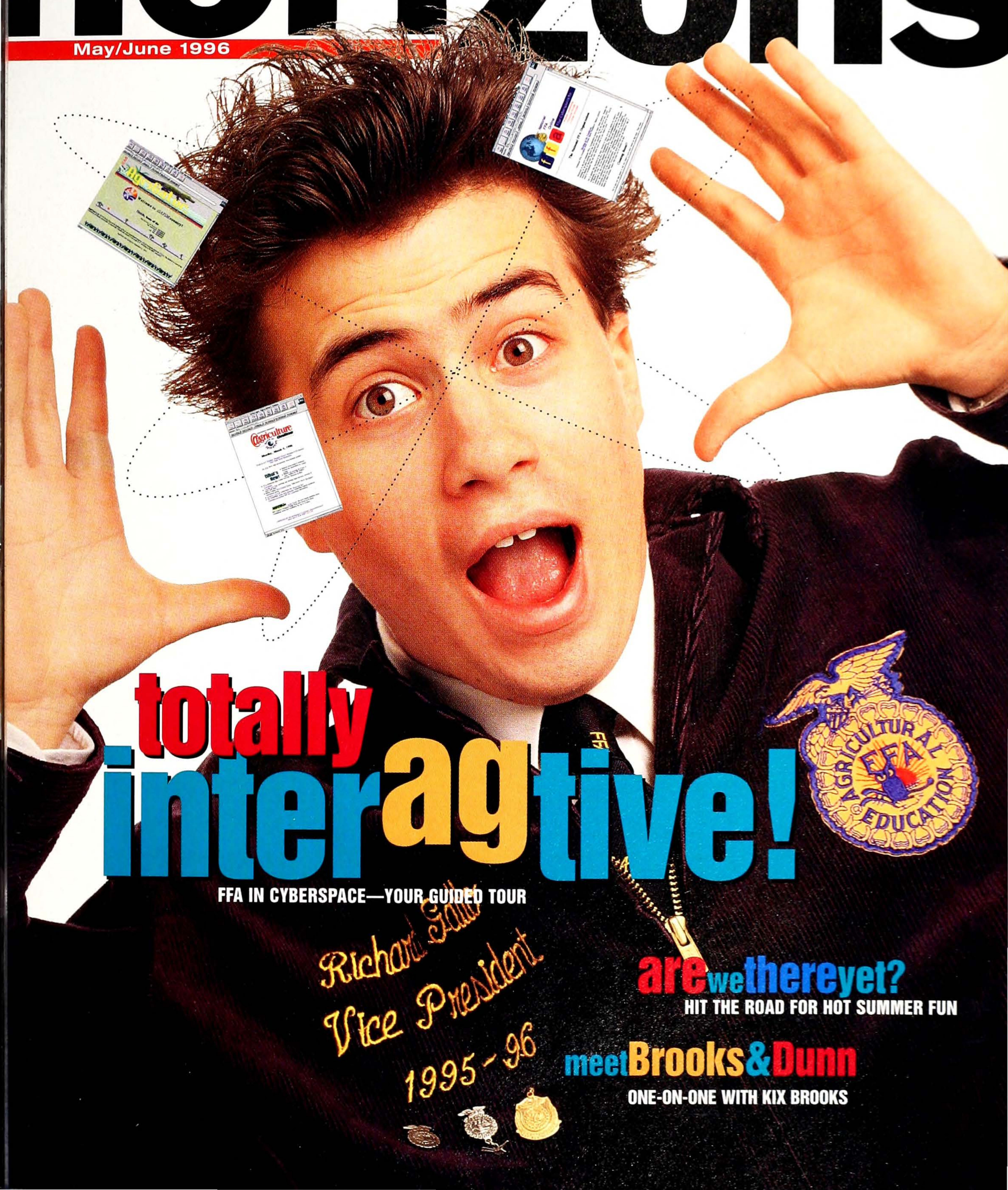


# new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

May/June 1996



## totally interactive!

FFA IN CYBERSPACE—YOUR GUIDED TOUR

*Richard Galt  
Vice President  
1995-96*

**are we there yet?**

