's talent review. The duo, one of 61 separate acts, was also featured in the pre-session convention video series, "In Your Face."

IOWA: Jennifer Kinsey, North Polk; Jacque Schmitt, Rockford

LOUISIANA: Aulden J. LeBlanc Jr., Hathaway

MICHIGAN: Jodi Bartholomew, Alma

MINNESOTA: Shawn Fridgen, Kris Tvrdik, both of Alexandria

MISSISSIPPI: Nicole Rinehart, Falkner; Eddie Thompson, Hickory Flat

MISSOURI: Scott Baldwin, Cole Camp; Sonia Ann

Burton, Lakeland R-III; Andy Close, Green Ridge;

Candy LaMay Gregg, Gilman City; Mandy Grey,

Galena; Eron Harding, Green Ridge; S. Sheree

McCray, East Buchanan; Krissie McKnight, Galena;

Eric Ray, Green Ridge; Craig Reed, Green Ridge;

Seth M. Ricketts, Salisbury; Donna Seneker, Mount

Vernon; Meleah Lynn Spencer, Pleasant Hope;

Katie A. Witt, Cole Camp

MONTANA: Carter T. Crohn, Medicine Lake

NEBRASKA: Angie John, Joni Miller, both of Ord

NEW YORK: Jeannette Wolfe, Cobleskill

NORTH CAROLINA: Jason Overby, Rockingham County

NORTH DAKOTA: Zheila Schmidt, Medina

OHIO: Jennifer L. Dilbone, Houston; Holly Walker,

Northmor

OKLAHOMA: Brandi Renee Brinlee, Wetumka;

James R. Burgess, Eufaula; Amy Elizabeth

Chastain, Wetumka; Jolinda Laine Chastain,

Wetumka; Vicki Gauldin, Newcastle; Matt Keith,

Elmore City; Tiffany Lisle, Taloga; Krista Lona,

Stillwater; Will McLin, Elmore City; Julie Payne,

Grandfield; Greg Savory, Ripley; Mandy Kay

VanHoesen, Perry; Skye Varner, Bristow; Jennifer

Watkins, Stillwater; Rachelle Wollenberg, Cyril

OREGON: Jennifer S. Lantz, Redmond; Matthew

Karchesky, Pendleton; Mary Wachter, Pendleton

PENNSYLVANIA: Timothy S. Lehman,

Cumberland Valley

TEXAS: Jessica Baltrop, Madisonville; Kent

Durham, Bells; Amy Callender, Madisonville; Bart

Foster, Madisonville; Holy Hagaman, Madisonville;

Joye Hall, Madisonville; Troy Morris, Madisonville;

Tom Reynolds, Madisonville; Cindy Sargent, Iowa

Park; Jon Stevens, Madisonville

UTAH: Aliza Brown, North Summit

WASHINGTON: Jessica (Pullen) Graham, Tahoma

WISCONSIN: Melanie Hurlburt, Black River Falls;

Lisa Johnson, North Crawford

WYOMING: Anita Jones, Clinton Jones, Howard

Jones, LeRoy Jones, Fred Neugebauer, all of

Gillette/Moorcroft

National FFA Band

**Sponsored by Landmark Genetics Inc.;
and Manna Pro Corporation**

FFA's national band was a welcome tradition at the 65th convention. From the impromptu sounds of a lone drummer echoing down the halls, to the full spectacle of the grand entry, the musicians created an unforgettable sound.

Contemporary songs were a major part of the band's repertoire. Numbers from popular movies such as "Robin Hood" and "Beauty and the Beast" were on the program along with rock tunes and patriotic anthems.

Directed by Gene Englerth, the band performed frequently for the auditorium audience. Although it was Englerth's first year as director, he was no stranger to the convention. Englerth, of Webberville, Mich., has served as assistant director since 1986. Assistant director at the 65th convention was Joe LaJoye, Hastings, Mich. Serving as chaperones were Penny Englerth, Jim Webster and Debbie Sheen, all of Webberville.



Hours of practice earned Christy Couch, Owensville, Ind., trombone player, a place in the National FFA Band. Even under the pressure of a camera, she didn't miss a beat.

ALABAMA: Jason Gardner, Fruitdale; Chris Thacker, Citronelle

ARKANSAS: Natalie Smith, Sidney

CALIFORNIA: Joy Anderson, Crescent City; Amy Lamm, Lincoln; Lino Mendes, Hanford

COLORADO: Laura Clark, Grand Junction; Jesse Henderson, Peetz

CONNECTICUT: Nathan Wilmot, Naugatuck

DELAWARE: Forrest Sprague, Hockessin

FLORIDA: Andrew Free, Williston

IDAHO: May O'Malley, Murphy; Amy Winegar, Fruitland

ILLINOIS: Colleen Down, Cabery; Dana Fesser, Morrisonville; Amanda Flint, Bourbonnais; Christy Peterson, Tampico

INDIANA: Jennifer Clute, Oxford; Christy Couch, Owensville; Stacy Zook, Muncie

IOWA: Brenda Corbin, Wadena; Courtney Hellskov, Hampton; Jason Knapp, Hawkeye; Kevin Kueker, Waverly; John Myers, Hardy; Jennifer Perkins, Allerton; Jason Urmie, Wilton

KANSAS: Melissa Banman, Canton; Mark Bogner, Wright; Luke Grubbs, Hougaton; Brad Montgomery, McDonald; Becky Poore, Woodston; Mike Schmidt, Newton

KENTUCKY: Jeremy Hinton, Sonora

LOUISIANA: Chris Hammersky, Crowley

MARYLAND: Matthew Ernst, Clear Spring

MICHIGAN: Karleen Beaupre, Hillman; Troy Eisenheimer, Perry; Matthew March, Mt. Pleasant; Jason Russell, Remus; Julie Sarka, New Lothrop

MINNESOTA: Jason Beech, Utica; Joyce Besch, Kasson; Nate Bibus, Alberthea; Lucas Helland, Lewiston; Lori Shimon, Houston; Kimberly Weckwerth, Montevideo

MISSISSIPPI: Jennifer Settle, Rienzi; Jamie Thompson, Morton

MISSOURI: Scott Baker, Gower; Jason Eden, Hartville; Amanda Fischer, Galena; Chrystal Freels, Auxvasse; Angie Keiser, Keytesville; Jason

Preston, Chillicothe; Margaret Rousch, Perryville; Marty Rush, Eldon; Jeremy Stanek, Qulin; John

Tummons, Bois D'Arc; John Welter, Cosby

MONTANA: James Elliot, Chinook; Russell Evertz, Joliet; Brian Flodstol, Conrad; Trisha Gordon, Chinook; BranDee Johnson, Winifred

NEBRASKA: Boni Krahulik, Arapahoe

NEVADA: Ami Raddatz, Panaca

NEW JERSEY: Kelly Eachus, Elmer

NORTH DAKOTA: Cameron Nicklaus, Bottineau; Nathan Pinke, Wishek

OHIO: Dan Kennel, Oxford; Brandon Price, Greenville; Amanda Tumblin, Conesville; Andy

Prasuhn, Ansonia

OKLAHOMA: Leah Campbell, Altus; Ty Garnett, Cashion; Brad Hayes, Frederick; Kelly Lucas, Holdenville; Jania Moore, Elgin; Casey Pilgreen, Waurika; Jaymee Snow, Fairview; Ann Wilson, Altus

OREGON: Chris Wickham, Scappoose

PENNSYLVANIA: Daniel Janicsko, Vintondale

RHODE ISLAND: Bethany Lovas, North Kingstown

SOUTH CAROLINA: Michael Messer, Cowpens

SOUTH DAKOTA: Jamey Backus, Wentworth;

Tami Kulhavy, Colman; Mike Moeller, Brookings

TEXAS: James Beasley, Snyder; Kevin Biasioli, Burleson; Ginny Fuchs, Crosby; David Lee, Anahuac; Stacy Leep, Crosby; James Newman, Pleasanton

WASHINGTON: Barb Beattie, Chelan; Jenny Marrison, Bonney Lake; Chris Nemnich, Arlington; Eva Van Beek, Othello

WISCONSIN: Kimberly Badtke, Rosendale;

Michelle Glenski, Green Bay; Jillane Krause, Green Bay; Sean Nimm, Johnson Creek; Bridgett Nottestad, Westby; Kristi Pribbernow, Owen

WYOMING: Snuffy McCoy, Lysite

National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

The 92 young vocalists who made up the national chorus did more than entertain—they set the mood in the convention hall. Each time the spotlight was trained on the big blue shell on the left side of the stage, the audience knew they were in for a musical experience.

Whether they were working the audience up with “Down at the Twist and Shout” or helping them examine their heritage with “Celebrate Freedom,” the chorus once again added a harmonious touch. Especially impressive was the quality of the soloists and the moving performances of the youthful vocalists.

Led by Stan Kingma of Roanoke, Virginia, the chorus had an upbeat, professional sound. Accompanist Owen Robbins of Philadelphia was back for his thirteenth year, and Marilyn Kingma spent many hours preparing for the convention as chorus assistant and chaperone. Joining the staff in Kansas City was chaperone Kay Sandner, mother of chorus member Jason Sandner, of Kirksville, Missouri.



Kara Schafer (center) of Minnesota, and Lisa Tucker of Michigan, belt out a tune in harmony with the other 90 chorus members.

ALABAMA: Abel Sisco, Geraldine

ARIZONA: Dee Wilkins, Wilcox

COLORADO: Aaron Sharpe, Yuma

ILLINOIS: Jarad Jahraus, Saint Peter; Mike Kolweier, Waterloo

INDIANA: Angel Golden, Rossville; Justin Jones, Shenandoah; Carol Puckett, Frankfort; Kurt Stump, La Grange; Wade Zetterberg, Hillisburg

IOWA: Dan Boehlje, Rockwell; Ami Lynn Buechel, West Point; Trent Smith, Humboldt; Jason Stoffregen, Lake View

KANSAS: Kate Armbruster, Kiowa; Kelley Bethell, Ottawa

MARYLAND: Tracy Clagett, New Windsor

MICHIGAN: Randall Grieser, Clarksville; Lisa Tucker, Hillman

MINNESOTA: Shannon Busch, St. James; Kevin Koehl, Hancock; Darren Martius, Sanborn; Paul McCarvel, Brewster; Kara Schafer, Sherburn; Jennifer Holland, Spring Grove

MISSISSIPPI: Hope Belk, McCool; Robert Myers III, Weir; Michele Tanksley, Weir

MISSOURI: Jason Cook, Lebanon; Jeff Ellis, Bakersfield; Susan Hardy, Grant City; Jason Mott, Rockville; Jenessa Pollard, Lathrop; Jason Sandner, Anabel

MONTANA: Shane Clouse, Missoula; Dean Jardee, Ekalaka; Kenneth Lee, Judith Gap

NEBRASKA: Ben Hansen, Superior; Alisha Jensen, Holdrege; Chad Kment, Stanton; Alan Nietfeldt, Grand Island; Tyler Orvis, Cambridge; Paul Wilber, Chappell

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Alisha Bohrer, Hudson

NEW MEXICO: Ted Wicker, Clovis

NEVADA: Chris Miller, Fernley; Andrea Bradfield, Panaca

NEW YORK: Larisa Price, Bliss

NORTH DAKOTA: Erik Stordalen, Enderlin
OHIO: Rick Bachman, Grand Rapids; Rusty Friend, Leesburg; Matthew Hansell, Marietta; Kyle Miller, Delaware; Michael Workman, Danville

OKLAHOMA: Shawn Adcox, Velma; Angela Bollenbach, Kingfisher; Gretchen Collins, Bristow; Alicia Crissup, Waynoka; Tonya Eutsler, Tulsa; Angela Fischer, Hooker; Jeremy Frye, Sulphur; Vicki Gauldin, Newcastle; Jared Gibbs, Duncan; Tara Griggs, Allen; Randy Irwin, Hartshorne; Angela Johnson, Okemah; Chad Kirk, Tipton; Julie Moore, Ringling; Mendy Parker, Tecumseh;

Brandon Schubert, Crescent; Tisha Spears, Hartshorne; Kendra Unruh, Duncan; Kenneth Waugh, Tipton; Chad Wiginton, Altus

OREGON: Rebecca Fisher, Sublimity

PENNSYLVANIA: Grant Campbell, Lykens; Beth Gelsinger, Wernersville

SOUTH CAROLINA: Faithe Deschamps, Pine Wood

SOUTH DAKOTA: Nicole Kost, Harrisburg; Dustin Van Gilder, Bradley

TEXAS: Brian Lasley, Odessa; Adrienne Rhone, Grapeland; Autumn Watson, Greenville

WASHINGTON: Ryan Roberts, Maple Valley; Michele Simplot, Deming; Melanie Sturgeon, Silver Creek

WISCONSIN: Aaron Behnke, Lena; Megan Eilts, Fennimore; Sonja Jensen, Cottage Grove; Brian Kuecker, Lake Geneva; Tammy Joy Montgomery, Weyauwega; Nickie Kressin, New Auburn



National Extemporaneous Speaking Contest

Sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation

National Winner:

Curtis C. Childers
Nemo, Texas
"The Role of the Free Market
in American Agriculture"

Second Place:

Dave Mouser
Normal, Ill.

Third Place:

Patrick Ryan
Pickaway, W.V.

Fourth Place:

James Hunnicutt
Minneola, Fla.

During a special session Thursday afternoon, regional speaking winners competed for the national prize. While much of their audience surely marveled at "how they did it," the speakers gave their extemporaneous speeches after only 30 minutes of preparation. Following their four- to six-minute presentations, each was asked questions by the panel of judges.

Although the dictionary defines "extemporaneous" as "impromptu," these speeches were anything but. State winners came to Kansas City well informed about topics of interest to FFA members. At the contest, each drew a topic and put pen to paper during the precious few minutes of preparation time.

The four national finalists were chosen earlier in the week during preliminary contests. They were rewarded with plaques and cash awards. First place garnered \$300; second, \$275; third, \$250; and fourth, \$225.

National Winning Speech "The Role of the Free Market in American Agriculture"

It was a long few months as the constitutional convention was coming to a close, and the framers of the constitution were certain they had put together an economic system that would flourish for years to come. The framers of the constitution, most of them



With international trade negotiations and threats of a trade war in the news daily, Curtis Childers, Nemo, Texas, had abundant information for his award-winning extemporaneous speech on free trade.

having a background in agriculture, made it clear that the role of this free market system developed so many years ago has an imperative role in American agriculture.

In order to best discuss this, I think I must address the three elements of our free market system. These are incentives, limited government and consumer control of the marketplace.

How does the incentive factor influence American agriculture? As agriculturalists, you and I have certain incentives to enter the marketplace. Our incentive is obviously not only our lives, but the lives of the entire world. The United States provides not only agricultural products for ourselves, but for one-third of the rest of the world. In any other economic system, they don't have this incentive because the government steps in. But in American agriculture, we use this factor of the system to produce our products. More important is the fact that less than two percent of Americans are agriculturalists and so that's an even greater incentive for us to get out and market our product to the entire world.

The second factor. How does limited government play a role in American agriculture? You and I are witnessing

changing attitudes about governmental regulations in the United States. We're seeing more people move into rural areas. Thirty miles from my house, for example, a dairy was threatened with being closed because of government regulations on clean air. People were complaining that the air smelled badly. However, the senator from our area claimed it was an infringement on our free market system and because of him, American agriculture succeeded against government control. Further, we're witnessing in the world marketplace an increased knowledge of the European Community subsidies and how these are outrageously high compared to American subsidies. That's good because it forces American agriculturalists to produce a product that is quality and that the consumer will buy. This brings me to my third and final point.

How does the free market system influence American agriculture? You and I as agriculturalists have a challenge and that challenge is to meet the demands of the consumer in America. If they won't buy our products then we cannot profit or survive. The free market system requires that the consumer control the marketplace. In American agriculture, we are genetically altering our grain sorghum so that when we feed it to our dairy cattle, the yield of protein in our milk is 17 percent greater. Now, this is to the American consumer is quality control. You see, the consumer controls the marketplace because of the free market system and we satisfy their needs. It increases marketing innovations as well. With video and value-added marketing, American agriculturalists are seeing that the consumer is demanding the importance of economic activity. Each dollar spent on a value-added product generates an increase of \$.55 in economic activity over bulk products. With the consumer controlling those factors, the American agriculturalist has to cater to those demands.

In summary, I have talked about how incentive, limited government and consumer control of the marketplace affects American agriculture. And I want to take you back to George Washington, one of our first agriculturalists and also a framer of the constitution, who set up the free market system. He understood the symbiotic relationship between the free market/capitalistic system and agriculture. I think he said it best when he said: "We have to watch out for the watchful eye of the socialist who takes away our free market and takes away our heart, our home and our land."

National Prepared Public Speaking Contest

Sponsored by FMC Foundation

Guests at the convention must have wondered, "How could a young person be so eloquent?" During the National Prepared Public Speaking Contest Friday afternoon, four of FFA's brightest and best proved their skills were no illusion. With thousands looking on, they persuaded, informed and even entertained as they competed in one of the convention's most favored events.

The finalists were chosen in preliminary rounds earlier in the week. In the finals, they presented their six- to eight-minute speech and fielded questions from a panel of judges.

The four speakers were presented with cash awards and plaques. First place took home \$300; second place, \$275; third place, \$250; and fourth place, \$225.

National Winner:

Brian Tribble
Camden, Ark.
"American Agriculture: Shop
and Compare"

Second Place:

Brett M. Birchmeier
New Lothrop, Mich.
"Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering:
A New Era in Agriculture"

Third Place:

Jeremy Rich
Prague, Okla.
"The Poisoning of a Nation"

Fourth Place:

Kristy Nicole Roberson
Bear Grass, N.C.
"Cultivators of American Soil"



Brian Tribble of the Fairview FFA Chapter, Ark., captured top honors in the National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Contest.



Brian Tribble (left), Kristy Nicole Roberson, Brett Birchmeier and Jeremy Rich won their local, state and regional prepared public speaking contests as well as the right to stand on stage under the spotlight.

Prepared Public Speaking

National Winning Speech:

"American Agriculture: Shop and Compare"

The scene is common. Ms. Jones browses about the local grocery store. This concerned shopper approaches the produce counter and begins carefully picking through the many heads of lettuce looking for that perfect one. While sorting through the large variety of beautiful, appetizing vegetables, she suddenly remembers banner headlines from her local newspaper questioning the quality and safety of America's food supply. She recalls articles accusing American farmers of being responsible for as many as 20,000 cancer cases each year. Her mind fills with doubt, as she wonders if she and her family are safe from the dangerous side effects of pesticides and chemical fertilizers used by American farmers. Like Ms. Jones, millions of concerned consumers roam the grocery aisles of America questioning the safety and quality of American food products. Through malicious propaganda and misinterpreted research, many consumers perceive today's agricultural industry as an industry polluting water supplies and poisoning children. This over-reaction to ratings-thirsty networks and the perception they give of American agriculture is the forefront of the greatest fight and fear of the American farmer of today.

Honorable judges, distinguished guests, and fellow FFA members, my name is Brian Tribble, and I represent the Arkansas Association of the FFA. In the next few minutes, we will see how the American consumer has the safest, most abundant food supplies available in the world. Secondly, we will see how the fears and allegations concerning residues in foods are unsubstantiated and are without decisive evidence. Thirdly, we will examine what must be done to strike down these allegations and win back the confidence of the American consumers.

Americans are blessed with the cheapest and safest food supplies in the world. The American public spends only a small fraction of its income on food, less than 11 percent. Not only are we blessed with the cheapest food supplies, but also one of the most abundant in the world, directly tailored to the needs and wants of the consumer. Processors and packers have catered to individual needs by providing pre-cooked, pre-sliced, pre-packaged, homogenized, pasteurized, and standard-

ized products. Yet, today's pampered public still complains of rising food cost and quality. But in comparison to the rest of the world, Americans in fact receive a real bargain.

In contrast, South Africa and India spend an estimated 42 percent of their disposable income on food with quality and safety always questionable. In the state of Russia, the average citizen has to wait in line for hours, sometimes days, for a simple loaf of bread. And now, with the Soviet break-up, food prices have risen as much as

As FFA members, we owe our dedication to ensuring prosperity and efficiency so that American agriculture will continue to be the economic strength of America and lead the way toward meeting the humanitarian goal of feeding the world.

300 percent overnight. Not only are food prices and lines extreme, but quantity is so low that the Russian Parliament allows farmers to bear arms, a right denied to other citizens, in order to protect their crops from starving hordes.

This amazing bargain the American consumer enjoys is due to one simple factor, the streamlined efficiency of the agricultural industry. The American farmer of today is the most efficient producer of all times. Not only does he feed himself, but also 128 other people. Less than 2 percent of our nation is directly involved in agricultural production, yet agricultural businesses employ more than 26 percent of our workers. The great efficiency of the industry has been achieved through years of hard work, determination, and American innovation and technology including pesticides and chemical fertilizers to ensure the quality of the product. A small minority of Americans termed "consumer advocates" have been tearing away the foundation for modern farmers through their misuse of research. Consumer advocates

have made allegations that pesticide residues may be responsible for as many as 20,000 cancer cases per year. This group of wealthy extremists have taken false propaganda and struck fear and doubts in the hearts of Americans concerning the safety of their food. These special interest groups became a major threat to the agricultural industry after the ban of Alar® in the apple industry. Dr. C. Everett Koop, surgeon general at the time and grandfather of three, said about the ban, "A child would have to consume 1,600 apples per day to ingest enough Alar® to even register with the animal experiment on which the scare was based. It is a risk of zero." After the Alar® incident, consumer advocates began gaining power, money and celebrity endorsements to quickly sway and shift the American consumers' confidence in today's food supply.

In actuality, the threats of pesticide residues are minimal. In a study conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture, less than 30 percent of produce had any detectable levels of chemicals. Those found with residues had less than .5 part per billion, the equivalent of one grain of sand in an Olympic-size swimming pool.

The real key to regaining the consumer's confidence lies with education and a wide-spread understanding of the agricultural industry through an effective public relations campaign. We, as members of the agricultural community, have a responsibility to educate consumers with the real facts in our industry. The government must also take a more active role in defending this industry by filtering libelous and misleading information. More money must be invested in the monitoring of pesticide residues and their true threat to regain this lost confidence.

With this barrage of propaganda, it is no wonder Ms. Jones may feel concern for her selections, but a re-examination of the facts concerning the agricultural industry will relieve her fears and concerns. Ms. Jones may be assured she is purchasing the lowest priced, highest quality, and safest product available in the world as a direct result of the efficiency and concern of the agricultural community. To the American farmer, Ms. Jones owes her gratitude and her thanks. And for us, as FFA members, we owe our dedication to ensuring prosperity and efficiency so that American agriculture will continue to be the economic strength of America and lead the way toward meeting the humanitarian goal of feeding the world.

National FFA Contests

Individuals combined knowledge, skill and courage to take part in the FFA contests. Many months of training, even years for some, led to this national competition.

State winning teams qualified for the national contests. The contests took place Thursday and Friday throughout the Kansas City area.

Results of each contest were announced at a banquet provided by each contest's sponsor(s), and the top teams were recognized on the convention stage Saturday morning. Along with the traditional plaques and medals, some contest sponsors provided scholarships to first place teams and high individuals. Those contests were: agricultural mechanics, dairy, farm business management, floriculture, livestock, and meats evaluation and technology.

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Sponsored by Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund, a charitable trust fund of Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.
First Place Team: Rugby, N.D.
High Individual: Sam Ongstad, Rugby, N.D.

AGRICULTURAL SALES

Sponsored by Asgrow Seed Company
First Place Team: Elko, Nev.
High Individual: Lori Crane, Homer, N.Y.

DAIRY

Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Incorporated; and Babson Bros. Co./SURGE
First Place Team: Grady, N.M.
High Individual: Michell Crowley, Grady, N.M.

DAIRY FOODS

Sponsored by Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.; National Dairy Promotion and Research Board; and Patz Sales Incorporated
First Place Team: Hanford, Calif.
High Individual: Frank Bettencourt, Hanford, Calif.

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by John Deere
First Place Team: Fruitland, Idaho
High Individual: Mike Stegemann, Lakefield, Minn.

FLORICULTURE

Sponsored by the American Floral Endowment; Geo. J. Ball, Inc.; and Grace Sierra
First Place Team: Bear Creek, N.C.
High Individual: Danelle Blakemore, Walnut Grove, Mo.

FORESTRY

Sponsored by Champion International Corporation and the General Fund
First Place Team: Taylor, Ark.
High Individual: Jason Rogers, Taylor, Ark.

LIVESTOCK

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.
First Place Team: San Jon, N.M.
High Individual: Clayton LeCompte, San Jon, N.M.

MEATS EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by Excel Corporation, Geo. A. Hormel & Company; and Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation
First Place Team: Williston, Fla.
High Individual: Dan Poletti, Arroyo Grande, Calif.

NURSERY/LANDSCAPE

Sponsored by the American Association of Nurserymen; Kubota Tractor Corporation; Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company; and Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Incorporated
First Place Team: Ramseur, N.C.
High Individual: Kathy Schneider, Lakefield, Minn.

POULTRY

Sponsored by American Proteins, Inc.; Sanofi Animal Health, Inc.; and Tyson Foods, Inc.
First Place Team: San Antonio, Texas
High Individual: Philip Karnes, Lincoln, Ark.



Their noses may have been numb, but these National Meats Evaluation and Technology Contest participants didn't let the chill of the meat locker numb their brains or their concentration.



Building Our American Communities

Sponsored by RJR Nabisco Foundation Inc.



Rene Flores, member of the Ysleta FFA Chapter, Texas, proudly accepts the plaque declaring his chapter national winner in the Building Our American Communities program.

National Winner:

Ysleta, Texas

Second Place:

Miami, Florida

Third Place:

Cathlamet, Washington

Fourth Place:

Franklin Center, Illinois

The Ysleta, Texas, chapter was named national winner of the Building Our American Communities competition. During the Friday morning session, the top four chapters in the nation were honored, along with those ranked gold, silver and bronze.

According to Ysleta's application, the city of El Paso is known as the most polluted and environmentally unsafe metroplex in North America. The chapter's struggle to boost the city's self esteem focused on responsible economic development and attention to the needs of people: disease, hunger and isolation.

With no small task before them, the chapter cooperated with 11 community groups. Collectively, they spent more than 2,000 hours on a variety of projects.

Notable was a plan to educate 20,000 households about the dangers of cholera, a severe, contagious disease usually caused by drinking contaminated water.

More than two tons of litter and recyclable materials were collected, and 500 trees, flowers and plants were used to beautify the area. More than \$7,000 worth of toys, food and coats found their way into the hands of wanting people.

GOLD

ARKANSAS: Amity, Greene County Tech II

COLORADO: Flagler

FLORIDA: Miami

GEORGIA: Morgan County

ILLINOIS: Franklin Center

IOWA: Bison, Nashua/Plainfield

KENTUCKY: Spencer County

MAINE: Limestone, Presque Isle

MARYLAND: Catocin, Frederick County

MICHIGAN: Benton Harbor

NEW JERSEY: Warren Hills Regional

NEW YORK: Chemung-Tioga Conservationists

NORTH CAROLINA: East Montgomery

OHIO: Greenville, Wauseon

PENNSYLVANIA: Grassland, Greenwood, Lenape, Spud Growers

SOUTH DAKOTA: West Central

TEXAS: Calallen, Troy, Ysleta

VERMONT: Middlebury, Springfield

VIRGINIA: Central, Laurel Park

WASHINGTON: Cathlamet, Elma, Winlock, Yelm

WISCONSIN: Denmark, Fort Atkinson

WYOMING: Pine Bluffs

SILVER

ALABAMA: Shelby County AVC

ARKANSAS: Delaplaine, Rison

DELAWARE: Thomas McKean

FLORIDA: John I. Leonard, Ponce de Leon

IDAHO: Troy

ILLINOIS: Seneca, Sycamore

INDIANA: Carroll Fort Wayne, Clinton Central, Shenandoah

IOWA: Algona, Crestland, Creston, Manson-NW Webster, Marengo, North Polk

KANSAS: Clay Center, Concordia, Marysville, Plainville, Williamsburg

KENTUCKY: Oldham County

LOUISIANA: Central LaFourche, Elton, Iota, Midland

MASSACHUSETTS: Burncoat

MICHIGAN: Branch Area Careers Center

MINNESOTA: Anoka, Menahga, Stewartville

MISSOURI: Carthage, El Dorado Springs, Hartville, Keytesville, Union

MONTANA: Columbus

NEBRASKA: Blue Hill, Leigh, Ravenna, Schuyler, Superior

NORTH DAKOTA: Divide County, Finley-Sharon

OHIO: Elmwood, West Muskingum

OKLAHOMA: Delaware

PENNSYLVANIA: Cedar Crest

SOUTH CAROLINA: Furman/Manchester

SOUTH DAKOTA: Bowdle

TENNESSEE: Bartlett, Bradley, Warren County

TEXAS: Columbus, Klein Forest, Mansfield

UTAH: Bear River, Manila

VIRGINIA: Dan River, Northampton, Park View Middle

WASHINGTON: Monroe

WEST VIRGINIA: Ripley

WISCONSIN: Freedom, Spencer

BRONZE

ALABAMA: Jacksonville, Kinston, Robert C. Hatch, Tanner, West Blocton, Wilcox Central

ARIZONA: St. David

ARKANSAS: Stuttgart

CALIFORNIA: Fullerton, Kingsburg, La Puente Valley ROP, Lemoore, Mt. Whitney, Sacramento-Burbank

CONNECTICUT: Mattabeset, Stamford

DELAWARE: Caesar Rodney, Smyrna

FLORIDA: Lake Placid Sr.

GEORGIA: Perry

HAWAII: Pahoa

ILLINOIS: Chicago Ag Science, Cissna Park, Clinton, DeKalb, Georgetown Ridge Farm, Mt. Carroll, Somonauk-Leland, Warsaw

INDIANA: Bremen, Tri-County

IOWA: Akron-Westfield, Alburnett, Mount Ayr, North Linn, Riceville, Sibley-Ocheyedan, St. Ansgar, Wall Lake View Auburn, West Bend Hawkeye

KANSAS: Girard, Hill City, Inman, Wamego, Winfield

KENTUCKY: Barren County, Central Hardin

LOUISIANA: Crowley, Raceland Jr.

MASSACHUSETTS: Essex, Silver Lake

MICHIGAN: Marshall

MINNESOTA: Kimball, Montevideo, Rushford-Peterson, Willmar

MISSISSIPPI: Hamilton

MISSOURI: Houston, Monroe City R-I, Salisbury

MONTANA: Joliet

NEBRASKA: Loup City, St. Edward



Nancy Iannuzzo (on left), accepted the second place plaque in the Building our American Communities program on behalf of the Miami FFA Chapter, Fla. Tom Burnside represented third place Cathlamet FFA Chapter, Wash., and Cory Sarver represented the Franklin Center FFA Chapter, Franklin Grove, Ill., which placed fourth nationally.

BOAC, cont.

NEW JERSEY: Belvidere

NEW MEXICO: Animas, New Mexico 50-Socorro

NEW YORK: Young Foresters

NORTH CAROLINA: Forest Hills, Piedmont,
Southern Nash, Starmount, West Craven

OHIO: Alexander, Eastwood, Pettisville

OKLAHOMA: Jet-Nash, Waukomis

OREGON: Douglas, Forest Grove, McKay

PENNSYLVANIA: Headwaters, Twin Valley

SOUTH CAROLINA: Loris, McBee, Strom
Thurmond

SOUTH DAKOTA: Elkton, Waubay

TEXAS: Booker, Brownsboro, Cotton Center,
Fairfield, Haskell, Johnson City, Ross S.
Sterling

WASHINGTON: Bethel, Mabton

WEST VIRGINIA: Hampshire County

WISCONSIN: Ashland, Black Hawk, Bloomer,
Granton, Holcombe-Lake Holcombe, Loyal,
Reedsburg, Waupaca

WYOMING: Southeast Goshen

Achievement In Volunteerism

A project with the unlikely name, "Miss Jimmy" earned the national Achievement in Volunteerism award for Jeremy Carroll of Alpine, Ark. Carroll was presented with the highest individual BOAC honor during a ceremony Friday morning.

Carroll lives in an area not served by 911 emergency services. The 65 or so elderly people who reside there had feelings of isolation as well as fear. People like Mrs. Jimmie Callaway were lonely and anxious about their safety. Enter Carroll and his FFA chapter. He planned a "visiting" program, posting names and phone numbers in the classroom. As FFA members called on the senior citizens, they became problem solvers and friends.

"The most important thing I have learned," says Carroll, "is that after a person has given their whole life caring for others,

someone needs to be there to care for them."

Carroll and the other winners were presented with a plaque for their efforts.

National Winner:

Jeremy Carroll
Alpine, Arkansas

Second Place:

Tom Burnside
Cathlamet, Washington

Third Place:

Tammy Ney
Denmark, Wisconsin

Fourth Place:

Jason Reifsnnyder
Terre Hill, Pennsylvania



National Chapter Safety Awards

**Sponsored by the Equipment Manufacturers Institute;
and Ford New Holland, Incorporated**

Chapters were honored Thursday afternoon for their efforts in improving community safety. Based on a written application, winning chapters had been designated gold, silver or bronze in advance. The award ceremony was a time to enjoy a moment of recognition for getting involved in a most worthwhile cause.

Chapters who submitted applications offered glimpses into complex projects. These were designed to heighten awareness about safety in every conceivable area: farm, home, highway, shop, workplace, school. Because safety is not learned overnight, most projects were multi-faceted.

One gold-ranked chapter chose the theme "Farm Safety—Something to Live With." Members of the Amanda-Clearcreek, Ohio, chapter focused on the special relationship between rural and urban citizens. They believed the non-farm population would benefit from understanding the safety needs of the farmer, and that lives could be saved and hazards reduced.

A significant project for the chapter took place during a Labor Day festival. More than 350 people watched as a mock hayride and tractor accident was staged. Emergency services took part and demonstrated their roles in disaster response.

Gold

COLORADO: Eaton

FLORIDA: John I. Leonard, Lake Placid Sr.

GEORGIA: Perry

ILLINOIS: Cissna Park, Seneca, Wapella, Warsaw

INDIANA: Clinton Central, Tri-County

IOWA: Cascade, Creston, Estherville, Mount Ayr, West Dubuque

KANSAS: Marysville, Wamego

KENTUCKY: Apollo, Spencer County

LOUISIANA: Elton, Lacassine

MINNESOTA: Pipestone, Willmar

MISSOURI: Nevada, Stockton

NORTH CAROLINA: Sun Valley

OHIO: Amanda-Clearcreek, Preble Shawnee

OKLAHOMA: Billings, Waukomis

PENNSYLVANIA: Spud Growers

SOUTH DAKOTA: West Central

TEXAS: Brownsboro, Mansfield, Troy, Ysleta

UTAH: Manila

VIRGINIA: Fauquier, Northampton, Park View Sr., Tunstall, Turner Ashby

WASHINGTON: Cathlamet, Elma, Winlock, Yelm

WISCONSIN: Denmark, Loyal, Monroe, New Auburn

Silver

ARIZONA: Peoria

ARKANSAS: Black-Rock

ILLINOIS: Franklin Center, Sycamore

INDIANA: Bremen

IOWA: Bison, George-Little Rock, Humboldt, Manson-Webster, Marengo, Vinton, West Bend Hawkeye

KANSAS: Hill City, Inman, Mankato

KENTUCKY: McLean County

LOUISIANA: Rayne

MICHIGAN: Branch Area Careers Center

MINNESOTA: Lanesboro, Menahga, Worthington

MISSISSIPPI: Hamilton, Weir

MISSOURI: Clopton, Keytesville, Union

MONTANA: Joliet

NEW YORK: Chemung-Tioga Future Conservationists

NORTH CAROLINA: North Lenoir, Parkwood

OHIO: Bowling Green, Greenville, West Muskingum

PENNSYLVANIA: Berlin Brothersvalley

SOUTH CAROLINA: Furman/Manchester, Pleasant Hill

TENNESSEE: Bartlett, Lexington, White House

TEXAS: Calallen, Columbus, Haskell

WASHINGTON: Mabton

WISCONSIN: Blanchardville-Pecatonica, Evansville, Mauston, New Holstein, Waupaca

WYOMING: Southeast

Bronze

ALABAMA: Brantley, Crossville, Cullman, Daleville, East Lawrence, Jacksonville, Robert C. Hatch, Scottsboro

ARIZONA: Antelope

ARKANSAS: Stuttgart, Weiner

CALIFORNIA: La Puente Valley ROP, Mt. Whitney-Visalia

CONNECTICUT: Housatonic Valley

DELAWARE: Sussex Central

FLORIDA: Taylor Sr.

GEORGIA: Effingham County

IDAHO: Kendrick

ILLINOIS: Chicago Ag Science, Clinton, DeKalb, Wyoming

INDIANA: Carroll Fort Wayne, Clinton Prairie

KANSAS: Clay Center, Plainville

LOUISIANA: Crowley, Lee Road

MAINE: Limestone, Presque Isle

MARYLAND: Frederick

MASSACHUSETTS: Essex

MICHIGAN: Centreville



Hard work finally paid off. On behalf of her chapter, this FFA member accepted a National Chapter Safety Award from National Vice President Shane Black.

MINNESOTA: Kimball, New Ulm

MONTANA: Miles City

NEBRASKA: Leigh, Ravenna, Schuyler, St. Edward, Superior, Verdigre

NEW MEXICO: Animas

NEW YORK: Fort Plain

NORTH CAROLINA: East Montgomery, Forest Hills, Piedmont

NORTH DAKOTA: Beach, Divide County

OHIO: Wilmington

OREGON: Forest Grove, McKay

PENNSYLVANIA: Greenwood

SOUTH CAROLINA: Travelers Rest

SOUTH DAKOTA: Bowdle, Elkton

TENNESSEE: Bradley

TEXAS: Baytown Sterling, Booker, Iowa Park, Klein Forest, New Waverly, Sabine, Weslaco

UTAH: Davis

WASHINGTON: Eastmont

WEST VIRGINIA: Ripley

WISCONSIN: Black Hawk, Bloomer

WYOMING: Buffalo



National Chapter Awards

Sponsored by Nestlé USA, Inc.

Walking across the stage to receive a National Chapter Award was indeed a proud moment. For many, hearing their chapter's name read over the sound system was the high point of the convention.

Chapters were ranked gold, silver or bronze, based upon a written application with 12 categories. Each chapter's plan or "program of work" was spelled out in detail to demonstrate excellence on the local level.

Perry, Ga., was one chapter receiving a gold ranking. Perry, with a membership of 90, was chosen for a diversity of worthwhile and productive activities as well as for getting the "basics" right.

- The chapter completed a food processing center, with facilities for meat and produce, at the school. Members used the center, and also helped more than 250 families can vegetables.
- The annual banquet attracted 200, and featured the state president as a guest speaker. The chapter planned and financed the banquet, which had a budget of \$1,300.
- Volleyball became the hot activity around school, with a game played before each night meeting. The chapter decided to play each day at lunch and at break, so they bought equipment and painted two courts near the gym with the help of school officials.

Gold

ALABAMA: Brantley, Ider, Jacksonville
CALIFORNIA: Fullerton, Hanford, Kingsburg, La Puente Valley ROP, Mt. Whitney
COLORADO: Valley
CONNECTICUT: Housatonic Valley
FLORIDA: Branford, Lake Placid Sr., Orlando-Colonial Sr., Ponce de Leon Sr., South Sumter Sr., West Orange
GEORGIA: Perry
IDAHO: Meridian
ILLINOIS: Amboy, Chicago Ag Science, Cissna Park, Leroy, Seneca, Sparland, Sycamore, Warsaw
INDIANA: Carroll Flora, Tri-County, Woodlan
IOWA: Bison, Creston, North Polk
KANSAS: Chapman, Clay Center, Hill City
KENTUCKY: Apollo, Scott County
LOUISIANA: Elton, Hathaway, South Lafourche
MICHIGAN: Marshall, Unionville-Sebewaing Area
MINNESOTA: Belle Plaine, Willmar
MISSOURI: Carthage, Chillicothe, El Dorado Springs, Eldon, Hartville, McDonald, Stockton, Troy, Union
MONTANA: Flathead County
NEBRASKA: Lakeview, Schuyler, Tri County, Waverly
NEVADA: Churchill County
NORTH DAKOTA: Finley-Sharon, Libson, Rugby
OHIO: Wilmington
OKLAHOMA: Altus, Billings, Coyle, Crescent, El Reno, Kingfisher, Lindsay, Moore, Tecumseh
RHODE ISLAND: Scituate
TENNESSEE: Bartlett, Bradley Central, Lexington, Riverside
TEXAS: Calallen, Clear Creek, Columbus, Mansfield, Orange Grove, Pleasanton, Ross S. Sterling, Ysleta
VIRGINIA: Fauquier, James Wood, Park View

Silver

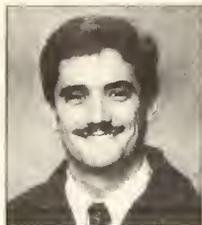
ALABAMA: Daleville
ARIZONA: Antelope, Peoria
CALIFORNIA: Ceres, Turlock
COLORADO: Flagler
FLORIDA: John I. Leonard, Tate, Taylor Sr.
ILLINOIS: Bushnell-Prairie City, Clinton, DeKalb, Franklin Center, Somonauk-Leland
INDIANA: Clinton Central, Shenandoah
IOWA: Alburnett, Algona, Harlan, Linn-Mar, Marengo, Montezuma, Mount Ayr, North Linn, Vinton
KANSAS: Concordia, Labette County, Marysville, Plainville, Wamego, Williamsburg
KENTUCKY: Barren County, Breckinridge County, Central Hardin, Spencer County
LOUISIANA: Oak Grove
MAINE: Limestone, Presque Isle
MARYLAND: Frederick
MICHIGAN: Branch Area Careers Center, Corunna
MINNESOTA: New Ulm, Pipestone
MISSISSIPPI: Carthage, Weir
MISSOURI: Carl Junction, Clopton, Keytesville, Monroe City R-I, Salisbury
MONTANA: Shields Valley
NEBRASKA: Blue Hill, Norris, St. Edward
NEW JERSEY: Allentown
NEW YORK: Tri-Valley
NORTH CAROLINA: North Lenoir, Piedmont, Sun Valley, West Carteret
OHIO: Bowling Green, Eastwood, Greenville, Madison Plains, Oak Harbor, Preble Shawnee, River View, Trumbull County J.V.S., Versailles, Wauseon
OKLAHOMA: Calera, Delaware, Indianola, Madill, Perry, Stratford
OREGON: Forest Grove, Perrydale
SOUTH CAROLINA: McBee High School, Pleasant

Bronze

ALABAMA: Crossville, East Lawrence, Scottsboro
ARKANSAS: Brookland, Lavaca, Marshall, Prairie Grove, Stuttgart, Weiner
CALIFORNIA: Atascadero, Norco
COLORADO: Delta, Fort Morgan, McClave
CONNECTICUT: Woodbury
DELAWARE: Sussex Central
FLORIDA: Indian River, New Smyrna Beach Senior, North Marion
GEORGIA: Colquitt County, Franklin County, Gilmer County
IDAHO: Troy
INDIANA: Carroll, Indian Creek, Southmont
IOWA: Cascade, Estherville, North Fayette, Rockwell-Sheffield
KANSAS: Girard
KENTUCKY: Daviess County, Garrard County, Logan County, Oldham County
LOUISIANA: Iota, Lacassine
MARYLAND: Catoclin
MICHIGAN: Byron, Perry
MINNESOTA: Atwater-Grove City-Cosmos, Maple River, Menahga, Worthington
MISSOURI: Albany, Aurora, Cameron, Kansas City East Agribusiness Magnet, Liberal
NEBRASKA: Northwest, Verdigre
NEW MEXICO: Animas, Hobbs
NEW YORK: Hamilton
NORTH CAROLINA: Forest Hills, Madison
NORTH DAKOTA: Mott
OKLAHOMA: Atoka, Bethel, Broken Arrow, Burlington, Eufaula, Hooker, Idabel, Mooreland, Prague, Ryan, Sapulpa, Springer, Wagoner, Webbers Falls, Weleetka, Wetumka
OREGON: Culver
PENNSYLVANIA: Grassland, Greenwood, Manheim Central, Manor, Selinsgrove, Twin Valley
SOUTH CAROLINA: Clover, Travelers Rest
SOUTH DAKOTA: Bowdle, McCook Central
TENNESSEE: East Robertson, North Knox, Northeast, West Greene
TEXAS: Central, Clarendon, Gilmer, Livingston, McCullough, Quanah, South Garland
UTAH: Davis, Manila, Tooele
VIRGINIA: Central, Turner Ashby
WASHINGTON: Cathlamet, Evergreen, Monroe, Mountain View, Yelm
WISCONSIN: Black Hawk, Clear Lake, Evansville, Granton, Loyal, Mauston, Monroe, New Auburn, Sauk Prairie, Waupaca
WYOMING: Gillette



Retiring Addresses



I Believe...

Wesley Barefoot
National FFA Vice President—Eastern Region
Dunn, North Carolina

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds...

Those words written by E. M. Tiffany some 62 years ago begin the creed that our members learn and understand. However, I have often wondered what Mr. Tiffany meant by the words he wrote. In today's world, when so many people are two or three generations from the farm, do they really understand the meaning behind "...for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny?"

Our organization was founded upon a few beliefs such as hard work, dedication to a cause, and security for the improvement of agriculture. I wonder if E. M. Tiffany was from a farm. What was his tie to the industry? If only I could talk to him and find out what he was thinking when he wrote the FFA creed. I would ask his purpose in writing the passages, I would ask where he thought FFA, agriculture and our country is headed.

Tiffany: Well, why don't you ask me!

Wesley: Mr. Tiffany, what influenced you to write the FFA creed?

Tiffany: Any organization needs direction and a purpose for its members. I wrote the creed to meet those two basic concerns.

Wesley: At the time you wrote the creed, what was agriculture like?

Tiffany: Back in 1929, farmers used mules and oxen to pull plows, the farm was a family business where the entire family served as the work force and the average-sized farm was 50 acres.

Wesley: Mr. Tiffany, today the FFA focuses on sharpening leadership skills, developing supervised experience programs, and improving personal, academic and career areas. What was the FFA like in the early years?

Tiffany: At the beginning of the organization, its primary purpose was to teach young farm boys more efficient and effective managerial skills so that America would have an insured future in food and clothing production.

Wesley: What do you think about the changes? Were they good or bad?

Tiffany: I believe the organization has responded in a positive manner to meet the needs of the industry as well as to educate young people about the facts of agriculture.

Tiffany: Wesley, referring back to your first question, I wrote the creed for one major reason and that was belief! I wanted to impress upon young people how important it is to believe in something, especially agriculture.

Since E. M. Tiffany wrote the creed, more than 60 years have passed. Our nation has seen many changes. In that time period, we have been in a number of wars, experienced atrophy in rural America, and watched as electricity has spread from the cities to the farms. Instead of having one car for every seven homes, today the average household has four vehicles. Computers have become as popular as telephones, and three out of every five farmers have cellular phones in their trucks. Yes indeed, our country has seen a number of changes. But one factor has provided motivation for improvement, and that factor is belief.

I believe in American agriculture, my country and my family. I

believe that everyone is on the same team, and I believe in you. Without believing in something we are at a standstill with all that we do as citizens in this nation.

I believe in the American farmer. Growing up on a farm back in North Carolina taught me the true meaning of being a part of a worthwhile cause. As I have traveled throughout this country, I have seen the variety in production agriculture. From the cattle ranches in Idaho to the dairies in Wisconsin, to the grain belt in Kansas and Nebraska and to the cotton fields of Arizona and Texas. I have had a complete look at the production capacity of this country and I am here to tell you that this country is the leader in quality production.

However, I have sensed isolation from production agriculture in some people that I have

talked with this year. It bothers me to know that people who call themselves agriculturalists do not want to be associated with the farming or ranching part of the industry. Farmers are definitely believers who are willing to risk everything to continue to stay in business, and to do the job they love. We, as agriculturalists, need to recognize the backbone of the industry and support production agriculture...and to believe in the future of farming.

I believe in my country because I realize the value of freedom. When I was a young boy I often thought about other countries. I wondered how the animals looked, what the land was like, and if the soil was similar to what I was accustomed to. Since then, FFA has provided me with the opportunity to visit 14 foreign countries, and I have seen socialism and communism in action.

All my questions were answered about the physical nature of the countries, but what was drastically different was the people. In the communist and socialist nations of the world, the citizen's belief in virtually everything has almost vanished. I am convinced there is no better country in which to live than the United States of America.

*"We, as agriculturalists,
need to recognize the backbone
of the industry and support
production agriculture...and
to believe in the future
of farming."*

Wesley Barefoot

We have the freedom to believe in whatever we choose. This year I have spent a great deal of time in Washington, D.C. I have often visited the Vietnam Memorial, where 58,398 names are given tribute on a wall. But you know they are not just names on the wall; they are people. I stand and look at the engravings and I see my reflection in the black granite. I try to put myself in their position and think their thoughts while they were in combat. Many of these people were the same age as I am today. I found an affinity with the people on the wall, and that is belief in America and our freedom. These soldiers gave the ultimate sacrifice in belief, and that was their life. I believe in my country.

I believe in strong ties with family. In this election year almost any magazine you picked up had a story on family values. The family unit became a key political issue this year and the family will remain so. I believe that we live in a very materialistic world, a world where people are more concerned with the car they drive than how their brother or sister is doing. I believe that as the future generation, we need to step up to the challenge and evaluate our morals and beliefs. I believe in strong family values on which others can depend in their time of need.

With the latest outbursts in Los Angeles, I cannot help but think that our nation needs to be on the same team. I believe if we could focus our energies toward working together rather than degrading one another, we would not be in the shape we are in today, with the drug problems, high school suicides and apathy.

I tell you this because we as progressive citizens and agriculturists of this country need to be the spokespeople and role models in our communities. Whether you like it or not, we live in a multicultural environment and diversity is our strength. We have tremendous human resources. I believe that we can pull together and work hand in hand for an improved future.

I believe in you and our generation. However, we, the future of this country, have to take control of our beliefs and turn them into reality.

If you had read this newspaper in 1840, you might have read this headline:

"No possible combination can be united into a practical machine by which men shall fly." Wilbur Wright and his brother proved that headline to be false at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Had there been a *USA Today* newspaper in 1930, you would have found, "The foolish idea of shooting at the moon is basically impossible." We all know that in 1969 Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon.

I know that I am not Henry Ford, one of the Wright Brothers, or even Neil Armstrong. I do know that these men took risks and acted upon what they believed. If they did not turn what they believed into reality, history would have changed drastically.

With everything that I have shared with you this morning about my beliefs, I want to leave you with a final belief of mine. I believe we all have a purpose in being here. This year in my travels I have met thousands of people. I have come to the conclusion that there are a lot of people in this world. I believe that there are very few people in this world who care about what we turn out to be.

Everyone has a support team on which they depend for encouragement and pushing in one's endeavors. If it were not for the Barry Crooms, Glenn Howells, Marshall Stewarts, Carla Hornes and moms and dads of this country, I would not be here today, because they believed in me. However, you have to believe in yourself, your self-worth and most of all, your purpose.

Before I close, I want to share my final thought with you as a national officer. I will always be grateful to God for showing me my purpose eight years ago this month, on Thanksgiving eve.

My best friend and I were going into town to get a lantern for our camping trip. To our surprise, we did not make it into town. We met a car with its lights on bright. The lights blinded our driver

to a truck backed into a ditch. He swerved to miss the truck. The back corner of the car I was sitting in collided with the truck, knocking me unconscious and putting a hole in the side of my head. The medical units came to the rescue and took me to the local hospital. The doctors categorized me as critical and called the family into the emergency room. The doctors told my family the facial wound was too serious for them to treat, and that I had to be transported to Duke Medical Center 70 miles away. They also told my family I had a fifty percent chance of making it.

I arrived there safely and the plastic surgeon sewed my face back together with 180 stitches. I will never forget laying in bed and wondering what my face looked like and if I would ever be the same again. I cried in my mom's arms as I asked her if I would be OK.

Then I recall seeing my face for the first time five days after the accident. It was covered with bandages. I thank God for allowing me to see my purpose as well as the value of life itself.

Some critics might say that this is a typical car wreck story, but I would have to disagree. I have a permanent scar on the right side of my face symbolizing not only to me, but to the rest of the world, how important life is to live and to always take advantage of all the opportunities it has to offer. As E. M. Tiffany said in the beginning, he wrote the FFA creed because he wanted young people to believe in something, especially agriculture.

I challenge you to develop your talents to their unlimited potential and believe in your purpose in your given time.

Where the true belief is needed is back at home and in your personal life. When all of the people are gone, the lights have dimmed and the music stops. The motivation of believing in something that is very important to you is essential to success as determined by your own standards. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the greatest youth organization in the world as a national officer.



Pieces

Shane Black
National FFA Vice President—Southern Region
Athens, Alabama

*To every thing there is a season
and a time to every purpose under heaven
A time to be born, a time to die
A time to kill, and a time to heal
A time to break down, and a time to build up
Ecclesiastes 3:1-3*

Today, I hold a piece of history in my hands. A simple rock that once, along with many others, cut off the hopes and dreams of millions. It was part of a monument that separated freedom and tyranny. It was a piece of the Iron Curtain—the Berlin Wall.

Three years ago, I walked out of this building, and was shocked by what I saw on the front page of *USA Today*. The Berlin Wall had fallen. There were pictures of East and West Germans together, shouting, singing and celebrating in the streets.

(Continued on Page 40)

A Time To Come Together



"In Your Face" vee-jays filmed an odd and entertaining perspective of convention happenings. Mitch Hamilton, Chino Valley, Ariz.; Lacy Rowland, Wolcott, Ind.; Micah Davis, Portales, N.M.; and Chris Bando, Nebraska City, Neb., were selected to co-anchor the video based on audition tapes they sent in as requested in FFA New Horizons.



Thousands of balloons sat ready and waiting to drop from nets in the ceiling of Municipal Auditorium while even more FFA members, advisors and guests filled the Auditorium for Wednesday night's celebration.

Inset: A talented young vocalist serenaded Thursday evening's sponsor recognition session.



This FFA member was as weighed down by her thoughts as the buttons and stickers she collected on her jacket in the career show.

Retiring Addresses

What the whole world had once considered a constant, an unchangeable symbol of communism, had been destroyed. As the Berlin Wall came tumbling down, it joined the chorus of change throughout the world.

- In China, students raised their voices in defiance. They were crushed by the government.
- New democracies sprung up across eastern Europe as the Soviet empire crumbled.

- Japan, once a manufacturer of simple trinkets, began to produce some of the most technologically advanced products in the entire world.

- Many nations united to oppose the aggression of Iraq.

We don't have to look overseas to see pieces of change, however. We can find them right here.

- A presidential election has just determined the course of our country for the next four years.
- Ten years ago, there were only 243 known AIDS cases in the U.S. That number has swelled to 230,179.
- The way we listen to music has even been revolutionized. The compact disc took musical quality to new heights.
- Our organization is making changes. We've challenged "the way it has always been" and made great gains in offering opportunities to more and more students.

The comforts we enjoy are always evolving. Two months ago in Minnesota, I walked into the single largest retail entertainment center in the U.S.A. It is called the "Mall of America," and it is filled with hundreds of shops and a full-scale amusement park. The structure could hold 88 football fields and has plenty of room for the more than 10,000 people who work there. I was amazed by this spectacle of excitement and light.

Even two decades ago, who could have imagined such a monster? Could our grandparents have foreseen developments like this?

What about tomorrow? What does the future hold for us?

- 75 percent of Americans believe that scientists will discover a cure for AIDS in the 21st century.
- 76 percent believe a woman will be elected president.
- 57 percent believe the average American will live to be 100!

Some scientists even claim we'll see telephones the size of jewelry, collision avoidance systems on cars, and colonies on the planet Mars.

Yes, incredible changes are taking place. Many people are waiting for the dust to settle...but it never will. Heraclitus said, "There is nothing permanent except for change." Countries, kingdoms, and even mountains will crumble in time. Pieces of history speed past us, caught up in the winds of change.

Change is necessary for progress. We can profit by it, yet many people are scared. They are afraid to alter the status quo.

In 1905, the game of football was tougher and grittier than today's version. When playing offense, guys in meager padding formed a "flying wedge," in which the players bunched together and charged into the heart of the opposition. One hoped to gain three, maybe four yards at best.

In 1906, the forward pass was introduced into the game. Most coaches saw no need to try something new. They were having enough trouble! The coaches at St. Louis University saw change as a healthy sign of progress, however. They utilized the forward pass and succeeded tremendously. That year, they outscored their opponents 402-11.

Most changes however, aren't that earth-shaking. They don't happen to countries and continents or even football teams...they happen to people. A move away from home, a break-up with a boyfriend or girlfriend, a graduation from high school...all are events that happen to you and me. The winds of change alter our lives constantly, making every moment a unique piece of time.

Unfortunately, changes sometimes pull us away from those things we care for the most, making it more vital that we enjoy every moment. Four years ago, as a state officer, I served with a young woman who had life at her fingertips. Her dedication to youth and drive to succeed amazed me. She became a dear friend. Somewhere along the way, I let all the days slip by until my year as a state officer was over. Only five months later, my dear friend, Mindy, had passed on as well. I had shared and laughed with her all I could. That time was gone.

Because the precious moments we have with one another are brief, we should fully appreciate each one.

Many changes happen to us. Usually they are the results of actions by other people. Yet the most important changes are the ones we can control. They are the everyday choices that make a difference in our lives.

We choose to study for a test, go to town with friends, or spend time with a parent. These decisions mold our lives, whether we make good choices or bad ones.

Just as we choose to be the people that we are, we can also choose to make ourselves better. We can do that by making a change. Sir Edmund Hillary did not become the first man to climb Mt. Everest by sticking to his routine. In order to achieve something—to become a chapter officer, a scholarship winner, or a Star Over America—we must change our ways as well.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "The greatest tragedy of life is that the average person goes to his grave with the music still inside him." Many of us never compose our finest music or achieve our greatest success, because we enjoy our "good old routine" so much. We only have the power to succeed if we have the will to change.

We have the power to achieve great things, even to change the

*"Sir Edmund
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Shane Black

world. We can tear down Berlin Walls and invent compact discs if we are willing to begin.

Once, a man and his son sat in their living room after school. The father, a preoccupied businessman, was very interested in a magazine. His young son, energetic and restless, was eager to play ball. To keep his son busy, the man found a map of the world in a magazine, cut it up, and gave the pieces to his son to assemble. Thinking the puzzle would keep him busy for hours, the father relaxed and continued to read. He was surprised when the little boy reappeared only seconds later. "How did you put the pieces together so fast?" asked the man. "Simple," the boy replied, "There was a picture of a man on the back. When I got the man right, the whole world was right."

The boy revealed a simple truth. We have within each of us the power to make a difference, even change the world. But we must all begin by altering ourselves. Get the person right, and the world will follow.

One year ago, I experienced an incredible change myself as I was elected to serve as your national FFA vice president. That change took me all across this great country, from the snowy mountaintops of the West to the friendly paradise of the South. This journey I've taken had many high bridges, scenic overlooks, and dark streets, but wherever I went, I knew I was only a small part of something so much larger.

In one of my father's cotton fields back home stands an old wooden post. It's been said in times past it was part of a cross-section of fences that marked the property boundaries. Wind, rain and men have destroyed the fences and now only the lonely cornerpost remains. All about it has changed and shifted, yet this post stands ever strong just like our FFA. In this way it is like the best of our organization. Curriculums may change, demographics may shift, we may even alter our name if need be, but the strong purpose remains the same. FFA is here to make a positive difference in the lives of young people and it is delivered through a commitment to leadership and agriculture.

One thing I've enjoyed this year that hasn't changed is the support of special people. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for your guidance and love. I thank grandparents for wisdom, friends for bringing me down to earth, and teachers for inspiration. Most of all, I thank God for bringing me here safely, right here and now.

Yes, even as I speak, what is right here and right now is already changing as I retire my office. Still, I'm eager to take a new path, whatever it may be.

A few months ago, I stood with a dear friend looking down into a deep canyon at the mouth of the Colorado River. The river flows down from the mountain to join with other streams, churn through rapids, twist through gorges, and finally pour into the Pacific. A nearby sign read, "It has only begun its journey..." No matter what age we are, we have only begun ours. Tomorrow is another day, full of change.

I challenge you to embrace the future, looking ahead, yet appreciating every single piece of life, with this creed on your lips and in your heart.

*I am only one—but I am one
I cannot do everything—but I can do something
And what I do—then that I ought to do
And by the grace of Almighty God
I will do.*

Thank you and may God bless you.



Take It From Me

Louie Brown
National Vice President—Western Region
Hanford, California

It has been almost one full year since my term of service began as your western region vice president. Since then, I have grown in many ways and have seen much of this great country of ours. I've seen good things and bad things, from Alaska all the way down to Georgia. As I stand before you tonight sharing my final thoughts, I would just like to say...I just want to say...No, I'm sorry. Please forgive me but I can't go through with this act; it just isn't me.

FFA members and guests: meet the real Louie Brown! I hope those of you who have worked, played and talked with me throughout the year see nothing new, because I haven't changed.

*"Offices and titles
come and go, but your
beliefs and values are
with you forever. It's up
to you to be yourself and
respect yourself, or be
someone else and act for
a lifetime."*

Louie Brown

I'm just like you, another FFA member doing what I can to help the organization and better myself. That is who I have been all year.

Now what I have been is a different story. I've been your national vice president, your friend, and I've even been your fellow happy camper, but I have always been myself. This is one of my strongest beliefs.

When I came to Kansas City last year to run for a national office, I came with the confidence that if the nominating committee was to choose me, they would have to be able to see the real me. I had a checklist I followed—and before each speech, workshop, and presentation I gave this year, I ran that checklist through my mind — paying special attention to the words, "BE MYSELF." What it comes down to is that it's not the position you hold, it's not the

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medals you wear, and it is certainly not what it says on the back of your jacket that counts. It's the name on the front and what it stands for!

My jacket says "Louie Brown" and that stands for professionalism, enthusiasm, pride in the United States, Wranglers® and ropers, honesty and confidence. It's Portuguese, republican and definitely immodest. My name stands for everything that I am and everything that I will be. That hasn't changed even though the titles underneath it have throughout the years. People, I want you to understand this and believe in it: It's not what you are that matters; it's who you are.

Each of us can probably remember a time when we changed ourselves a little, or maybe even a lot, just to fit a particular stereotype. Think about it. Have you ever changed your voice so people would think you are a more powerful speaker, changed the way you dressed because you were afraid you would be different than the others, or how about the time you changed the way you parted your hair for that special date you had on Saturday night?

Although these are very simple examples, they are important to consider. Once you have altered yourself in the slightest way to impress someone, you will have to do it for the rest of your life. It just isn't worth sacrificing who we are just to impress others. Each of us is different in our own way, and that makes us special and unique. What we all need to learn is how important that is and how we can capitalize on it.

Over the years, I have come to the conclusion that I am short, vertically challenged, untall. No matter how I state it, the fact still remains. Every now and then when I was a kid, I let this idea of being short get to me. I believed I wasn't as good as the others just because I was different.

It wasn't until my freshman year of high school that I realized I could use my height to my advantage. Everyone on campus knew the little, short freshman. They may not have known my name, but they could sure pick me out of a crowd. I was different, and that was okay. I decided to build upon that and let people know only the real Louie Brown. If I was too different or out of line for them, then that was alright, I was making myself happy. Each of us has our own niche to fill in life. We can't all be national officers, famous rock stars, or members of the L.A. Lakers. It's just not who we are!

At many of the state conventions I have attended this past year, I talked about the little girl who grew up and hated her hair like nothing else. Then, one day her father shared a story with her that made her realize that she liked herself just the way she was. That little girl was my little sis', Michelle.

Tonight, I would like to share a little more about Michelle with you. She had "this problem" throughout her first three years of high school. Me. I was good in my classes, active in FFA, and active in many other areas within the school. People knew me and had high expectations for me. The problem was they had many of the same expectations for Michelle, but they really didn't know her. Many people didn't take the time to know her as Michelle Brown. They just knew her as Louie's lil' sister, and that just wouldn't do for her.

One year she gave in to the little game and decided to run for chapter sweetheart. This was the type of involvement that was expected of her. She hated it. She hated the meetings. She hated the duties. Most of all, she hated doing something that wasn't her style. She realized that, in order for her to gain the respect of her teachers and advisors, she had to first respect herself. The only way she could do that was to do her own things and make her own mark.

I couldn't always understand why she had to be so difficult and

so different. The reason I couldn't understand was because I didn't take the time to see things from her angle. I had it in my mind that, in order for her to look good and be respected, she had to be just like me. I pressured her an awful lot throughout high school, and every now and then I catch myself doing it again. But for the most part, I really respect her for being herself and not just my "lil' sis'."

This situation is common throughout the FFA, sports, high school and society. People set expectations of you because of the track record a relative may have established. The sad part is that most of us actually go for the idea—hook, line and sinker. We follow the expectations and become the person everyone wants us to be. When we do that we just become another face in the crowd. It's the things you do for yourself that set you apart and force people to respect you for who you are.

Changing your hairstyle, your clothes, or your speech to impress others is very simple to overcome. It's when you start to compromise your personality, beliefs and values that it is harder to show the real you.

All of us hear the examples every day. Young athletes who take steroids just to become the star of the team, kids doing drugs, committing crimes, or skipping school just to impress others. That's just not cool. Sacrificing everything that you are just to be accepted is not worth it. There are plenty of people who share the same beliefs and values or who will at least respect your differences in the world today. Yet, we seldom take the time or make the effort to find them.

None of you in this auditorium tonight have to change who you are because of what you are. Whether you are the president of the United States or just Louie's lil' sis, there's no need to compromise. It's the name on the front of the jacket that counts, and what that name stands for. Offices and titles come and go, but your beliefs and values are with you forever. It's up to you to be yourself and respect yourself, or be someone else and act for a lifetime.



The Prizefighter

Chadwick Luthro
National Vice President—Central Region
Moorland, Iowa

Coming up the aisle in the auditorium just now, seeing all of these faces—some familiar and others not—hearing the music rumble as nervous anticipation made me wonder what to expect when I finally made it through these ropes; I experienced firsthand what some of my favorite heavyweight boxers must feel every time they come out of the locker room for a fight. But in reality, the thoughts and feelings I experienced on the way up here are more similar to moments that I'm sure you, too, have been through before.

I was seeing myself enter the freshman creed speaking contest room at sub-districts back in Iowa in 1986, walking past the judges.

Very nervous, but feeling prepared enough to compete, I strode to the front of the room.

Time and time again, I went through the same kind of thing: asking a girl out for a first date, trying out for a sports team or a part in the spring play, interviewing for a job or the first loan to start my business. I never knew exactly what to expect, but I felt that if I could just get into the ring and start fighting, I would be OK. Sports announcers call it the “pre-fight jitters.” You probably know the feeling, too. As soon as you make it into the ring, all of your training and preparation will have a chance to work, and you can finally go after your opponent.

You might be like me and even get a kind of a rush when you go through those ropes and into the ring. And when I look at the real world of boxing, I think about all of the fighters who thrive on the same energy: Mohammed Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, Mike Tyson, George Foreman, and the list goes on. All are great athletes who spend countless hours making themselves ready for the battle that rages once they step inside the squared circle. And though you and I may not get paid for most of our prizefights, you know as well as I that ours can be even more challenging.

But I did not choose to talk about prizefighters because of how similar the challenge or the thrill of a boxing match can be to our lives. I did not want to stress how those challenging moments in our life compare to the moments when a boxer steps into the ring, and into the spotlight. You see, I think you and I are even more similar to boxers when we step out of the ring, and out of the spotlight; when we know that there is not an audience watching, or when we don't feel like we have to be at our absolute best. It is at that moment when the prizefighter faces the real opponent, the true challenge.

So many times you hear a fighter's career has ended or been damaged by things that happened outside the ring. People in the sports world often talk about how vulnerable the prizefighter is to the things that happen when he is not faced by a physical opponent. One of the best examples I can give is Mike Tyson's loss of the weight title against James “Buster” Douglas in Japan. People said he had become mentally weak, that he had lost the competitive edge. Even more tragic were the incidents leading to his imprisonment. Could they have been the result of letting the excesses of his career get the better of him, changing his mental outlook until it corrupted his life?

It's impossible for us to know exactly why some fighters “lose their edge.” But it is safe to say that the toughest opponents are the ones you face in your mind or spirit, and these opponents come at you unexpectedly.

My older brother Scott and I were about as competitive as two brothers could be. And though he was four years older, I always expected to at least stay on his level whether we were playing basketball, football, tennis or whatever. It frustrated me at times because I simply couldn't keep up with him. But he always knew

what I was going through, I think, because sometimes he let me win, just barely of course. He always seemed to know how to preserve my pride and how to motivate me to reach even deeper.

My freshman year of high school was hard for me because Scott had gone away to college in Missouri and didn't get home often. Suddenly, the big brother who had taught me everything I knew about sports, clothes, school life, and of course, girls, wasn't there every day. All of a sudden, the only way I could talk with him was by phone. As I started to get more involved at school, it was strange not to have him around to show off to, like when I got elected to the student council or brought home some As on my report card. I was stepping into the ring a lot that year, entering the creed speaking contest, speech contests, landing a part in the spring play, being chosen president of my class and laying the groundwork for my computer business. It seemed like just when I was finally learning to step into the ring and really take on some big-time opponents, the one person in the world I wanted to impress the most wasn't there to see. But it was OK, because I knew soon he would be home and I'd have a chance to rub his nose in the trophies and plaques that were

“In one instant I knew my life would never be the same, and I was totally unprepared for what was probably my greatest struggle.”

Chadwick Luthro

the result of my prizefighting.

At the end of my freshman year, I was on top of the world. I had been named star greenhand, and at our state FFA convention, I became the creed speaking contest state winner. My big brother Scott had just gotten home from college and I was finally able to show off to him the fact that I was becoming my own person. It felt good to have my role model and mentor near to me again, and I couldn't wait for my next prizefight, no matter what it might be.

Earlier I mentioned that much like those famous boxers, I found it easy to rise to a challenge. When these contests or elections came up, I was constantly finding the energy to rush headlong into them. I was really enjoying stepping into the ring with these things that I could see in advance, and prepare for to some extent. But then the blows fell. I now see that the most difficult opponents were the ones I had no warning for. And the moments in my life when I've been hit the hardest was between bouts.

One morning when I got home from driver's ed class, I was confronted by the reality that my big brother apparently had not been as fortunate as I in his last few bouts. You see, that morning my brother took his own life. To this day I don't know what kind of problems he faced or why he didn't choose to let someone else be a part of his fight. Apparently in his mind, it wasn't worth fighting anymore.

Could it have been that I didn't see his attempts at reaching out? Was I so caught up in my own life that I didn't have time to do the simple things that showed I cared? Again, I don't and will never know.

On that day, I felt as if my life might end, too. All I could see

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were images of my big brother and me. In my mind, I saw him taking me fishing or hunting, riding bicycles and motorcycles, going to my first concert and teaching me so many things that I had never appreciated before.

I missed him so much that I didn't know if I could go on with everyday things. It didn't seem right to go back to driver's ed classes or baseball. I felt out of place doing anything that he and I used to do. This was one of those things that came out of nowhere, with no warning. In one instant I knew that my life would never be the same, and I was totally unprepared for what was probably my greatest struggle.

I wish I could say that there is a magical ending to the story, but I can't. I can't say that I have emerged victorious over the problems that jumped out at me all at once back then. I remember being approached by some people whom I thought were friends. They invited me to go out to parties, get drunk or do drugs, get involved with things they said helped them forget their problems. But inside there was a voice telling me, maybe even my big brother's voice, that drugs and alcohol have never solved any problem, only made it worse.

The mental battles I went through for a time were awful. I was tempted to forget about chores or school or being with family and friends because everything seemed insignificant compared to my brother's death. Sometimes, I thought I wanted to be left alone forever. For a long time I didn't feel like getting back into the ring at an FFA contest or other activities at school. I didn't feel like I had the edge anymore. Those other things just didn't matter.

It's been almost six-and-one-half years now, and I still sometimes dream we're playing basketball together, or laughing over something that happened in school. I still hurt so much from missing him sometimes that it feels like my heart stops for a moment. Over time, I've learned much from this battle inside me, a battle that I still must fight at times.

I realize that I can never change the events of the past, no matter how hard I try. The only thing I can do is live for the present and the future, and live up to the standards I had set for myself before any of this began. Taking one step at a time, I was finally able to get back into the ring and into the routines of life. There were no touching scenes like in a *Rocky* movie, nobody shared some inspiring word of wisdom with me that suddenly made everything all right. For those of you who have been through something like this yourself, you know that the stuff in movies is nothing like what really happens inside of you.

I can remember feeling like I was the only one in the world going through this kind of hurt, but I realized that wasn't true. One tragic reality of life, my friends, is that none of us are protected from this kind of pain. Whether it is the death of a loved one, a divorce, a medical emergency, or other tragedy, we all must face this kind of opponent at some point in life. But just as we all must face this opponent, any one of us has what it takes to win the fight as well.

Maybe it's the idea that there really is no easy road out of the problems that confront us that makes us stronger when we do step inside the ropes again. I can think of a few bouts I've had these past years that I might not have been strong enough to win had I not been through the struggles of dealing with my brother's death. I've had to face the reality that life must and will go on, whether or not I was a willing participant.

Fellow FFA members and guests, I'm sure most all of you know exactly what I mean when I talk about the thrill of the fight. When

you're stepping into the ring with a contest, a new job, a new hobby or doing something you've never done before; and you can't wait to put on your gloves and go at it. And I'm sure you have experienced a loss or been confronted by a problem that seems to dwarf your accomplishments or the activities in which you're involved.

But just remember that in the battles you wage outside of the ring, there is rarely a clear-cut winner. There are no judges to make a ruling, no referee to ensure that the fight is run fairly, and no crowd of fans to help give energy when things are rough. It could be that it's hardest to fight these kinds of problems because no matter what, you will not wear a championship belt when it's over. These problems just don't work that way.

But it doesn't mean you have to fight alone. I knew that my parents and sister were with me all along, even as I was there for them. And I emerged from the struggle closer to them than I had been before. It's hard to appreciate the support your family provides until you look back on a time of trouble, but I want to let my family know how much I do appreciate everything they do for me, and how much I love them all.

As I leave now I hope you remember two things. Most of the brightest and flashiest moments of your life will take place right here in the spotlight, in the ring, when you're ready for the fight. But the most difficult strategies, and ultimately the most rewarding, come upon you when you are unprepared. Just have the strength and the faith to take things one step at a time, knowing that if you do, you too, will go down in the books as being among the greatest of all prizefighters.



From opening the session with this giant gavel to closing ceremonies, the national officer team led all 29,541 participants through the convention. From left, Chad Luthro, Wesley Barefoot, Lee Thurber, Mike Stevenson, Louie Brown and Shane Black.

The retiring addresses of Lee Thurber and Mike Stevenson were not available at deadline. A videotape of their presentations can be purchased from the National FFA Supply Service. To order, call 703-780-5600.

International Activities



Paul Swank, retired advisor of the Mid-Prairie FFA Chapter in Kalona, Iowa, told convention attendees how going overseas on FFA international programs had made a positive impact on his students' lives.

One of FFA's most avid believers in international experience addressed the convention Saturday morning.

"I think the WEA program is one of the best available. I don't know of any other program like it. It balances out the agricultural education curriculum and puts it in focus," believes Paul Swank, retired advisor of the Mid-Prairie FFA chapter in Kalona, Iowa. Swank is responsible for entering approximately 25 of his students in the international FFA program known as Work Experience Abroad during his 30 years of agricultural instruction. "I can't imagine why more students don't enter the program," he said.

Swank addressed the record crowd at this convention, relating the benefits of international agricultural experience. He expressed the importance of the convention as a means of informing members and visiting foreign students about international opportunities.

"When my students come home from their programs, they do travel logs, talk to service clubs and get everybody involved. When they come to the convention, they meet people from other schools who are not acquainted with WEA. If my students and the foreign students mingle and talk with a lot of these people, it whets their appetite for travel to another country."

While describing the important gains from international exchange, including the absorption of a new language and culture and a greater appreciation of American citizenship, Swank added that the convention itself served to convey important ideas to visiting students. "Students from other countries come here and have an opportunity to see the scope of our organization, the leadership displayed by these young people. When they go back overseas, they take a lot of the things they saw here at this convention and try to incorporate it into their own school and their own community. But most of all, they have fun."

This year, 22 exchange students representing Japan, Bulgaria, Germany, England, Wales and Scotland had the unique opportunity to attend the National FFA Convention.

"It's impressive, all these people in one place," mused Anders Friedrich. A native of Guxhagen, Germany, the 19 year-old's farming program includes animal and vegetable production.

"We went to the gala celebration Wednesday night. It was great," agreed Jan-Dirk Ewertz, 20, of Rheine-Mesum, Germany. "All the cheering and enthusiasm was awesome."



High-spirited international guests cavorted outside the convention hall. Germans Stefan Weld (left) and Annekatrin Senger came to the U.S. via an FFA international program. Weld lives with Paul McPherson of Utah. Senger is hosted by Kenneth and Mary Burkett of New York.



National FFA Foundation



Hans Becherer, left, chairman and CEO of John Deere, was a special guest at Thursday night's sponsor recognition program. In honor of John Deere's 50 years of National FFA Foundation sponsorship, Becherer was presented with a limited edition model 4020 tractor. The commemorative tractor was identical to those available to participants through a special Foundation program.

For the National FFA Foundation, setting records has become a way of life.

Even during a recession, the 1,000-plus Foundation sponsors dug deep into their pockets and pulled out an incredible \$4,751,000. The announcement was made Thursday night by Neil O. Christenson, 1992 Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman and vice president, Farm Equipment, US & Canada, Deere & Company.

It's been 26 years of record-setting levels of sponsorship, years where no matter what the economic indicators predicted, the companies, organizations and individuals that support tomorrow's leaders strove to give more than the previous year.

Christenson summed up the phenomenon in his remarks to the convention audience. "We are really counting on you,

the FFA, to keep this industry growing," he said. Business leaders realize the future of their industries lies in the hands of today's capable FFA members, and consider their contributions an investment toward a bright tomorrow.

Sponsors who had never before attended a convention realized the value of their efforts as they sat surrounded by thousands of enthusiastic, motivated blue-and-gold clad members. "It is very inspiring for someone in the agricultural industry to attend this convention," said Mike Ames, of Merck AGVET Division. "I'm very impressed with the enthusiasm and drive of the FFA members. I am definitely going to encourage my company to keep sponsoring."

35-Year Sponsors

Gehl Company
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National FFA Foundation

Distinguished Service Citations

Retiring Sponsors' Board

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Virgil Martinson, Past President, National FFA Alumni Association
Earl Morgan, Vice President & Group Manager Agricultural Chemicals Group, FMC Corporation
Gary Myers, Executive Vice President, Morgan&Myers

Briggs and Stratton, Cargill and Philip Morris, U. S. A. were commended by FFA at the Thursday afternoon session. With the presentation of three Distinguished Service Citations, the organization said thank you to three companies which have offered encouragement to FFA. All have generously donated financial resources as well as energetic support from company employees.

Briggs and Stratton Corporation of Milwaukee, Wis., has been a major supporter of the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics contest. The firm contributed 24 air-cooled engines, maintains them or refurbishes them as needed, provides service manuals to all contestants and provides staff for operation of the contest. They also have provided local teachers with materials, exhibited in the FFA Career Show and sponsored the Fruit and/or Vegetable Production Proficiency Award through the National FFA Foundation.

Cargill of Minneapolis, Minn., has supported the National FFA Foundation for 32 years. Cargill is the sole sponsor of the Diversified Livestock Production Proficiency Award. They also provide \$250,000 annually for college scholarships through the National FFA Collegiate Scholarship program.

Philip Morris, U. S. A. of Richmond, Va., was recognized for 31 years of service to the organization. Philip Morris has exhibited strong support for the National FFA Alumni Association and has sponsored the Alumni State Leaders' Conference since it began in 1987. From 1981-86 they sponsored the Wildlife Management Proficiency Award through the National FFA Foundation. The firm also sponsored a display as part of the Hall of Achievement at the National FFA Center.



Lyle Shackle (left), manager, technical services, Briggs & Stratton Corporation; Guy Shoemaker, southwest geography manager, Grain Division of Cargill, Kansas City, Mo.; and James Burns, manager, agricultural programs at Philip Morris, U.S.A., Richmond, Va., represented their companies in the Distinguished Service Citations ceremony.

E. Frank Santos, President & Chief Executive Officer, Valent U.S.A. Corporation
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Tadd C. Seitz, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, The O.M. Scott & Sons Company
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Catherine A. Westphal, Assistant Vice President, Public Relations, Santa Fe Pacific Corporation
Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway

Honorary American FFA Degrees

Honorary American FFA Degrees were presented Friday morning. Should there be any question, it was noted that the adults seemed just as thrilled with their awards as any young convention winner.

Whether they hailed from agricultural classrooms, corporate America, academic institutions, government positions or other professions, all had one virtue in common. They had been ardent supporters of FFA, people who had offered themselves and their talents to serve the national organization.

Degree recipients were congratulated on stage by the national FFA officers and were presented with the honorary key and certificate.

ALABAMA: James M. Cravey, Montgomery; Galen Grace, Albertville
ARKANSAS: John R. Holmes, Little Rock; Travis C. Hopper, Little Rock; Lonnie McNatt, Little Rock
CALIFORNIA: Homer Bowen, Modesto; Flint Freeman, Pomona; Albert D. Kern, San Diego; Charles M. Smallwood, Fresno
COLORADO: Ronald D. Hollenbeck, Denver
FLORIDA: Ray H. Cooney, Winter Haven; Robert

A. Croft, Tallahassee
GEORGIA: H. D. Brown, Savannah; Harold J. Loyd, Tifton; William H. Moss Jr., Athens; David Skinner, Tucker; Freddie C. Waltz, Tifton
IDAHO: Donald D. Benedict, Lewiston; Al J. Lingg, Moscow; Laura J. Wilder, Boise
ILLINOIS: Reginald D. Henry, Normal; Robert W. Pritchard, DeKalb; A. Bruce Roskens, Chicago
INDIANA: Dan J. Arnholt, Columbus; Roland Hackman, Seymour; N. D. Hein, Indianapolis; Teresa Jackson, Fountain City
KANSAS: Don Sheets, Topeka
KENTUCKY: Charles M. Derrickson, Morehead
MICHIGAN: Gerald A. Welch, Kalamazoo
MINNESOTA: Donald Berg, Minneapolis; Thomas A. Doughty, Minneapolis; Norman E. Fredin, Albert Lea; Larry D. Hayes, Lester Prairie; Rita A. Jorgensen, St. Paul; Willis W. Lilliquist, St. Paul; Douglas D. O'Neil, Jackson; Jerome M. Stein, Glenwood; Win G. Streiff, Buffalo; Gladys Tripp, Minneapolis; Charles F. Worm, Okabena
MISSOURI: Denise De Julio, Kansas City; W. Anson Elliott, Springfield; Jack Gercone, Kansas City; Ray C. McClure, Columbia; James L. McClure, Salem; Phil McFall, St. Joseph; Edward L. McMillan, St. Louis
NEBRASKA: Richard C. Hahn, Omaha; Steven Oltmans, Omaha

NEW JERSEY: Mark W. Atwood, Princeton; James V. Gramlich, Princeton
NORTH CAROLINA: William B. Buffaloe, Research Triangle Park; Robert H. Caldwell, Greensboro; W. G. Parham Jr., Raleigh
NORTH DAKOTA: Douglas Vannurden, Bismarck
OHIO: John D. Kelly, Marion; Gene P. Weeks, Pleasant Hill
OKLAHOMA: Gregory D. Dewald, Stillwater; C. Wayne Hood, Oklahoma City; Robert Lohmann, Enid
OREGON: Howard Gibson, Junction City; John Landers, Corvallis; Nancy J. Stebbins, Salem
TENNESSEE: Boyd Trew, Chattanooga
TEXAS: Marvin J. Cepica, Lubbock; L. J. Chachere, Dayton; Steve Frazee, Lubbock
VIRGINIA: Bobby Conner, Ebony; Mary K. Devers, Alexandria; Larry Fannon, Charlotte Court House; Harriett D. Fidd, Alexandria; Stephen T. Grant, Winchester; Janet Lewis, Alexandria
WISCONSIN: Don Haldeman, Madison; Thomas Lyon, Shawano; Bernard Nielsen, West Bend
WYOMING: William M. Henry, Casper

Agriculture Teachers

ALABAMA: Robin G. Clark, Grand Bay; Stacy Hatcher, Hartford; Frankel S. Hunnicutt, Millport; Randall Paramore, Notasulga; Alan Waters, Daleville
ARIZONA: Jack Turner, Buckeye
ARKANSAS: William A. Stark, Judsonia
CALIFORNIA: Stephen DeRose, Arroyo Grande; Kermit Kliever, Brawley; Abdul Mohamed, Imperial; Scott Vernon, San Luis Obispo
COLORADO: Chris Wilkinson, Lamar
GEORGIA: Gary L. Minyard, Carnesville; D. J. Sheppard, Eatonton
IDAHO: Steve Bott, Rupert
INDIANA: Curtis E. Campbell, Wabash; Steven W. Hickey, Middletown; Don Sturgeon, Hagerstown
IOWA: William D. Drey, Red Oak; Ed Hansen, Orient; Daniel J. Leinen, Harlan
KENTUCKY: Lloyd A. Horne, Cecilia
LOUISIANA: Donald R. Gill, Denham Springs
MAINE: Franklin R. McElwain, Limestone
MARYLAND: Tonjia R. Mayne, Thurmont
MICHIGAN: Glen D. Ruder, North Adams
MINNESOTA: Joel M. Larsen, Belle Plaine; Keith D. Place, Lakefield; Arnold G. Rethemeier, Perham; Louis Worm, Lakefield
MISSOURI: Doyle Bounds, Grant City; Mickey Briscoe, Macon; Frank Caldwell, Palmyra; Duane M. Kaiser, Granby; William D. Northcutt, Bowling Green; Robert L. Parsons, Salem; Allan E. Rohrbach, Green Ridge; John Rummel, Stockton; Michael L. Smith, Mount Vernon; Dean Swafford, Savannah
NEBRASKA: D. R. Lechtenberg, Butte; Thomas Wheeldon, Schuyler



Lee Thurber (left), national FFA president, congratulates one of the 176 recipients of the Honorary American FFA Degree. Recipients were recognized for the support and encouragement they give FFA members.

Honorary American FFA Degrees

NEVADA: Elaine Lewis, Fallon; Jim Sustacha, Fallon

NEW MEXICO: Joel Edwards, Capitan

NEW YORK: Dwight C. Putnam, Remsen

NORTH CAROLINA: Sidney R. Fields, Mt. Gilead; Charles T. Kearns, Lexington

NORTH DAKOTA: Richard J. Sabol, Des Lacs

OHIO: Donald E. Bucher, Ashville; Louis G. Damschroder, Oak Harbor; Virgil Koppes, Medina; Carl R. Stotz, West Unity

OKLAHOMA: Larry Brady, Balko; Daryle Greer, Blackwell; Greg Kokojau, Drummond; Gary Montgomery, Springer; Ray C. Sharp, Cherokee; Craig Smith, Guthrie; Ronnal Stoll, Indianoma; Tim Vanover, Waukomis; Steve Walker, Billings

WEST VIRGINIA: Lloyd L. Earnest, Cameron

WISCONSIN: Gary C. Anderson, Sun Prairie; Brenda J. Scheil, New Auburn

WYOMING: Ed Merrill, Newcastle

Some Honorary FFA Degree recipients were chosen because of "who they were." Parents of retiring national officers, parents of stars and retiring members of the National FFA Board of Directors, trustees and consultants were awarded the degree.

FFA has long recognized the contributions, and sacrifices, made by parents of active, outstanding members. The degrees were symbolic, too, in their recognition of parents everywhere and their role in the success of their sons and daughters.

Retiring members and consultants of the National Board of Directors and Trustees of the National FFA Foundation were recognized for their terms of service. These individuals were honored for commitment to the direction of the organization and for time spent in the thrice-yearly meetings.

Parents of National Officers*

ALABAMA: Gayle Black, Athens; Edward Black, Athens

CALIFORNIA: Patricia A. Brown, Hanford; Louie A. Brown Sr., Rancho Cordova

MONTANA: Roberta Jean Cremer Stevenson, Hobson; Keith Allen Stevenson, Hobson

NEBRASKA: Beverly Thurber, Roca; Thomas Thurber, Roca

NORTH CAROLINA: Shelby Jean Barefoot, Dunn; Joseph Earl Barefoot, Dunn

*Chad Luthro's parents, Janet and Nathaniel Luthro, received their degrees in 1990 when Chad was the American Star in Agribusiness

Parents of Stars in Agribusiness and Star Farmers

GEORGIA: Peggy Glaze, Eastanolle; Robert Glaze, Eastanolle

IDAHO: Sharon Funk, Burley; Gene Funk, Burley

KANSAS: Linda Strnad, Formoso; Dloyd Strnad, Formoso

MONTANA: Betty Jo Bogden, Ulm; Richard Bogden, Ulm

PENNSYLVANIA: Marna Lake, Big Cove Tannery; Donald Lake, Big Cove Tannery; Marilyn Martin, East Earl; John Martin, East Earl

TENNESSEE: Kay Wells, McMinnville; Herschel Wells Sr., McMinnville

WISCONSIN: Beverly Paske, Arlington; Frederick Paske, Arlington

National FFA Board of Directors, Trustees and Consultants

CALIFORNIA: Tom Munter, Sacramento

ILLINOIS: Neil O. Christenson, Moline

NEVADA: Tom Klein, Elko

NEW YORK: Homer Bushey, Champlain

OKLAHOMA: June Dean, Owasso

SOUTH DAKOTA: Bobby L. Muller, Tyndall



Russ Lechtenberg (left), Butte, Neb., gets a hearty congratulations and heartfelt thanks from Lana Steinhausen, Lincoln, Neb., for all he did to earn the Honorary American FFA Degree.

National FFA Alumni

National FFA Alumni members don't wear varsity sweaters and saddleshoes or turn cartwheels, but they are some of the best cheerleaders supporting FFA. They provide the support, guidance and financial backing needed to make things happen.

At this year's convention, Odell Miller of Morgantown, W. Va., scheduled six one-hour national leadership workshops. Sponsored by Land O'Lakes, Inc., the training sessions were attended by thousands of FFA members, advisors and guests.

Workshop presenters were former National FFA Officers Randy Hedge, 1981-82 national vice president, Ark.; Kelli Evans-Brown, 1987-88 national president, Neb.; Donnell Brown, 1989-90 national president, Texas; Dan Schroer, 1989-90 national vice president, Ohio; Julie Classen, 1990-91 national vice president, Neb.; Mark Timm, 1990-91 national president, Ind.; Lesa Ann King, 1990-91 national vice president, Texas; and Matt Lohr, 1990-91 national vice president, Va.



Newly elected National FFA Alumni President Mark Williams (left), Oviedo, Fla., accepted the gavel, a token of leadership, from Past President Virgil Martinson, Stoughton, Wis. The FFA Alumni Association, with approximately 34,000 members, marked its 21st year.

Elections

Mark Williams, Oviedo, Fla., was elected president at the 21st FFA Alumni convention on November 11. Other newly elected FFA alumni council members were:

- Vice President—June Dean, Owasso, Okla.;

- Central Region Representative—Ken Natzke, Bonduel, Wis.; and
- Western Region Representative—Janean Lambeth, Casa Grande, Ariz.

Returning council members include:

- Past President—Virgil O. Martinson, Ph.D., Stoughton, Wis.;

- Eastern Region Representative—Lynn Wells, Warsaw, Ohio;
- Southern Region Representative—Earl H. Cheek, Perry, Ga.;
- Member-at-Large—Duane M. Nielsen, Ph.D., Pinehurst, N.C.; and
- Teacher Educator Representative—Ray V. Herren, Ph.D., Athens, Ga.



East Magnet High School for Agribusiness and Environmental Studies, Kansas City, Mo., bought the 1993 truck donated by Chevy Trucks. Key players in the big bid were Larry Mudd (left), curriculum coordinator; Bonnie Mudd, Larry's daughter; Carol Vernava, purchasing department, Kansas City School District; Scott Stewart, land lab manager; Dora Nowicki, assistant manager, truck merchandising, Chevy Trucks; Gary Maricle, school principal; and ringman Chuck Watkins.

Awards

National FFA Alumni members attended an awards luncheon in Bartle Hall Wednesday. At the luncheon, three longtime supporters of the FFA were presented the Alumni Association's highest award, the FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award. No more than three people receive the award each year, and for the first time, all recipients were from the same state. Those award winners from Wisconsin were Wallace Schilberg, Milton; Darrel Birnschein, Sturgeon Bay; and James L. Sipiorski, Denmark.

Eight state FFA Alumni associations were saluted for increasing their membership by 50 people during the past year. Those states joining the ranks of the 1992 Blue Blazer Club were Fla., Ill., Mich., Mo., Ohio, Okla., Texas and Wyo.

For the second consecutive year, Milton, Wis., was recognized as the Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate. Denmark, Wis., was runner-up.

Alumni



Doug Sheridan, president of the Mason, Mich., FFA chapter, worked the crowd at the National FFA Alumni auction Wednesday night. Auction donors and bidders raised nearly \$37,000 for scholarships.

Auction

FFA Alumni members finished their day with arms flailing and gavels rapping at the seventh annual FFA Alumni Auction. The auction brought in nearly \$37,000 for FFA activities.

Even chapter President Doug Sheridan, Mason, Mich., took his turn cajoling bidders from the auction block. Conducted by the Michigan FFA Alumni Association, the auction saw a high bid of \$18,000 for a 1993 half-ton pick-up donated by Chevy Trucks. Gary Maricle, principal of East Magnet High School for Agribusiness and Environmental Studies, Kansas City, Mo.,

won't have too far to drive the truck to its new home. Maricle, who is also director of the National FFA Talent program, bought the truck on behalf of the school.

Kevin Robinson, Roswell, N.M., became the owner of a brand new tool chest with roll cabinet donated by Snap-on Tools Corporation. Robinson bought the tool chest for \$1,450.

A 20-foot conveyor donated by Patz Sales Incorporated brought a high bid of \$1,375. It will find a new home with Jack Betley, Green Bay, Wis.

Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate awards were presented to 26 affiliates, earning gold, silver and bronze rankings.

Gold

Waterloo, Ill.
DeWitt Central, Iowa
Hill City, Kan.
Washington, Kan.
Norfolk, Neb.
New Lexington, Ohio
Pomeroy, Wash.
Denmark, Wis.
Milton, Wis.

Silver

Greene Co. Tech, Paragould, Ark.
Housatonic Valley, Falls Village, Conn.
Sebring, Fla.
Gilmer County, Ellijay, Ga.
United Community, Boone, Iowa
Apollo, Owensboro, Ky.
Lakeview, Columbus, Neb.
South Rowan, China Grove, N.C.
Mauston, Wis.

Bronze

Frostproof, Fla.
Clay Center, Kan.
Wamego, Kan.
Marshall, Mich.
Pondera County, Conrad, Mont.
Frederick County, Winchester, Va.
Lake Mills, Wis.



VIP Citations



VIP Citation recipients Thaine McCormick (left), Hugh McClimon and E.W. "Bill" Munsell.

VIP Citations were presented to four individuals who have been instrumental in the success of the National FFA Organization. At the Friday morning session, citation recipients were introduced to the convention audience and honored with a commemorative plaque.

Hugh P. McClimon of Columbia, S.C., served as a member of the National FFA Board of Directors and the National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees. In the state department of education, he served as district supervisor for 17 years before becoming state supervisor for 7 years. In addition to his leadership for the FFA, he served as executive secretary of the state Young Farmer Educational Association.

Thaine McCormick of Fredericksburg, Va., served as national FFA advisor for two years prior to the appointment of the current advisor Larry Case. McCormick has a long background in vocational education beginning in the classroom and continuing in the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

When **E. W. "Bill" Munsell** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, served as the 1986 National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman, more than \$2.5 million was raised in support of FFA and agricultural education. Munsell was chairman of Creswell, Munsell, Fultz & Zirbel advertising agency and is executive vice president and director of Young & Rubicam. His company provided FFA with donated services to develop the FFA Foundation admark and magazine advertisements.

Lee A. Traver of Albany, N.Y., taught high school agriculture in Cayuga County before joining the state education department. He served as chief for agricultural education and state FFA advisor for 19 years and is presently division director of occupational education. He served on the National FFA Board of Directors and as president of the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education.

National Agricultural Career Show

It was a year of firsts for the 27th National Agricultural Career Show. This show topped all others with more than 240 booths. The Hall of States set a new high with 28 state exhibits, and more universities than ever set their sights on recruiting FFA members.

The career show shared the upper level of Bartle Hall with an FFA shopping mall and food court which made eating and convention souvenir shopping easy.

In another first, an aquaculture exhibit brought together local schools, the National FFA Organization and private business.

Exhibitors

Ace Bolt & Nut Company
 Agri-Education, Inc.
 Agricultural Communications Professional Organizations
 Alfa-Laval Agri, Inc. (DeLaval)
 Allflex USA
 Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
 American Angus Association
 American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials
 American Association of Nurserymen
 American Bison Association
 American Blonde d'Aquitaine Association
 American Breeders Service
 American Cyanamid
 American Farm Bureau Federation
 American Gelbvieh Association
 American Hereford Association
 American International Charolais Association
 American Maine-Anjou Association
 American Paint Horse Association
 American Polled Hereford Association
 American Quarter Horse Association
 American Salers Association
 American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.
 American Simmental Association
 American Veterinary Medical Association
 Aquatic Eco Systems
 Army & Air National Guard
 Associates of the National Agricultural Library
 Auburn University
 Babson Bros. Co./SURGE
 Barton County Community College
 Bel-Rea Institute
 Birchwood Genetics, Inc.
 Breaking New Ground Resource Center
 Bnggs & Stratton Corporation
 Broadcast Partners
 Bureau of Land Management
 Bureau of the Census
 CARQUEST Auto Parts
 Case IH
 Council for Agricultural Science and Technology
 CENEX/Land O'Lakes
 Chevrolet Motor Division—Truck Merchandising
 Chicago Board of Trade
 Chicago Mercantile Exchange
 Christian Foundation for Children and Aging
 Clemson University
 Coca-Cola USA
 Colby Community College
 Colorado State University
 Community Calendars
 Crop King Inc.
 Crosby Donkey Ball, Inc./Buckeye Donkey Ball Inc.
 Dash Covers, Inc.
 Delmar Publishers, Inc.
 Dodge City Community College
 Dodge Trucks—Chrysler Corporation

DowElanco
 Data Transmission Network
 Equipment Manufacturers Institute
 Ertl Co., Inc.
 Farmhouse International Fraternity
 Farmland Industries
 Fastpro International Corporation
 Federal Aviation Administration, Central Region
 Florida Department of Citrus
 Food & Drug Administration, Center for Veterinary Medicine
 Ford Division—Ford Motor Company
 Genetic Outreach
 Humane Society of the U.S.
 Hydroponic Society of America
 ICI Americas Inc.—Agricultural Products
 Industrial Safety Equipment Association
 Institute of Applied Agriculture
 Instructional Materials Lab—University of Missouri
 Instructional Materials Service—Texas A & M University
 International Brangus Breeders Association
 Iowa State University
 Iowa Western Livestock Judging Contest
 Jeffers Vet Supply
 John Deere
 Johnson & Wales University
 Junior Beefmaster Breeders Association
 Kansas State University
 Klerk's Plastics Products Manufacturing, Inc.
 Kropf Fruit Company/Christian Kropf Gift Fruits
 LC Produce Fundraisers
 Learn and Earn System
 Lincoln University
 Louisiana State University
 Makita U.S.A. Inc.
 Michigan State University
 Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.
 Mid-America Nazarene College
 Mid-America Vocational Curriculum Consortium
 Middle Tennessee State University
 Miles Inc., Agriculture Division
 Mississippi State University
 Missouri Chapter—American Fisheries Society
 Missouri Department of Conservation—Forestry
 Modesto Junior College
 Monsanto Agricultural Company
 National Agricultural Aviation Association
 National Agriscience Institute and Outreach Program
 National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
 National FFA Alumni Association
 National Food & Energy Council, Inc.
 National Futures Association
 National Grain & Feed Association
 National High School Rodeo Association
 National Pork Producers Council
 National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization

National Rifle Association
 National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association, Inc.
 National Young Farmer Educational Association
 Neogen Corporation
 New Mexico State University
 North American Elk Breeders Association
 North American Limousin Foundation
 North Carolina A & T University
 North Carolina State University
 Northwest Missouri State University
 Nuchief Sales, Inc.
 The Ohio State University
 Oklahoma Curriculum & Instructional Materials Center
 Oklahoma State University
 Park College
 Pecan Valley Nut Company, Inc.
 Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
 Pitman-Moore, Inc.
 Poultry Science Association
 Purdue University
 "R" Farm is "0-Chem"
 Regents/Prentice Hall
 Remington Arms Company, Inc.
 Rhone-Poulenc Ag Co.
 John Rinehart Taxidermy Supply Company
 Santa Fe Railway
 Seald-Sweet Growers, Inc.
 Select Sires, Inc.
 Seward County Community College
 Society for Range Management
 Society of American Florists
 Society of American Foresters
 Solar Components
 Southeast Community College—Beatrice
 Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
 Southwestern Technical College
 Stone Manufacturing & Supply Company
 Stuppy Greenhouse Manufacturing Company
 Sunkist Growers, Inc.
 Swine Genetics International, Ltd.
 Texas A&M University
 Texas Tech University
 The Council—Aquaculture
 The Council—General
 The Council—International
 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.
 Tri-L Manufacturing Inc.
 Tri-State Breeders
 U.S. EPA, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds
 United States Marine Corps
 University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Illinois
 University of Illinois Vocational Agriculture Service
 University of Minnesota—Crookston, Agricultural Division and University of Minnesota—College of Agriculture
 University of Missouri—Columbia
 University of Nebraska—Lincoln
 University of Southwestern Louisiana
 University of Wisconsin—Madison
 University of Wisconsin—Platteville
 University of Wisconsin—River Falls
 US Air Force Recruiting Service
 US Army Recruiting Command
 US Coast Guard Recruiting

Hall of States

Alaska
 Arizona
 Arkansas
 Connecticut
 Delaware
 Hawaii
 Idaho
 Illinois
 Indiana
 Iowa
 Kansas
 Kentucky
 Louisiana
 Michigan
 Mississippi
 Missouri
 Montana
 Nebraska
 New York
 North Dakota
 Pennsylvania
 Puerto Rico
 South Carolina
 South Dakota
 Utah
 Virginia
 Wisconsin
 Wyoming

US Custom Harvesters, Inc.
 US Fish & Wildlife Service—Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge
 US Navy Recruiting Command
 USDA Agricultural Cooperative Service
 USDA Farmers Home Administration
 USDA Federal Crop Insurance Corporation
 USDA Soil Conservation Service—Earth Team
 USDA—Take Pride in America
 V-Tecs/Curriculum Publications Clearinghouse
 Vigoro Industries, Inc.
 Virginia Tech
 Vocational Marketing Services
 Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
 Western States Colleges of Agriculture
 Winchester Ammunition—Olin/Winchester
 Wix Filter Corporation
 Woman's Christian Temperance Union
 Wyoming Technical Institute



Courtesy Corps

Behind the scenes at the 65th National FFA Convention were people. Scattered throughout the halls, in little-noticed, out-of-the way places, were the headquarters of convention operations. Behind these doors were people who made sure the big things and the little things were done right.

The right certificates had to be onstage at the right time for the right people. The doors had to be sealed during the competitive speaking events. Foundation sponsors had to be shown to their special seating area. If you add them all up, you'd get *thousands* of details.

Doing their part were FFA members. Gold armbands contrasting with their official dress, members from 150 chapters helped make sure the convention was a smooth-running machine. They served as ushers, they served as runners, they packed boxes and they lent a hand when called upon. In short, they were priceless.

Alabama: Attalla, Billingsley, Goshen, Jacksonville, McAdory, Paramount
Arizona: Buckeye, Chandler, Cibola, Coolidge, Deer Valley Vo Tech, Kofa, Safford
Arkansas: Berryville, Lake Hamilton Jr., Lake

Hamilton Sr., Springdale
Florida: Branford, Bronson, Columbia Sr., Dunnellon Sr., Santa Fe, Sarasota, Suwannee, Taylor Sr.
Illinois: Chicago Ag Science, Liberty, Sycamore, Westmer



Courtesy Corps members helped convention attendees find a seat in the packed auditorium.

Indiana: Clinton Central, Owen Valley, Rensselaer, South Newton, Southern Wells, Southmont, Tri-County, Woodlan

Iowa: Centerville, Central City, George Little Rock, Holland

Kansas: Atchison Co., Burlingame, Marais des Cygnes Valley, Marion, Moundridge-Hesston, Washington

Kentucky: Christian Co., Heath, Jessamine Co., Mason Co., Paducah-Tilghman, Reidland, Spencer Co.

Minnesota: Albert Lea, BOLD, GFW Pioneer Express, Hills/Beaver Creek, Kimball, Luverne, Malaca, Menahga, Stillwater, Watertown Mayer

Missouri: Couch, Hartville, Mansfield, Mount Vernon, Northwestern

Nebraska: Fairbury, Kimball, Leigh, Loup City, Nebraska City, North Bend, Sutton

North Carolina: C. B. Aycock, Chatham Central, East Carteret, Ledford, West Craven

North Dakota: Bottineau, Washburn

Ohio: Bellevue, Delphos, Fairbanks, Hillsdale, Leipsic, Madison Plains, Northridge, Ross, Upper Sandusky, West Muskingum

Oklahoma: Agra, Alex, Altus, Alva, Bethel, Chattanooga, Coyle, Davenport, Elk City, Elmore City, Grandfield, Guthrie, Hardesty, Harrah, Jones, Lindsay, Ninnekah, Pawnee, Ryan, Weleetka

South Carolina: Britton's Neck, Dorman

South Dakota: Arlington, Bridgewater, Dell Rapids, Gettysburg, Groton, Harrisburg, Lake Area Multi-District, McCook Central, Miller

Tennessee: Cookeville

Texas: Anahuac, Cayuga, Comfort, Como-Pickton, Deweyville, Floresville, Frisco, Glen Rose, Keller, Kennard, Latexo, McKinney, Plano East Sr., Poth, San Perlita, Sealy, Weimar

Virginia: Fauquier, Park View



FFA members volunteering for the Courtesy Corps saw to it that no one could sneak a peek at the convention unless they were really a part of the action.

Business

While FFA members nationwide were arriving by the dozens at Kansas City International Airport Wednesday afternoon, 459 official voting delegates were hard at work discussing changes in FFA policy and programs at the convention business session. As each of nine committees presented their reports, modifications were considered and voted upon prior to each report's submission to the National FFA Board of Directors for ratification.

In July, the board approved four regional realignment alternatives for consideration by convention delegates. Following the recommendation of the Membership Development Committee, and lengthy debate, the delegate body approved the proposal known as Plan A (see map). With the approval of the pool judging method for determining winners in national contests, only selections for national officers, national nominating committee members, and the board of directors are based on regional status.

An "honorary" jacket recommendation by the Communications and Public Relations Committee was approved. The recommendation stipulates the jacket's design and who may wear it.

The Awards and Degrees Committee proposed a toll-free number to provide information regarding awards and degrees, as well as a loose-leaf award



Delegates took part in committee meetings on Tuesday. Their recommendations were presented to the entire delegate body on Wednesday.

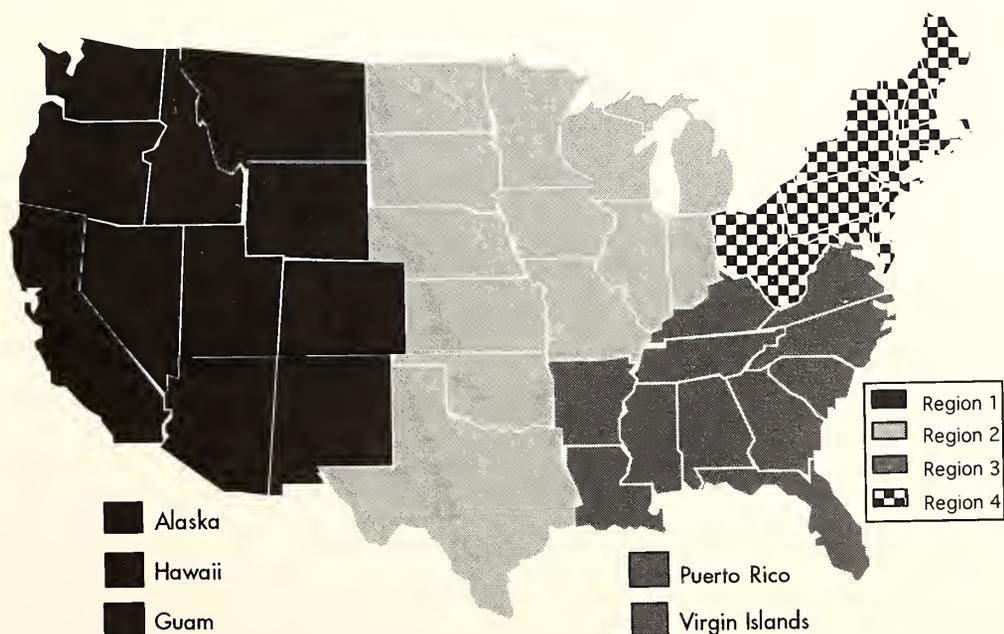
handbook. A major debate resulted from the committee's suggestion to allow four semesters of college agricultural education courses as a substitute for the third year of high school agricultural instruction required of American FFA Degree candidates. Proponents of the recommendation felt it would increase degree recipients among areas with smaller high school instruction programs yet large vocational schools, while opponents challenged that the idea would diminish the accomplishment of completing three years of high school agricultural education. The delegates approved the recommendation.

In an effort to promote a modern image of FFA, the delegates voted to discontinue the use of sweetheart jackets and materials from the National FFA Supply Service. Since female members have assumed an equal role with male members in the FFA,

the Communications and Public Relations Committee asserted that the Sweetheart program was no longer needed as a means to integrate female members. In addition, the program was in a situation where it caused complications with Title IX of the organization's policy banning gender discrimination.

Delegates also supported updating software for officer use and applications, extending information about international programs to agricultural departments and foreign affairs offices of universities, and maintaining national dues at \$3.50 per member.

Committee reports begin on page 59. Unless otherwise indicated, recommendations are directed to the National FFA Organization.



Official Delegates

ALABAMA: Julie Akins, Midland City; Norman Atkins Jr., Eutaw; Daryl Baxley, Opp; Josh Black, Athens; Kristi Cash, Ashville; Jason Coe, Altoona; Elizabeth Ellis, Brewton; Will Glover, Newville; Clara-Leigh Horn, Ashville; Tommy Hutchins, Crane Hill; Charlie Jones, Billingsley; Kary Luken, Boaz; Casey Mattox, Collinsville; Phillip Metcalfe, Ariton; Daniel Metcalfe, Dora; Carol Odom, McKenzie; Charles Patterson, Opp; Holly Stinson, Elba; Jason Stone, Grant; Kristy Wilson, Castleberry; April Wise, Crossville; Tim Wood, Brewton

Hermitage; Kim Ralston, Enola; Robert Rhein, Mountain Home; Brian Tribble, Camden; Christy Umphries, Taylor; Eric Walker, Prairie Grove

 **CALIFORNIA:** Zmer Andranigian, Laton; Kanwarjit Singh Boparai, Tracy; Devry Boughner, Gonzales; David Bright, Bakersfield; Melissa Claverie, Holtville; Jennifer Coloma-Danes, Susanville; Aimee R. Eltringham, Angels Camp; Rick Gobel, Williams; Betty Gomez, Kingsburg; Matt Griffith, Williams; Travis Hagen, Chico; David Hart, Visalia; Susan Johnson, Santa Rosa; Nicole

Stricker, Victorville; Matthew Terra, Newman; Amy Upson, San Jacinto; Rhonda Wallace, Healdsburg; Amber Washington, San Bernardino; Stephanie Wilmeth, Kingsburg; Jennifer Young, Dinuba

 **COLORADO:** Travis Crites, Kirk; Richard Fagerlin, Holyoke; Billy Johnson, Eaton; Lance Nichols, Flagler; Jason Page, Akron

CONNECTICUT: Keith Brodersen, Coventry; Kristin Digiulio, Coventry; Kellie Moffat, Naugatuck

DELAWARE: Ty A. Burns, Clayton; Jay Davis, Clayton; Steve Pieshala, Camden

FLORIDA: Trisha Bailey, Dover; Amanda Chastain, Windermere; Tracy Donnelly, Dunnellon; Angie Foister, Lake Butler; Willy Foreman, Sparr; Steven Hayden, Lakeland; Jason Keen, Lake Wales; Denise Reeves, Lake City; Becky Rich, Bonifay; Susan Shiver, Graceville; Alison Tuck, Lake Placid; Jon Willis, Punta Gorda; Steve Yoder, Altha

GEORGIA: Richard Blankenship, Springfield; Jamey Canady, Twin City; Joy Carter, Lake Park; Christy Hill, Eatonton; Steven Meeks, Ty Ty; Shane Pearce, LaGrange; Courtney Terhune, Fort Valley; Jeff Tucker, Ball Ground; Cale Watkins, Martin; Clint Weatherby, Ball Ground; Ruthie Webb, Newborn

GUAM: Christina Baladia, Sinajana; Ewalani Limtiaco, Chalan Pago

HAWAII: Lester Okazaki, Honokaa; Patrick A. Pampo, Honokaa

IDAHO: Heidi Bendorf, Bliss; Natalie Burrie, Melba; Valentin Celaya, Gooding; Matthew Quesnell, Twin Falls; Krista Tiegs, Melba

 **ILLINOIS:** Chris Clemons, Ashland; Steve Dietz, Sycamore; Corey Flournoy, Chicago; Debbie Hanson, Clifton; Dewain Hulett, Bushnell; James Kloepping, Lanark; Jason Kuhlemeier, Freeport; Jered Lafferty, Canton; Ty Landon, Victoria; Kristie McDaniel, Eldorado; Rob Olmstead, Toledo; Daniel Woessner, Mount Carroll; Bradley Wolter, Evansville

INDIANA: John Demerly, Trafalgar; Melissa Horton, Trafalgar; Brad Kohlhagen, Rensselaer; Aaron Park, Trafalgar; Chad Ripberger, Trafalgar; Liz Simon, Bennington; Kevin Summers, Trafalgar; Cherise Vance, Waynetown; Robert Weaver, Trafalgar

IOWA: Daniel E. Belzer, Albia; Jason M. Brockshus, Ocheyedan; Dwayne D. Faidley, Colfax; Brian R. Feldpausch, DeWitt; James M. Hansen II, Hampton; Kevin Hardy, Lohrville; David R. Hill, Dysart; Eric R. Lang, Donnellson; Mark L. Pleis, Fairbank; Alan D. Spencer, Villisca

KANSAS: Sherry Ahlgrim, Manhattan; Paul Friedrichs, Bremen; Tammy Hoobler, Manhattan; Becky Howell, Manhattan; Casey Niemann,



Wisconsin delegate Jeff Hicken lent an ear to the international committee chair during Tuesday's committee meetings.

ALASKA: Kirsten McDonald, Fairbanks; Chad Poindexter, Homer

ARIZONA: Aaron Ball, Tucson; Leah Rodriguez, Mesa; Jason Schoenfelder, Elfrida; Linda Sloan, Casa Grande; Heidi Wilson, Kayenta

ARKANSAS: Carol Bettis, Quitman; Sidney Davis, Camden; Matt Flynt, Lonoke; Joseph Ham, Jonesboro; Misty Hawthorne, Watson; Kristi Huit,

Kefalas, Covina; Susan Leahy, San Jacinto; Robin Matteri, Williams; Laurie McCormick, Fullerton; Arthur Mejia, El Centro; Kristin Miley, San Jacinto; Jacques C. Million, Weaverville; Barbara Moore, Hughson; Jed Murray, Lindsay; Todd E. Nicewonger, Modesto; Anastasia N. Norris, Fullerton; Robin Perez, Clovis; Allen Pettey, Bloomington; Danette Reimer, Visalia; Amy Schulte, Esparto; Jason

 The eagle symbol designates 100% states. In these states, all agriculture students are members of FFA.



All smiles, Michigan delegates Brent Leininger, Holli Bowman and Mike Prelesnik enjoyed a lighthearted moment during the first delegate business session.

Manhattan; Angie Stump, Manhattan; Brent Wiedeman, Manhattan

KENTUCKY: Joseph (Jay) Atwill, Fulton; Gayle Aubrey, Hudson; Matthew Ellis, Perryville; Michael W. Gardner, Dunmor; Kirby Hancock, Greensburg; Julie G. Hicks, Sacramento; Trent Howard, Mount Olivet; Andrea Lynch, Fulton; Samantha Moseley, Alvaton; Jamie Pfefferman, California; Sherri Proctor, Olmstead; Ryan White, Sturgis; Earl Wright, Harned

LOUISIANA: Jimmy Barr, Winnfield; Shelly R. Bryant, Goldonna; Carl D. Hughes, Elizabeth; Benjamin Langlinais, Erath; Tait J. Martin, Cut Off; Jud McLeod, Elizabeth; Mark Milstead, Jonesboro; Allison R. Pool, Lake Charles; Ryan Roberson, Zwolle; Eric Rodriguez, Franklin; Clint Yates, Oak Grove

MAINE: Kevin DeLong, Bridgewater; Troy McCrum, Westfield

MARYLAND: James Maines, Belair; Becky Mills, Frederick; Jeremy W. Peterson, Walkersville

MASSACHUSETTS: Kimberly Goncalves, New Bedford; Bernie Hawkins, Danvers; Steven Pyskaty, Windsor

MICHIGAN: Pete Barnum, Durand; Brett Birchmeier, Chesaning; Holli Bowman, Alto; Brent Leininger, East Lansing; Mike Prelesnik, Mason; Sue Ann Stuever, Capac; Tamara Wagester, Remus

MINNESOTA: Aimee Anderson, Webster; Dan Durham, Eagle Bend; Sheila Henning, Okabena; Sarah Iverson, Hayward; Michelle Lammers, Taopi; Christina Rohrer, LeRoy; Marie Salwey, Rushford; Ken Schentzel, Alpha; Michael Thofson, Clarks Grove; Tricia Weis, Pine Island

MISSISSIPPI: John Branning, Philadelphia; Jacqueline Cain, Carthage; Steve Coleman, Pascagoula; Amy Gibson, Nettleton; Lisa Henderson, Weir; Brett Marlar, Corinth; Corey Miller, Silver Creek; John Rounsaville, Big Creek

MISSOURI: Gary L. Asher, Fredericktown; Chris Cloud, Carthage; Annette L. Eads, Lowry City; Nancy D. Fox, Brunswick; Heather Hedrick, Galena; James M. Holder, Sturgeon; Callie Knipmeyer, Sweet Springs; Andrew McCrea, Maysville; Susie Mires, Maryville; Chris Owens, Tecumseh; Vicki Rogers, Princeton; Jeff Schaumburg, West Plains; Eric Sharp, Grovespring; John Simon, Poplar Bluff; Fred Stemme, Hermann

MONTANA: Julie Andres, Missoula; Shawn Fladager, Peerless; Ryan Jones, Miles City; Darin D. Oelkers, Culbertson

NEBRASKA: Dean Acheson, Lincoln; Kevin Anderson, Oakland; Kelly Chapman, North Bend; Scott Keetle, Waverly; Dawn Moody, Scotia; Jon Simonsen, Superior; Lana Steinhausen, Lincoln

NEVADA: J.J. Goicoechea, Eureka; Joe Gottschalk, Lovelock; Kyle Prior, Elko

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Meredith Davis, Walpole; Susan Meyers, Derry; Ali Moore, Nottingham

NEW JERSEY: Theresa Cooper, Lambertville; Travis Eachus, Elmer; Tiffany Roberson, Columbus

NEW MEXICO: Leslie Bouvet, Garfield; Shad Hall, Los Lunas; Judith McCollaum, Carlsbad; Shelly Vaughn, Las Cruces; Lane Widner, Estancia

NEW YORK: Nathan W. Baker, Cuba; Julie R. Berry, Adams; Mazie Damcott, Sherman; Seth Robinson, Castile; Tonya M. VanPatten, Preble;

Tarl Yundt, Gainesville

NORTH CAROLINA: Chris Barnes, Jacksonville; Will Byrd, Smithfield; Scott Cook, Monroe; Chris Cooper, Salisbury; Carol Hassell, Elizabeth City; Al Jones, Chinquapin; Nathan Jones, Thomasville; Darrell Mitchell, Hiddenite; Jenny Morgan, Durham; Valerie Rostan, Autryville; Gus Simmons, Seven Springs; Patricia Turnage, Dunn; Patrick Wallace, Troy; Jennifer Wortman, Casar

NORTH DAKOTA: Kyle Debertin, Berthold; Doug Kraenzel, Hebron; Dustin Mumm, Wahpeton; Mark Nelson, Battleview; Katie Volk, Knox; Kari Warner, Baldwin

OHIO: Jamie D. Christman, Galion; Nancy Kolb, Eaton; Justin Lahmers, Newark; Emily A. Masters, Marysville; Mark Ruff, Circleville; Lee Schroeder, Leipsic; Jason Skinner, Fremont; Tracy Stone, Ashland; Jane Taft, Lakeville; Wendy Washburn, Amesville; Steven Wentworth, Pleasant City; Anna L. Williamson, Mount Sterling; Brenda Young, Bradner

OKLAHOMA: Jennifer Berkenbile, Morrison; Brent Casey, Kiowa; Malinda Compton, Woodward; Devin DeLozier, Adair; Heather DeVilbiss, Yukon; Julie Evans, Beaver; James Ferrell, Amber; Greg Jeter, Copan; Liz Largent, Chickasha; Audrey Larman, Orlando; Rhett Laubach, Stillwater; Monica Miller, Grandfield; Chad Morris, Bokchito; Kristy Perkins, Locust Grove; Becky Pfenning, Hobart; Jeremy Rich, Prague; Jason Rogers, Keota; Katie Schulte, Okarche; Amy Shobert, Purcell; Bridget Yost, Kingfisher

(Continued on Page 58)

Official Delegates



Norman Atkins Jr., delegate from Alabama, drew a fellow delegate's attention to a fine point in a committee report.

OREGON: Christa Brown, Canyonville; David Emmel, Prairie City; Michelle Gilmore, Canby; Jenny Hartzell, Redmond; Kelly Lettenmaier, Aurora; Ginger Price, Weston

PENNSYLVANIA: Amy Byers, Liverpool; Jacy Clugston, Manheim; Michael E. Cornman, Carlisle; Ben Ehrhart, Naivon; Wayne Hassinger II, Middleburg; Steven Landis, Berlin; Richard Martin, Chambersburg; Francine Martz, Dalmatia; Tracey McConnell, West Alexander

PUERTO RICO: Wanda Arocho, Utuado; Zinthia Aviles, San Sebastian; Jaime Colon, Barranquitas; Francois Franceschini, Utuado; Nilda L. Moreno, Camuy

RHODE ISLAND: Emily Desrosiers, Chepachet; Nicole Smith, Richmond

SOUTH CAROLINA: Wendell Bruner, Neeses; Thomas Dismukes, Spartanburg; Jennifer Evans, Abbeville; Henry Poole, Pelion; Kimberly Reason, Gresham; Patrick Stone, Johnsonville

SOUTH DAKOTA: Ginger Airheart, New Underwood; Laura Alderson, Hartford; Brian Bramstedt, Harrisburg; Cory Langerock, Marion; Scott Westerhuis, Platte

TENNESSEE: Jim Barbour, Friendship; Dennis Beavers, Decatur; Mitch Hockett, Beech Grove; Travis Long, Shady Valley; Anthony Mills, Greeneville; Diane Nelms, Rogersville; Kevin Ragland, Lafayette; Alanna Shirley, Obion; Chad Tritt, Alano; Ann Turner, Covington; Kelly Watson, Smithville; Josh Webber, Cookeville

TEXAS: Holly Binns, Orange Grove; Ed Bredemeyer, Winters; Stephanie Burdine, Tom Bean; Steven Byrne, Plainview; Jimbo Cross, Belton; Elaine Deaton, Breckenridge; Ester Dick, Riesel; Micheal Eakin, Austin; Joel Foshea, Cedar Hill; Beto Garza, Mission; Dalton Gauthier, Kennard; Tabitha Grigg, Ackerly; Heather Harp, Mt. Belvieu; Todd Harrell, Livingston; Kim Hill, Winnsboro; Tonya Holder, Bryson; Kibo Hyman,

Lovelady; Chanda Jones, Cleburne; Lynsia Jordan, Follett; Kelli Key, Navasota; Rob Krebbs, Dumas; Micah Leslie, Stephenville; Kevin Lutz, Hondo; Laurie Masterson, Guthrie; Misty Mathis, Snyder; Jim McFadin, Utopia; Darryl Moczygemba, Adkins; Steve Mosley, Madisonville; Holly Nichols, Anson; Danny Palmer, Hooks; Scot Pollok, Falls City; Heather Retzloff, Pleasanton; Marla Rudd, New Home; Michael Schertz, Krum; Rebecca Schuette, McAllen; Tiffany Sedillo, Eastland; Cherie Shelton, Lamesa; Clint Sherman, Lubbock; Todd Smith, Overton; Chairty Smith, Gladewater; Shelly Smith, Waller; Newley Spikes, Henrietta; Jennifer Stapleton, Bridgeport; Brady Teat, Lorena; Dan Vela, Houston; Jennifer Wahrmund, Fredericksburg; Ryon Walker, Hillsboro; Tim Watts, Henderson; Amy Webb, Justin; Travis Wiley, Lampasas; Neely Young, Katy; Kenda Zant, Paris

UTAH: Sheri Briggs, Manila; Ben Cluff, Farmington; Lana Freston, Bridgeland; Lindie Hunting, West Point; Hollie Moore, Coalville

VERMONT: Cory Hagggett, Brookfield; Justin M. Poulin, Randolph

VIRGIN ISLANDS: Ivo James, St. Croix; Kenneth Springer, St. Croix

VIRGINIA: Brian Carpenter, Mt. Crawford; Mary Ann Cassell, Wytheville; Richard Kidd, Amelia; Theresa Kidd, Amelia; Wes Mundie, Caret; Spencer Nolen, Danville; Robert Pollok, Dry Fork; Tonya Ritenour, Woodstock; Adam Shiflett, Grottoes; Nicky Williams, Jonesville

WASHINGTON: Danielle Farrar, Elma; Holly Gutzwiler, Wenatchee; Rich Hilliker, Winlock; Sherry Keatts, Pomeroy; Ryan Mansfield, Odessa; Tony Paine, Clarkston; Scott Picker, Prosser; Colleen Trussell, Othello; Dean Wilson, Pomeroy

WEST VIRGINIA: Jeromy Fitzuater, Indore; Wayne Griffith, Ellenboro; Tonya Hillberry, Mennington; Alecia Larew, Tunnelton; Patrick Ryan, Pizkawny

WISCONSIN: Linda Burton, Baraboo; Stacy Crull, Evansville; Cybil Fisher, Green Bay; Chris Hassemer, Bloomer; Jeff Hicken, Fond Du Lac; John Koenig, Clear Lake; Dave Kruse, Loganville; Brenda Kulas, Amherst; David Meyer, Loyal; Amy M. Meyer, Loyal; Brenda K. Mika, Marengo; Jolynne Nagel, Deerbrook; Mike North, Waterford; Ron Rule, Dodgeville; Anna Snider, Rosendale; Bill Sullivan, Monroe

WYOMING: Miranda Daniels, Laramie; Bill Hoblit, Cheyenne; Jody Woirhaye, Laramie

Awards & Degrees

The Awards and Degrees Committee makes the following recommendations:

American Degree

1. Amend Article VI, Section E, Number 2 to state: "Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program or four semesters of postsecondary education with an agricultural major in addition to two years (360 hours) of secondary agriculture-related instruction, or have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the school last attended."
2. Amend Article VI, Section E, Number 6 to state: "Have a record of outstanding community involvement and have participated in at least five different offices and/or related activities (committees, delegate positions, leadership workshops, etc.) above the chapter level and have a minimum of five different skills or competencies and have achieved a high school scholastic record of 'C' or better as certified by the principal or superintendent."

Proficiency Awards

1. Change the name of the soil and water management proficiency award to "environmental management proficiency."
2. Create a national leadership award for younger high school FFA members, other than state and/or national officers, to recognize outstanding individual leadership. Place this topic on the agenda of the national leadership and personal development programmatic committee for 1993-1994.

Participation

1. Provide a 1-800 FFA information number for students regarding proficiency awards, chapter awards, degrees and miscellaneous areas needing attention. Print the number in *FFA New Horizons* magazine as well as the *Official FFA Manual*.

Auditing

The Auditing Committee met to review the 1992 report presented by the auditing firm of Stoy, Malone and Company. Through careful evaluation, the committee accepted the report based on the explanations of national staff and board members. The Auditing Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Provide a guide for the committee to assist them in reading and comprehending an auditor's report.
2. Set aside a specific time at the State Presidents' Conference for a committee orientation. At this time, a chair and vice chair will be selected, insuring efficiency and proper preparation for this committee to function at national convention.

2. A 1-800 number will reach a recording from which students can select areas on a touch-tone phone.
3. Print award handbook in loose leaf three-ring form.
4. Revise pages of handbook yearly as needed; otherwise, revise handbooks and applications every five years.

Evaluation

1. Place more emphasis on percent of growth and project improvement in proficiency areas.
2. Implement the use of record books for verification of proficiencies.
3. Implement a state interview process for evaluation of proficiencies.
4. Base proficiency evaluation on the quality of the project rather than the quantity of the project.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhett Laubach, OK, (Chair)
Eric Lang, IA, (Vice Chair)
Kary Luken, AL
Patrick Stone, SC
Charles Patterson, AL
Susan Leahy, CA
James Kloeping, IL
Annette Eads, MO
Patrick Wallace, NC
Lindie Hunting, UT
Joy Carter, GA
Susan Meyers, NH
Tonya Holder, TX
Amy Upson, CA
Jeremy W. Peterson, MD
Justin Poulin, VT
Brian Tribble, AR
Danette Reimer, CA
Brett Birchmeier, MI
Tracy Stone, OH
David Meyer, WI
Jason Rogers, OK
Kevin Lutz, TX

Shelly Bryant, LA
Lance Nichols, CO
Leslie Bouvet, NM
Valentin Celaya, ID
Denise Reeves, FL
Sherry Ahlgrim, KS
Jacy Clugston, PA
Liz Largent, OK
Holly Binns, TX
Brad Kohlhagen, IN
Lisa Henderson, MS
Jennifer Wortman, NC
Jody Woirhaye, WY
April Wise, AL
Kanwarjit Singh Boparai, CA
Earl Wright, KY
Darin Oelkers, MT
Al Jones, NC
Emily Desrosiers, RI
Ann Turner, TN
Tabitha Grigg, TX
Heather Harp, TX
Rebecca Rhodes McClinton, TX
(Adult Coordinator)

3. Present the treasurer's report at the first general business session so that delegates understand the organization's financial status. The Auditing Committee report should then be given prior to setting national dues at the final business session.

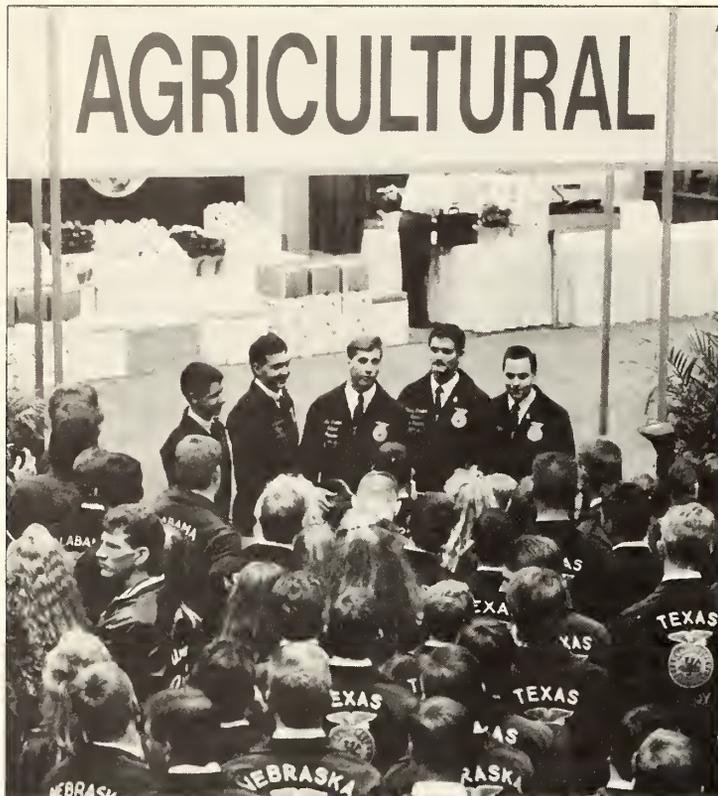
Respectfully submitted:

Nathan W. Baker, NY (Chair)
Ginger Price, OR (Secretary)
Steven Hayden, FL
Leah Rodriguez, AZ
Dean Acheson, NE

Eric Lang, IA
Cory Langerock, SD
Julie Berry, NY
John Demerly, IN
Charles Keels, NC
(Adult Coordinator)
Rosco Vaughn, NM
(Adult Coordinator)



Communications & Public Relations



The national officers welcomed delegates to the National Agricultural Career Show in Bartle Hall following a delegate luncheon Wednesday afternoon.

The Communications and Public Relations Committee makes the following recommendations:

FFA Jacket Usage

1. Create an honorary FFA jacket similar to the advisor's jacket currently offered in the official FFA Supply Catalog. The name and wording "Honorary Member" will go on the front right panel of the jacket. The back shall have the emblem in the middle with "Honorary" lettered above the emblem and an optional state name line below the emblem.
2. Offer a limited number of these honorary jackets to persons who will use the jacket to affect a positive influence on the lives of young people and the National FFA Organization. The Communications Resources Team of the National FFA Organization shall act as the control mechanism, deciding who shall receive the honorary jacket and restricting the use of the honorary jacket to those situations which retain the integrity of the National FFA Organization.
3. Chapters and associations can make nominations to the Communications Resources Team for individuals to receive the honorary jackets.

Sweetheart Materials

1. In order to ensure equity and promote an appropriate image, the national organization shall discontinue sweetheart paraphernalia and material from the official Supply Service.

Contemporary Issues

1. Add an article in each issue of the *FFA New Horizons* magazine covering up-to-date agricultural issues.
2. Add an article in the *FFA Advisors Making A Difference* newsletter that provides information for advisors to use in teaching contemporary agricultural issues to students. This could provide in-depth information for use as a classroom tool.

State Officer Development

1. Encourage the National FFA to send information packets directly to state officers in addition to state staff.
2. Create a pilot program of former state officers to travel and meet with current state officers to provide training information.

FFA Image and Recruitment Materials

1. Mail the "What is FFA" pamphlet to chapter advisors, guidance counselors, school board members and administrators.
2. Produce an attractive FFA video touching on all the benefits of membership in FFA.
3. Produce a video expressing pride and respect in the FFA and the FFA jacket.

National FFA Convention

1. Continue to publicize the national FFA convention nationwide. Continue to pursue having the convention broadcast via satellite.

Respectfully submitted:

Tammy Hoobler, KS, (Chair)
 Cory Langerock, SD, (Vice Chair)
 Kirsten McDonald, AK
 Bernie Hawkins, MA
 Carol Odom, AL
 Betty Gomez, CA
 Kirby Hancock, KY
 Shawn Fladager, MT
 Richard Martin, PA
 Anthony Mills, TN
 Misty Mathis, TX
 Steve Mosley, TX
 Brent Leininger, MI
 Meredith Davis, NH
 Patrick A. Pampo, HI
 Robert Rhein, AR
 Laurie McCormick, CA
 Ty Landon, IL
 Callie Knipmeyer, MO
 Theresa Cooper, NJ
 Hollie Moore, UT
 Courtney Terhune, GA
 Joel Foshea, TX

Barbara Moore, CA
 Christa Brown, OR
 Amy Schulte, CA
 David R. Hill, IA
 Tracy Donnelly, FL
 Will Byrd, NC
 Dustin Mumm, ND
 Becky Pfenning, OK
 Jennifer Wahrmond, TX
 Carl D. Hughes, LA
 Jeromy Fitzuater, WV
 Mary Ann Cassell, VA
 Elizabeth Ellis, AL
 Heidi Bendorf, ID
 Brent Wiedeman, KS
 Lee Schroeder, OH
 Thomas Dismukes, SC
 Jolynne Nagel, WI
 James Ferrell, OK
 Scot Pollok, TX
 Corey Miller, MS
 Richard Katt, NE
 (Adult Coordinator)



Contests

The Contests Committee makes the following recommendations:

New Contests

1. Encourage the National FFA Foundation to continue seeking funds for the national horse judging contest proposal.
2. Direct the National Council on Agricultural Education to research and develop classroom curriculum in the area of natural resources. Utilize the curriculum objectives in developing a national contest in the area of natural resources which would include the additional areas of aquatic resources and wildlife.
3. Develop a contest that deals with land, soil and conservation separate from the agricultural mechanics contest.
4. Evaluate the possibility of an awards assembly in place of the current awards breakfast. Apply the money to different aspects of the contest, i.e. additional travel money for teams or educational materials about the contest.

Junior High School Activities

1. Prepare a report including a survey of state supervisors to determine curriculum, interests and goals of junior high programs. A knowledge of junior high curriculum would serve as a foundation on which to base future junior high activities.
2. Support the development of junior high activities based on nationally supported non-competitive state activities which focus on teamwork, goal setting and agricultural problem solving.

Management/Evaluation

1. To improve student input in contest evaluation, send contest evaluation results to each member of the contest committee prior to national convention. Where contest evaluations do not exist, an evaluation form shall be designed.



The new Marketing Plan Project was given a trial run this year. The Presque Isle, Maine, team took first place. Members Jason Johnston, Scott Pangborn and Cory Johnston display their awards.

2. Provide past national contest participants to serve as consultants to the committee and use contest videos as reference material in order to enhance student committee evaluation.
3. Require all judges in the national prepared public speaking and extemporaneous public speaking contest to attend an orientation on contest procedures. The judges shall consist of a communications specialist, a representative from the agricultural industry, and an individual with no connection to the agricultural industry.
4. Strongly suggest that two students from the contest committee serve on the action force team of the national contest and awards study.
5. Provide that at least 25% of the national contest and awards study task force be composed of representatives from broad-based agricultural industries.

Educational Material

1. Recommend that a fast moving, exciting promotional video be produced to promote the national FFA contests. This video should cover the areas of awards, skills and career opportunities available through participation. The video should be no longer than 15 minutes and be available for purchase by all chapters.
2. Include 14 individual informational pamphlets with the promotional video. These pamphlets should target student participation and include the purpose, objectives and general information regarding each national contest.
3. Improve the national FFA contest manual by adding a table of contents with page numbers and an index for easier reference of each individual contest.
4. Ensure all national FFA contests are meeting criteria and objectives as defined by Bulletin #4. Recommend all objectives are reviewed and correlate to industry standards.

Respectfully submitted:

Paul Friedrichs, KS (Chair)
 Nathan W. Baker, NY (Vice Chair)
 Ryan Jones, MT
 Monica Miller, OK
 Kristy Wilson, AL
 Jason Stricker, CA
 Jason M. Brockshus, IA
 Chris Cloud, MO
 Nancy Kolb, OH
 Kimberly Reason, SC
 Dan Vela, TX
 Dalton Gauthier, TX
 Jimmy Barr, LA
 Keith Brodersen, CT
 Kenneth Springer, VI
 Jason Stone, AL
 Angie Stump, KS
 Katie Volk, ND
 Steven Landis, PA
 Alanna Shirley, TN
 Judith McCollaum, NM
 Stephanie Burdine, TX
 Julie Andres, MT
 John Branning, MS

Kimberly Goncalves, MA
 Casey Mattox, AL
 Kristi Huit, AR
 David Bright, CA
 Kristie McDaniel, IL
 Joseph (Jay) Atwill, KY
 Cybil Fisher, WI
 Richard Blankenship, GA
 Katie Schulte, OK
 Darryl Moczygemba, TX
 Nicole Kefalas, CA
 Brian Bramstedt, SD
 Lester Okazaki, HI
 Arthur Mejia, CA
 Dewain Hulett, IL
 Jason Keen, FL
 Michael Thoison, MN
 Carol Hassell, NC
 Devin DeLozier, OK
 Lysia Jordan, TX
 Ivo James, VI
 Tonya Hillberry, WV
 Mary Kane, KS
 (Adult Coordinator)



International Development

The International Development Committee makes the following recommendations:

Marketing

1. Rename the Work Experience Abroad Program (WEA). The suggested name is World Opportunities for Real Life Development (WORLD).
2. Develop a new international promotional video. This video should contain actual FFA international participants and could be rented or available for loan from the National FFA Organization.
3. Develop a slide show and audio narration of photos taken by international participants to promote FFA international programs.
4. Develop a poster to help promote international programs on chapter and state levels.
5. At the National Leadership Conferences for State FFA Officers, the national FFA officers should explain international programs and opportunities as a part of the program. The national FFA officers should show the international program promotional video and explain to state officers how to effectively communicate opportunities in FFA's international programs to members.
6. In the development of new curriculum by the National Council for Agricultural Education, the international aspects of agriculture and opportunities for travel by members should be incorporated.
7. FFA international program participants should be required to write and submit an article for state association newsletters.
8. Encourage state officers to attend the Greenweek Expo (or any other international program) to promote a more direct exposure to international programs.

Special Services

1. The National FFA Organization should develop an international pen pal program.
2. Develop a portable information booth promoting international programs for use by state associations during state conventions and other state functions.



Twenty students representing Germany and Bulgaria gathered on the steps of Municipal Auditorium to record their American convention experience.

3. The benefits of being a host family should be promoted by state officers and chapter advisors in the classroom and at leadership conferences.
4. Include the following in the international promotional materials: a sample letter on how to secure sponsors, a sample thank-you letter, a list of available international program scholarships as well as a suggested list of possible fund-raising ideas.

New Programs

1. Begin exchange programs with Canada, Mexico, U.S. territories, and affiliated FFA associations. Distance and cost would encourage member participation.
2. Explore offering an additional group international exchange program allowing students to travel to other countries in a group setting, while living in separate homes.
3. Conduct a survey to assess FFA member interest in current international programs, as well as proposals for new programs.
4. Send information on FFA international programs to college international relations offices and colleges of agriculture to encourage interest in the exchange programs.
5. Explore opening FFA international programs at increased cost to non-FFA members and college agriculture majors. This will yield benefits to those who may not have had the opportunity to be FFA members in high school and increase FFA revenue.

Inbound/Outbound

1. Publish more articles about FFA international participants to inform members about international program opportunities in *FFA New Horizons*. Most members do not know about the international experiences that are available.
2. Explore the possibility of promoting and publishing inbound host family information in national farm magazines. By educating families on the benefits of being a host, participation would be increased.
3. Offer an international program luncheon for agriculture instructors at the 66th National FFA Convention.

Respectfully submitted:

Aaron Ball, AZ (Chair)
 Dean Acheson, NE (Vice Chair)
 Travis Crites, CO
 Julie G. Hicks, KY
 Jim Barbour, TN
 Anna L. Williamson, OH
 Andrea Lynch, KY
 Henry Poole, SC
 Natalie Burrie, ID
 Malinda Compton, OK
 Travis Eachus, NJ
 Cherie Shelton, TX
 Nilda Moreno, PR

John Rounsaville, MS
 Tonya Ritenour, VA
 Charlie Jones, AL
 Ty Burns, DE
 Melissa Claverie, CA
 Mike Prelesnik, MI
 Daniel Woessner, IL
 Misty Hawthorne, AR
 Sheila Henning, MN
 Kristin Miley, CA
 Steve Brown, MO
 (Adult Coordinator)

Leadership and Personal Development



Carefully maintaining the tempo of the National FFA Band's rendition of In the Mood, Gene Englerth of Webberville, Mich., performed his duties as the new band director.

The Leadership and Personal Development Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Develop a leadership conference catalog of national and state conferences. The catalog should include information such as cost, dates, location, availability of scholarships, summary of conference activities, contact people, and restrictions or limitations. It should include testimonials by members stating how the conferences affected their leadership abilities. The catalog should be made available to state associations, chapters, principals and administrators.
2. Develop a video emphasizing leadership opportunities and development in the FFA that is targeted at business people, school administrators and others outside the FFA. It should include students involved in leadership activities and clips from state and national conventions.
3. Assemble an FFA speakers' bureau to assist states and chapters in finding suitable speakers for specific occasions. Include information about each speaker, such as fees, address, qualifications, topics and type of speaker. The National FFA Alumni could be utilized as a possible resource for the catalog.
4. Consider Seattle, Wash.; San Antonio, Texas; Salt Lake City, Utah; Sacramento, Calif.; and Denver, Colo., as possible locations for a western-based site of WCP. These locations would increase participation allowing a historic look at western agriculture, and provide an alternate site for WCP.
5. Provide an advanced WCP in Washington, D.C., for members who have attended the program. This will allow these members to build leadership skills already developed and provide a more intensive program for their use.
6. Set a price break for two levels of state membership which attend the MFE conferences. This would encourage more participation and have a goal for states to achieve, i.e. 150 members \$5.00 off, 200 members \$7.50 off.
7. Develop MFE programs with three different themes and content so no theme will be used more than once in a three-year period to keep the event new and upbeat.
8. Improve the content of the NLCsOs by presenting more in-depth sessions on agricultural issues, chapter visitations, presenting workshops, team building and group dynamics, etc.
9. Develop a resource guide of suggested ideas for chapter development. This would include ideas and suggestions for advisor recognition, community recognition, education of school officials, community leaders, etc.
10. Develop various levels of recognition for advisors, with applications filled out by students. Publicize the awards and applications through *FFA New Horizons*.
11. Create a simple means of promoting the National FFA Organization using video tapes, audio cassettes and news articles that would be made available to chapters for use in educating community members about FFA programs.
12. Develop an advisor motivational program for various levels (such as state, sub-state and regional) focusing on stress and time management, motivating students, recruitment, promoting the new image of FFA, leadership, team building, etc.
13. Assemble a leadership guide to be used by FFA advisors and chapter officers to develop each member's personal growth.
14. Suggest to state associations that they provide contests and activities such as quiz bowls and essay contests to develop leadership in junior high membership.
15. Assemble and market a video which focuses on business, industry, and personal development to be utilized for educational purposes in non-traditional and inner-city schools.

Respectfully submitted:

Dwayne D. Faidley, IA (Chair)
 Leah Rodriguez, AZ (Vice Chair)
 Jennifer Coloma-Danes, CA
 Samantha Moseley, KY
 Mark Nelson, ND
 Kelli Key, TX
 Patrick Ryan, WV
 Jay Davis, DE
 Julie Akins, AL
 Steve Dietz, IL
 Justin Lahmers, OH
 Tony Paine, WA
 Jennifer Stapleton, TX
 Holly Gutzwiller, WA
 Rhonda Wallace, CA
 Heather Hedrick, MO
 Lane Widner, NM
 Brady Teat, TX
 Scott Keettle, NE
 Jason Page, CO
 Gayle Aubrey, KY
 Bridget Yost, OK
 Theresa Kidd, VA

Nathan Jones, NC
 Michael E. Cornman, PA
 Susan Shiver, FL
 Valerie Rostan, NC
 Jenny Hartzell, OR
 Steven Byrne, TX
 Chad Tritt, TN
 Matthew Quesnell, ID
 Jacques C. Million, CA
 Christina Rohrer, MN
 Wendell Bruner, SC
 Stacy Crull, WI
 Kevin Ragland, TN
 Holly Stinson, AL
 Alan D. Spencer, IA
 Francine Martz, PA
 Cale Watkins, GA
 Aaron Park, IN
 Sidney Davis, AR
 James Maines, MD
 Jon Simonsen, NE
 Micheal Eakin, TX
 Jacqueline Cain, MS
 James P. Scott Jr., OH
 (Adult Coordinator)



Marketing & Merchandising



Miss America Leanza Cornett helped kick off the opening session and then visited the Career Show where she signed hundreds of autographs for FFA members. While at the Career Show, Cornett was in the exhibit for Chevy Trucks, who sponsored her convention appearance.

The Marketing and Merchandising Committee makes the following recommendations:

Product Review and Development

1. Make the official plaques sold by the FFA Supply Service of darker wood for better quality and appearance.
2. Circumscribe the FFA designer series plaques in gold, page 37, item g, in the official *FFA Supply Catalog*.
3. Feature the FFA emblem on all plaques supplied by the FFA Supply Service.
4. Sell optional "regional" plaques that are similar to the district plaques currently being sold, i.e. regional FFA degree plaques.
5. Make more awards available for the collegiate FFA program.
6. Update current trophy figures and implement new figures.
7. Make all national theme billboards available in the catalog to members and chapter advisors, i.e. "FFA —The Spirit of Leadership" billboard.
8. Update the lettering on the cloth banners and signs by using current and stylish fonts, page 26, items d-h.
9. Consider marketing motivational books and tapes to members through the Supply Service.
10. Make canvas rodeo jackets with optional lettering in a variety of colors, i.e. Wall's arena jackets.
11. Make jogging pants to coordinate with FFA athletic jackets, page 8, item a.
12. Research obtaining better quality t-shirts, i.e. 100 percent cotton.
13. Market FFA boxer shorts, page 9, item c, with more colorful insignias.

14. Place more emphasis on the baseball jerseys, page 10, item c, in the FFA catalog due to their extensive sales and make them available in a wide variety of colors.
15. Update FFA software for officer record books, i.e. secretary and treasurer books.
16. Develop FFA graphics software with designs for banners, signs, papers, etc.
17. Develop more compatible software for a variety of computer systems, i.e. Macintosh, IBM, etc.
18. Market autographed posters yearly featuring national officers in official dress.

Product Marketing

1. Encourage the operation of supply service booths at state conventions.
2. Allow state associations to keep products for an extended period of time as stipulated in a contract. The purpose is to allow the associations to use the merchandise at will for any function they see fit during the allotted time period, i.e. camps, state contests, conventions, etc.
3. Modify the membership roster so the name and address of the chapter president can be included to aid in distribution of the Supply Service catalogs.
4. Increase buying incentive on items with a special bulk rate price for products purchased from the Supply Service.
5. Reinstate rush ordering by levying a \$15 rush charge on all official FFA jackets and a 10 percent to 20 percent rush charge on all other items. This would allow use of a vital service, while discouraging its abuse.

6. Include descriptions specifying size for all gift items, i.e. FFA semi-truck, mural plaque, award clock, etc.
7. Feature the FFA emblem or insignia on all products sold by the FFA, i.e. solar calculator, hunting knife and portfolio calculator, etc.
8. Utilize the student catalog "free merchandise" promotion program on a broader basis, specifically on plaque sales. The Ventures group may wish to modify the current point system in regard to plaques.
9. Distribute a poster in FFA materials sent to chapters or in *FFA New Horizons* displaying the most popular items: FFA boxers and baseball shirts.
10. Design a chapter officer's poster which includes official jackets, officer banners, gavels, station markers, symbols, etc.
11. Recognize milestone FFA jacket customers for every 100,000th jacket sold. These customers could be recognized with prizes (gift certificate, free jacket, etc. or with recognition in *FFA New Horizons*).

Polling

1. Initiate a t-shirt design contest as directed by 70 percent of the members responding to a marketing and merchandising committee survey using the following guidelines. The shirt must promote FFA. The contest would be judged by the National Supply Service Marketing committee. Winner receives credit for the design on shirt, feature article in *FFA New Horizons*, a free t-shirt and any other prizes the organization wishes to award.
2. Continue to seek solutions to official jacket fabric and stitching quality problems, but realize that 70 percent of members polled feel the style, fabric and form of the official FFA and sweetheart jackets remain unchanged.

Catalog Layout

1. Keep discontinued items in the original catalog layout categories and use a symbol to denote it as a sale item.
2. Update all photographs using models that reflect appearance of current membership. Use action shots, settings, or props to show the environment in which they would be used.



The new FFA Mall was a prime place for checking out merchandise and people.

3. Consider variation of ethnic groups for models in catalog to coincide with the equal opportunity/affirmative action amendment made at last year's convention.
4. Put past or current national officers on the front of the catalog modeling FFA clothing.
5. Include the wording on plaques in the description of the item.
6. Unify all plaques with the same color scheme background.
7. Consider using a less distracting background in photos of trophies and trophy figures.
8. Consider changing the order of the catalog, structuring it as follows:
 - clothing (including shirts, FFA jerseys, FFA athletic jackets, etc.)
 - official dress
 - work clothes
 - jewelry
 - gift items, including desk and office items
 - chapter meetings
 - stationery and supplies
 - banners and signs
 - banquet supplies
 - certificates and ribbons
 - award pins
 - award plaques
 - award trophies
 - trophy figures
 - advisor materials
 - educational and chapter supplies
9. Move neck ties and scarves from the clothing section to the official dress section in the catalog to make it easier to find and identify categories.

Respectfully submitted:

Corey Flournoy, IL (Chair)
 Norman Atkins Jr., AL
 Ryan White, KY
 Scott Westerhuis, SD
 Newley Spikes, TX
 Mark Milstead, LA
 Benjamin Langlinais, LA
 Richard Fagerlin, CO
 Wendy Washburn, OH
 Shelly Smith, TX
 Richard Kidd, VA
 Dennis Beavers, TN
 Christy Umphries, AR
 Chris Clemons, IL
 Chris Owens, MO
 Michelle Gilmore, OR
 Kim Hill, TX
 Tonya M. VanPatten, NY
 Clara-Leigh Horn, AL
 Brian R. Feldpausch, IA
 Colleen Trussell, WA
 Ruthie Webb, GA
 Robert Weaver, IN

J.J. Goicoechea, NV
 Amber Washington, CA
 Scott Cook, NC
 Chad Morris, OK
 Tracey McConn, PA
 Shelly Vaughn, NM
 Joseph Ham, AR
 Aimee Anderson, MN
 Chris Hassemer, WI
 Laurie Masterson, TX
 Amy Gibson, MS
 Michelle Lammers, MN
 Robin Matteri, CA
 Willy Foreman, FL
 Steven Wentworth, OH
 John Koenig, WI
 Chad Poindexter, AK
 Dean Wilson, WA
 Jed Murray, CA
 Kelly Chapman, NE
 Steven Pyskaty, MA
 Jimbo Cross, TX
 William Deimler, AZ
 (Adult Coordinator)

Membership Development

The Membership Development Committee makes the following recommendations:

Regional Realignment

1. Divide the National FFA Organization into regions as recommended by the National FFA Board of Directors:

<u>Region I</u>	<u>Region II</u>	<u>Region III</u>	<u>Region IV</u>
Alaska	Illinois	Alabama	Connecticut
Arizona	Indiana	Arkansas	Delaware
California	Iowa	Florida	District of Columbia
Colorado	Kansas	Georgia	Maine
Guam	Michigan	Kentucky	Maryland
Hawaii	Minnesota	Louisiana	Massachusetts
Idaho	Missouri	Mississippi	New Hampshire
Montana	Nebraska	North Carolina	New Jersey
Nevada	North Dakota	Puerto Rico	New York
New Mexico	Oklahoma	South Carolina	Ohio
Oregon	South Dakota	Tennessee	Pennsylvania
Utah	Texas	Virgin Islands	Rhode Island
Washington	Wisconsin	Virginia	Vermont
Wyoming			West Virginia

Recruitment

1. Research past FFA members and students of agricultural education who have made a name for themselves, i.e. celebrities and sports stars. These names are to be developed into promotional paraphernalia that will be used as recruitment tools.
2. Study and promote the use of agricultural classes for science or math credits.
3. Develop an information packet for chapters aimed at recruiting prospective students by using a lock-in that will include the following ideas: mixers to acquaint participants, leadership materials developed by national staff similar to those used in Made For Excellence (MFE) and Washington Conference Program (WCP), fun activities, team development activities and audiovisual aids developed by the chapter. Taped motivational presentations by state officers and taped audiovisual aids developed by the chapter could be added to the packet. This packet would be developed by the national staff. Any additional activities may be added. The program will be promoted in *FFA New Horizons* and available to chapters on a request basis from the national organization. This program would be most effective before school registration.
4. Hold a recruitment video contest for chapters. The guidelines will be set by the national staff. The videos should show the diversity of FFA programs and members in their chapter. These videos would be effective in the recruitment effort at the chapter and state levels.

Administrative Involvement

1. Develop a packet for use at a workshop for FFA advisors. The packet should include suggestions for recruitment, how-to-use materials for advisors, brochures targeted to guidance counselors and suggested ways for FFA advisors to communicate with school administrators. The

workshop should be conducted by national or state staff at any state-wide FFA advisor meeting, and should include motivational activities and materials geared for advisors.

2. Extend a personal invitation to school administrators and guidance counselors to attend the national convention. The invitation should include convention highlights information.
3. Construct a funding plan, such as matching and/or flat grants, to provide funds for state associations to send local school administrators and/or guidance counselors to the national convention.
4. Cooperate with professional publications for guidance counselors, school administrators and educators to promote agricultural education and the FFA.
5. Develop a series of posters to be sent to guidance counselors on a monthly basis. Gear posters toward the whole student body. Feature motivational quotes and photos from well-known former FFA members and supporters. These posters would state the person's affiliation with FFA.

Retention Sub-Committee Recommendations

1. Develop a flyer or tear-out page to be placed in *FFA New Horizons* that discusses the opportunities in agriculture and FFA for each grade level (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th). The computer should sort out the magazines and flyers so that each 9th grade member receives the flyer talking about 9th grade opportunities and the 10th grade receives information on 10th grade opportunities, etc. If it is a tear-out page, place it by the "Joke Page."
2. Develop a program similar to WCP in Washington, D.C., and hold it on the West Coast.
3. Continue to develop the FFA membership card for members and a similar one for advisors.
4. Require the gold emblem award recognition to require at least 100 percent membership.

5. Develop a retention award for chapters and advisors. States should rank all applications for judging at the national level. Conduct the program like the gold emblem award, ranking them gold, silver and bronze and selecting the national winner.
6. Continue with the recognition of advisors under the Project Growth program for 100 percent or 110 percent membership. Recognize these advisors at the state level and give them a useful award.
7. Develop a scholarship or scholarships that require the recipients to have the 1 + 3 membership package. Also, work to develop more scholarships for college students at the sophomore level and up.
8. Develop a video for retention of FFA members. Utilize celebrities who have been FFA members or have been through an agricultural education program. For example, George Strait, degree in agricultural education; Bo Jackson, studied agriculture, etc. Have the video be informative, but short and exciting to keep interest up. Feature some members, i.e. college students, contest winners, international proficiency awards travel winners, etc.

Respectfully submitted:
 Jason Kuhlemeier, IL, (Chair)
 Steven Hayden, FL, (Vice Chair)
 Fred Stemme, MO
 Alecia Larew, WV
 Tommy Hutchins, AL
 Jason Schoenfelder, AZ
 Debbie Hanson, IL
 Sarah Iverson, MN
 Chris Cooper, NC
 Kelly Lettenmaier, OR
 Zinthia Aviles, PR
 Brenda Kulas, WI
 Ed Bredemeyer, TX
 Clint Sherman, TX
 Eric Walker, AR
 Kristi Cash, AL
 Aimee R. Eltringham, CA
 Tamara Wagester, MI
 Gary L. Asher, MO
 Jamie D. Christman, OH
 Danielle Farrar, WA
 Anna Snider, WI
 Shane Pearce, GA
 Tricia Weis, MN

Kim Ralston, AR
 Todd E. Nicewonger, CA
 James M. Hansen II, IA
 Dawn Moody, NE
 Heather DeVilbiss, OK
 Esther Dick, TX
 Adam Shiflett, VA
 Ryan Roberson, LA
 Kevin Summers, IN
 Kyle Debertin, ND
 Eric Rodriguez, LA
 Stephanie Wilmeth, CA
 Kristin Digiulio, CT
 Becky Rich, FL
 Jamie Pfefferman, KY
 Laura Alderson, SD
 Julie Evans, OK
 Todd Smith, TX
 Mazie Damcott, NY
 Steve Coleman, MS
 Kelly Watson, TN
 Tim Watts, TX
 Michael Schertz, TX
 Kent Boggs, OK
 (Adult Coordinator)



At the convention registration area in Bartle Hall, FFA Advisor Bob Johnson, Milton, Wis., showed FFA members the Milton FFA Alumni Affiliate's scrapbook. Milton won the Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate Award for the second consecutive year.

National FFA Convention



These FFA members took a few minutes to browse through the jewelry at the FFA Mall.

The National FFA Convention Committee makes the following recommendations:

Career Show

1. Increase participation in the Hall of States Exhibit by establishing spending limits on exhibits, charging states for space, and judging exhibits. From the exhibit fees, provide scholarships to the three states with the best exhibits.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of \$5 passes to view the career show.
3. Keep the career show open one hour after the close of afternoon sessions.
4. Provide posters of exhibitor landmark years, to be placed on exhibits in the career show.

Convention Program

1. Provide better space for award photographs, away from heavy traffic lanes.
2. Provide a suspended screen in the middle of the auditorium with multi-sided views.
3. Consider alternate routes for the National FFA Band during the grand entry.
4. Provide designated seating for elderly and handicapped.

Convention Operations

1. Schedule the national FFA convention committee report during the closing session.
2. Provide shuttle bus service between hotels, the convention auditorium, contest sites and the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show.
3. Provide detailed maps of Municipal Auditorium, Bartle Hall, other convention facilities, downtown Kansas City and the surrounding areas.
4. Provide advance registration for official delegates.
5. Develop a Courtesy Corps agenda and provide a copy to each member of the Courtesy Corps.
6. Increase the number of leadership workshops conducted during the convention.

Delegate Operations

1. Schedule a training session for full and subcommittee chairs during State Presidents' Conference and provide states with delegate orientation suggestions and materials.
2. Provide delegates with information on Kansas City restaurants, entertainment and transportation systems.
3. Include information in the *Guide to Delegate Operations* about maintaining orderly and effective convention sessions in close quarters.
4. Hold "get acquainted" or recreational activities for delegates on Monday and/or Tuesday evening, such as a reception or dance.
5. Provide national convention committee members with an evaluation sheet to evaluate the various activities and events.
6. Distribute each state's delegates among the different committees before placing two or more delegates from the same state on the same committee.

Respectfully submitted:

Devry Boughner, CA (Chair)
 John Demerly, IN (Vice Chair)
 Kari Warner, ND
 Christy Hill, GA
 Josh Black, AL
 Anastasia N. Norris, CA
 Daniel E. Belzer, IA
 John Simon, MO
 Mike North, WI
 Clint Weatherby, GA
 Greg Jeter, OK
 Chanda Jones, TX
 Kellie Moffat, CT
 Sherri Proctor, KY
 Ali Moore, NH
 Jennifer Young, CA
 Matthew Ellis, KY
 Lana Steinhausen, NE
 Amy Shobert, OK
 Jim McFadin, TX
 Allison R. Pool, LA
 Chad Ripberger, IN
 Travis Long, TN

Sheri Briggs, UT
 Amy M. Meyer, WI
 Heidi Wilson, AZ
 Jered Lafferty, IL
 Jon Willis, FL
 Ken Schentzel, MN
 Darrell Mitchell, NC
 David Emmel, OR
 Ginger Airheart, SD
 Tiffany Sedillo, TX
 Ryon Walker, TX
 Seth Robinson, NY
 Brett Marlar, MS
 Kevin DeLong, ME
 Will Glover, AL
 Travis Hagen, CA
 Holli Bowman, MI
 Susie Mires, MO
 Emily A. Masters, OH
 Jaime Colon, PR
 Ryan Mansfield, WA
 Ron Rule, WI
 Kenda Zant, TX
 Rosco C. Vaughn, NM
 (Adult Coordinator)



Nominating

We have given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants running for national office. The committee nominates the following slate of candidates to the delegates of the 65th National FFA Convention to serve as national officers for the year 1992-93.

President—**Travis Park**, Indiana

Secretary—**Kevin White**, California

Vice President

Central Region—**John Kleiboeker**, Missouri

Vice President

Eastern Region—**Rick Perkins**, Ohio

Vice President

Southern Region—**Todd Hingson**, Florida

Vice President

Western Region—**Dennis Degner**, Texas

National Treasurer—**Charles L. Keels**, North Carolina

National Executive Secretary—**C. Coleman Harris**, Washington, D.C.

National Advisor—**Larry D. Case**, Washington, D.C.

Respectfully submitted:

Curtis Childers, TX (Chair)

John Schut, MI (Vice Chair)

Tammy Yost, MT

Matthew Syme, CT

Mandy Hilbert, PA

Nuria Sebazco, PR

Micah Rutland, MS

Colette Markovich, IN

Kevin Potter, CA

Tom Munter, CA (Consultant)

Stacy Gartin, WV (Consultant)

Doug Daley, AZ (Consultant)



The newly elected officers bask in the spotlight. From left, Kevin White, Rick Perkins, Todd Hingson, Dennis Degner, John Kleiboeker and Travis Park.

Partner Development

The Partner Development Committee makes the following recommendations:

Parents, Alumni, Foundation

1. Include workshops in the National Leadership Conference for State Officers about the National FFA Foundation and the National FFA Alumni Association. Emphasize their role in promoting and educating other members. Utilize state and national staff associated with the FFA Alumni and FFA Foundation to help conduct the program.
2. Place an article in the June/July issue of *FFA New Horizons* promoting the National FFA Alumni Association, explaining their activities and how they benefit FFA members. The National FFA Foundation should help find sponsors for this page if needed.
3. Include state officers on the mailing list for the FFA Alumni newsletter. The newsletter will enable state officers to inform their members about FFA Alumni activities.

Teachers, Advisors, Students

1. Produce an up-to-date FFA promotional packet for all advisors. This packet shall consist of a video that covers all aspects of FFA, including leadership opportunities, projects and activities, awards, scholarships and travel. People in the video shall be portrayed in real-life situations. The video should motivate and be geared toward high school students. A teaching curriculum and other supplemental materials, such as posters and brochures, should be developed for use in conjunction with the video. Similar packets should be developed for agricultural promotion for elementary students and for FFA recruitment for junior high/middle school students. Before distribution, a panel of FFA members and advisors should evaluate the packets to ensure effectiveness.

Business/Industry and Policymakers

1. Initiate a plan for educating legislators, heads of government and other policymakers about FFA. Packets similar to those for State Presidents' Conference about how to contact legislative representatives should be sent to participants in Washington Conference Program and NLC SO. Participants should schedule appointments with their representatives prior to attending the conference to promote an understanding of FFA. Conferences should incorporate a session to prepare participants for visiting government officials. This session should include: how to contact the official, how to communicate effectively on paper and in person, strongly encourage participants to relay information back to their chapters, and how to promote contact with local and state policymakers.
2. Conduct a session at NLC SO promoting relationships between business and industry, and the FFA. The session should include making contact with a business, developing an outline agenda for the business

representative meetings, making a positive impact, and handling problem situations. A national kit should be distributed to district and local officers for their use.

Principals, Administrators, Counselors and State Staff

1. Create a handbook and video for training officers above the local level for one-on-one contact between principals, counselors and administrators. Officers should help educate principals, counselors and administrators about FFA and agricultural education, its benefits and opportunities.
2. At NLC SO, discuss how to utilize the book and video to their best advantage. A program should be presented to principals, administrators and counselors at a district or state conference about agricultural education and FFA.
3. Use the handbook to explain FFA, opportunities available, new technologies, how FFA can be beneficial to a school, and how FFA can help create a positive image for the school and help improve scores on competency tests.
4. Tell principals and administrators that an FFA program will help promote a positive image of the school through leadership and communication skills learned through the program. Also, tell them students learn to set goals for school, career and life and become role models for their peers and in their communities.
5. Tell counselors participation in FFA will help students become better scholarship candidates while being able to apply for almost \$1,000,000 worth of scholarships available only to FFA members. Also, present the career opportunities in the agricultural industry along with average incomes and job statistics. FFA provides students with leadership skills that can be used throughout their lives, provides technical knowledge necessary to improve scores on competency tests and provides students with a variety of avenues for learning such as field trips and hands-on experiences.
6. Include in the handbook the committee proposal, purpose, recommendation of usage, objectives, proper business etiquette such as phone calls, letter writing and other ways to associate with professionals.
7. Supplement the handbook with the video to give examples of how to present all the ideas noted in the handbook.

Respectfully submitted:

Mark Ruff, OH, (Chair)	Nicole Smith, RI	Jeff Tucker, GA
Julie Berry, NY, (Vice Chair)	Matt Griffith, CA	Todd Harrell, TX
Troy McCrum, ME	Angie Foister, FL	Audrey Larman, OK
Steven Meeks, GA	Michael W. Gardner, KY	Christina Baladia, GU
Jason Coe, AL	Jason Skinner, OH	Danny Palmer, TX
David Hart, CA	Bill Sullivan, WI	Wes Mundie, VA
Sue Ann Stuever, MI	Kyle Prior, NV	Kevin A. Keith, WI (Adult Coordinator)
Nancy D. Fox, MO	Beto Garza, TX	
Diane Nelms, TN	Tait J. Martin, LA	
Jennifer Berkenbile, OK	Tarl Yundt, NY	
Steve Pieshala, DE	Brenda K. Mika, WI	
Elaine Deaton, TX	Tim Wood, AL	
Liz Simon, IN	Linda Sloan, AZ	
Rob Krebbs, TX	Rob Olmstead, IL	
Ben Cluff, UT	Dan Durheim, MN	
Robin Perez, CA	Ben Ehrhart, PA	
Matt Flynt, AR	Linda Burton, WI	
Jenny Morgan, NC	Marla Rudd, TX	

Program of Activities

The Program of Activities Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Develop an index for the Program of Activities in chronological order or alphabetically.
2. Eliminate the Program of Activities Committee (found under Article 8 of the National FFA Constitution) at the 66th National FFA Convention because there are 10 programmatic committees that already impact the Program of Activities within their individual committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ruff, OH (Chair)
 Devry Boughner, CA (Secretary)
 Aaron Ball, AZ
 Billy Johnson, CO
 Jason Kuhlemeier, IL
 Rhett Laubach, OK
 Tammy Hoobler, KS
 Paul Friedrichs, KS
 Corey Flournoy, IL
 Dwayne D. Faidley, IA
 Richard Katt, NE
 (Adult Coordinator)



It was dancing room only at the first-ever, sold-out national FFA dance as more than 2,500 members danced the night away in Bartle Hall.



After traipsing through the Career Show gathering goodies to take home, these members ham it up for the camera.

Student Publications

The Student Publications Committee makes the following recommendations:

Other Publications

1. Send *Update* and if possible, *FFA Advisors Making a Difference*, to all state officers to keep them informed.
2. Update everything in the *Student Handbook* a minimum of every five years.
3. Send a general publication to every U.S. school (including Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands) grades 7-10 to educate them about agriculture. The publication content should include: agricultural careers, stressing the monetary and leadership gains; prominent individuals involved in agricultural education, and the many benefits FFA has to offer. The publication should be translated in Spanish or partially in Spanish for Spanish-speaking students.

Editorial Content

1. Dedicate the *FFA New Horizons* magazine to motivating members to be interested and involved in FFA and agriculture, informing and educating members about opportunities in FFA, building character and personal development and providing this information in a new and exciting style.
2. Feature more celebrities with backgrounds in agriculture and/or FFA.
3. Provide a series of cut-out articles on contests, awards, personal development conferences, etc., to motivate and inform younger members.
4. Provide articles with information on controversial issues in agriculture and how to deal with these topics.
5. Provide articles on new associations and affiliates to expand knowledge of various cultures of FFA members.
6. Make available a version of *FFA New Horizons* in Spanish by request for Spanish-speaking members.
7. Include articles that encourage members to further educate themselves after high school by attending colleges as well as vocational technical institutes.

Member Involvement

1. Develop an editorial board consisting of one member per state (chapter member) and three at-large members per region (state officers). One of these local members would be the student coordinating chairperson per region. The board should be selected by an application placed in *FFA New Horizons*. One regional student coordinator per region would be selected by the national staff from the local members on the board. The application should include general background information and an essay on why the applicant would like to serve on the editorial board. Individuals should hold one-year terms, but can hold successive terms. Members would respond to a survey after each magazine issue and be allotted two conference calls per region per year. Conference calls would be conducted at beginning of term and prior to national convention. Regional student coordinators

would attend a dinner function and meeting during the national convention each year. State staff members would receive a starter letter to explain the purpose and function of the board in addition to an article in the magazine. The board would accurately reflect student input and opinions on the magazine.

2. Create a system to feature student-written articles. A list of topics for a year would be developed and printed in the magazine. Students would respond to these topics. One or two of the response articles would be selected for inclusion. The topics should be varied and include agricultural topics, FFA issues, humorous happenings, and current events. Students submitting published articles would be recognized at their respective state conventions and awarded with cash, plaques and/or pins. Award funding would come from the current free-lance budget.
3. Implement more student contests. A different contest should be featured in each issue on a rotational basis. Possible ideas include photo contest, drawing contest, poetry contest and lyric contest. Recognition would be given to the winners at their state conventions in addition to featuring the winning entry in the magazine and possibly receiving a small cash prize.

Reader Promotion

1. Use graphics, action photos and or photos of role models/celebrities to interest readers.
2. Relocate the joke page in each issue. Add two or three inspirational quotes on the bottom of the page and a female sidekick to the "Charlie the Greenhand" feature. Also add a section of fictional stories about Charlie the Greenhand with a moral to each of the stories.
3. Use ink-jet personalizing to give members a feeling of personal importance.

Respectfully submitted:

Billy Johnson, CO (Chair)
Ginger Price, OR (Vice Chair)
Bill Hoblit, WY
Vicki Rogers, MO
Jennifer Evans, SC
Tiffany Roberson, NJ
Becky Mills, MD
Ewalani Limtiaco, GU
Jane Taft, OH
Corey Haggett, VT
Brenda Young, OH
Joe Gottschalk, NV
Rebecca Schuette, TX
Lana Freston, UT
Trent Howard, KY
Susan Johnson, CA
Phillip Metcalf, AL
Dave Kruse, WI
Mitch Hockett, TN
Carol Bettis, AR
Bradley Wolter, IL
Cherise Vance, IN
Sherri Keatts, WA

Marie Salwey, MN
Heather Retzlaff, TX
Wanda Arocho, PR
Holly Nichols, TX
Amy Byers, PA
Allen Pettey, CA
Judd McLeod, LA
Steve Yoder, FL
Rick Gobel, CA
Jeremy Rich, OK
Miranda Daniels, WY
Pete Barnum, MI
Gus Simmons, NC
Micah Lesley, TX
James M. Holder, MO
Daniel Metcalfe, AL
Zmer Andranigian, CA
Krista Tieg, ID
Amanda Chastain, FL
Casey Niemann, KS
Jeff Schaumburg, MO
Patricia Turnage, NC
Kristy Perkins, OK
Charity Smith, TX
John K. Wilkinson, GA
(Adult Coordinator)



In the News

For 65 years, the Kansas City Star has covered the national FFA convention. This newspaper, now the city's only daily, has aggressively pursued FFA topics recently. Reprinted with permission here are several of the stories that kept Kansas Citians informed about the "blue jackets."

Many FFA Convention delegates in KC

annual meeting 2 FFA members laureates for their achievements



By VICTORIA SIZEMORE LONG

Organization



The coveted blue jacket

FFA tries to shed its 'farm boy' image

to shed that image at cultural base. Its opening doors for might never be entering the field.

Wright was for change. Chicago High School of Agricultural Science. There science.

"I can't differ earlier than on to Kansas City.

But in September, Kansas City FFA — a side the group rarely talks about. The FFA, guided by a new financial officer with an eager eye for cost savings, has learned to flex its sizable economic muscle

Money-wise FFA ready to do business

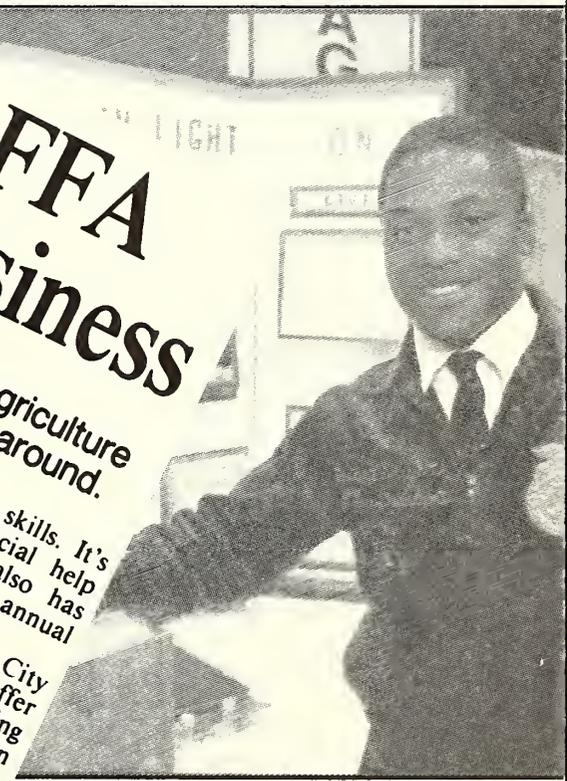
Led by a new financial officer, the agriculture organization is cutting costs and shopping around.

It's easy to underestimate the market forces driving the National FFA Organization, whose convention begins this week. Most think of the group as 20,000 or so wholesome, youthful rural superstars who scrape together a few dollars after harvest to gather each November in Kansas City.

and hone its business skills. It's asking for more financial help from Kansas City. It also has hinted it may move its annual convention elsewhere. This afternoon, Kansas City and agribusiness leaders will offer FFA officials the city's opening proposal to keep the convention here.

In recent weeks, FFA officials provided *The Kansas City Star* with an arms-length look at the group's financial structure and strategy. It shows that the former Future Farmers of America has grown significantly from its roots of 1928. It is now:

- A national retailing organization.
- See FFA, A-7, Col. 2



the national agriscience studies biotechnology at Minnesota in St. Paul.





1992 was Jack Pitzer's (right) first try at managing the National Agricultural Career Show. Shown here with National Vice President Shane Black and Pat Gleason, a career show exhibitor with the Industrial Safety Equipment Association, Pitzer has been with the national organization for 25 years.

Convention Managers

- Woody Cox, Alumni
- Carol Duval, Contests
- Greg Egan, Awards Co-Manager
- Lennie Gamage, Registration
- C. Coleman Harris, Convention General Manager
- Glenn Luedke, Meal Functions
- Andy Markwart, Delegate Operations
- Linda May, Program Operations
- Jack Pitzer, National Agricultural Career Show
- Robert Seefeldt, Awards Co-Manager
- Dennis Shafer, FFA Shopping Mall
- Beth Slack, Courtesy Corps
- Bernie Staller, Sponsors
- William Stagg, News and Information
- Joyce Winterton, Partner Development

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

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Behind the Scenes

Additional copies of this publication are available from the National FFA Supply Service, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Phone 703-780-5600. Cost per copy is \$2.50 plus \$.35 shipping and handling.



Rick Waitley, standing, was one of many adults who worked behind the scenes. Waitley, of Meridian, Idaho, has been working in the convention newsroom since 1982.

The 65th National FFA Convention

PROCEEDINGS

Volume LXV

November 12-14, 1992

The 65th National FFA Convention *PROCEEDINGS* is published by the National FFA Organization as a record of the organization's annual convention held in Kansas City, Mo., November 12-14, 1992.

PROCEEDINGS Staff

Jeri Mattics
Editor

Jennifer West
Staff Writer

National FFA
Communications
Resources Team
William F. Stagg
Director/Team Leader

Shirley Sokolosky
Managing Editor

Cameron Craig
Sam Harrel
Lightfoot Photography

Sally Behringer Hood
Roni Horan
Jeri Mattics
Communications
Consultants

Molly Wilson
Associate Editor-Photos

Lawinna McGary
David Pulliam

Thelma Schoonmaker
Associate Editor-Writing

Kelly Rogers
Orlin Wagner
Michael Wilson
Photographers

Linda Flint
Associate Editor-Layout &
Design

Laurie Cunningham
Photography Assistant

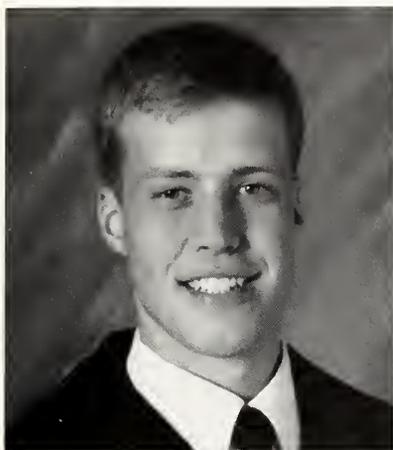
Jody Mattics
Associate Editor-Layout

Jeanne Hummer
Marion Fay
Editorial Assistants

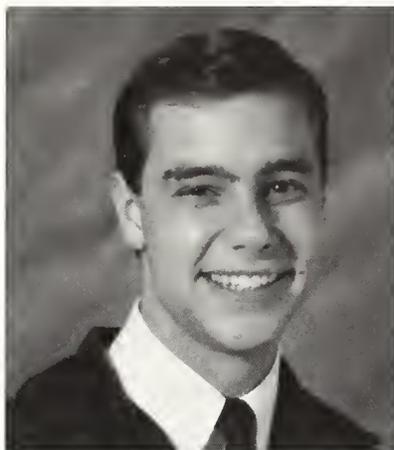
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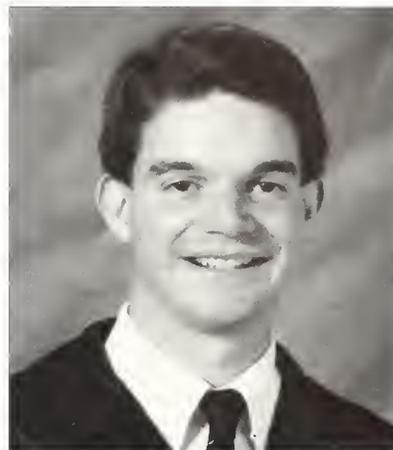
1992-93 National FFA Officers



Travis Park—President
Trafalgar, Indiana
Age: 20
Chapter: Indian Creek FFA Chapter
Enterprise: diversified crops and livestock
FFA State Office: Indiana Regional Vice President
FFA Awards: state essay, talent and leadership interview contests, 1991 American Royal Student Ambassador runner-up
College/Major: Purdue University, sophomore, agricultural education
Career Goal: agriculture teacher



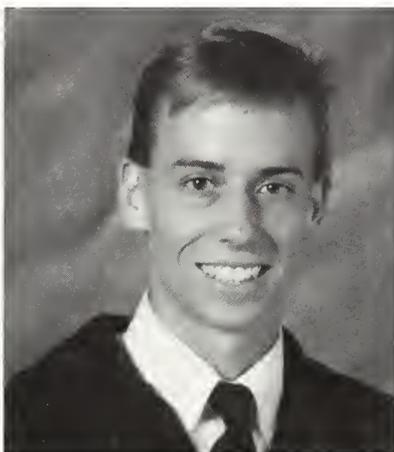
Kevin White—Secretary
Anderson, California
Age: 20
Chapter: Anderson FFA Chapter
Enterprise: swine, agricultural sales and service
FFA State Office: California Association Vice President
FFA Awards: land, livestock, forestry and poultry judging, state star regional agribusinessman
College/Major: will attend Cal Poly State University and major in agribusiness and political science
Career Goal: agricultural policy development



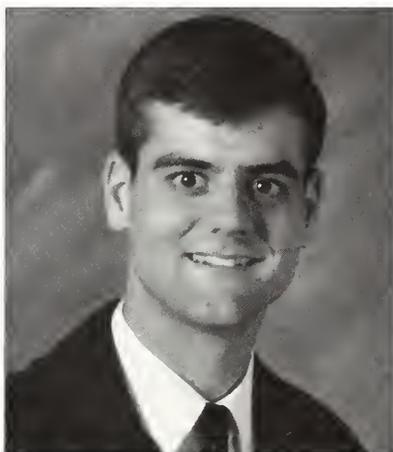
John Kleiboeker—Central Region Vice President
Stotts City, Missouri
Age: 20
Chapter: Pierce City FFA Chapter
Enterprise: purebred and commercial beef cattle
FFA State Office: Missouri Association President
FFA Awards: state extemporaneous public speaking winner, national FFA scholarship recipient
College/Major: University of Missouri-Columbia, junior, agricultural journalism
Career Goal: agricultural public relations



Rick Perkins—Eastern Region Vice President
Bloomville, Ohio
Age: 19
Chapter: Sentinel FFA Chapter
Enterprise: sheep, crops and farm job placement
FFA State Office: Ohio Association President
FFA Awards: public speaking, job interview and parliamentary procedure contests
College/Major: The Ohio State University, freshman, agribusiness and applied economics
Career Goal: agricultural lawyer



Todd Hingson—Southern Region Vice President
Live Oak, Florida
Age: 19
Chapter: Suwannee FFA Chapter
Enterprise: soybeans, watermelons and tobacco
FFA State Office: Florida Association President
FFA Awards: state winning dairy judging team, state finalist in prepared public speaking
College/Major: University of Florida, sophomore, agricultural economics and political science
Career Goal: agricultural lobbyist



Dennis Degner—Western Region Vice President
Malone, Texas
Age: 19
Chapter: Hillsboro FFA Chapter
Enterprise: purebred beef cattle and market steers
FFA State Office: Texas Association First Vice President
FFA Awards: farm business management and parliamentary procedure contests
College/Major: Texas A&M University, sophomore, agricultural engineering
Career Goal: agricultural engineering research





...cool for words.
...was part of something
...even got to talk to a
national officer. Someday, I'd like to
be up on that stage.

Thanks for letting me come. I
realized before this week how
much I could do in the FFA. You
won't believe all the new friends
I made. Can't wait to get home
and tell everyone about the best
week of my life.
...ing to be a great year!

Love,
Jennifer

P.S. Wayne better have stayed out
of my stuff.



Mr. & Mrs Donald Smith
110 Granger Road
Fairfield, CA 94533

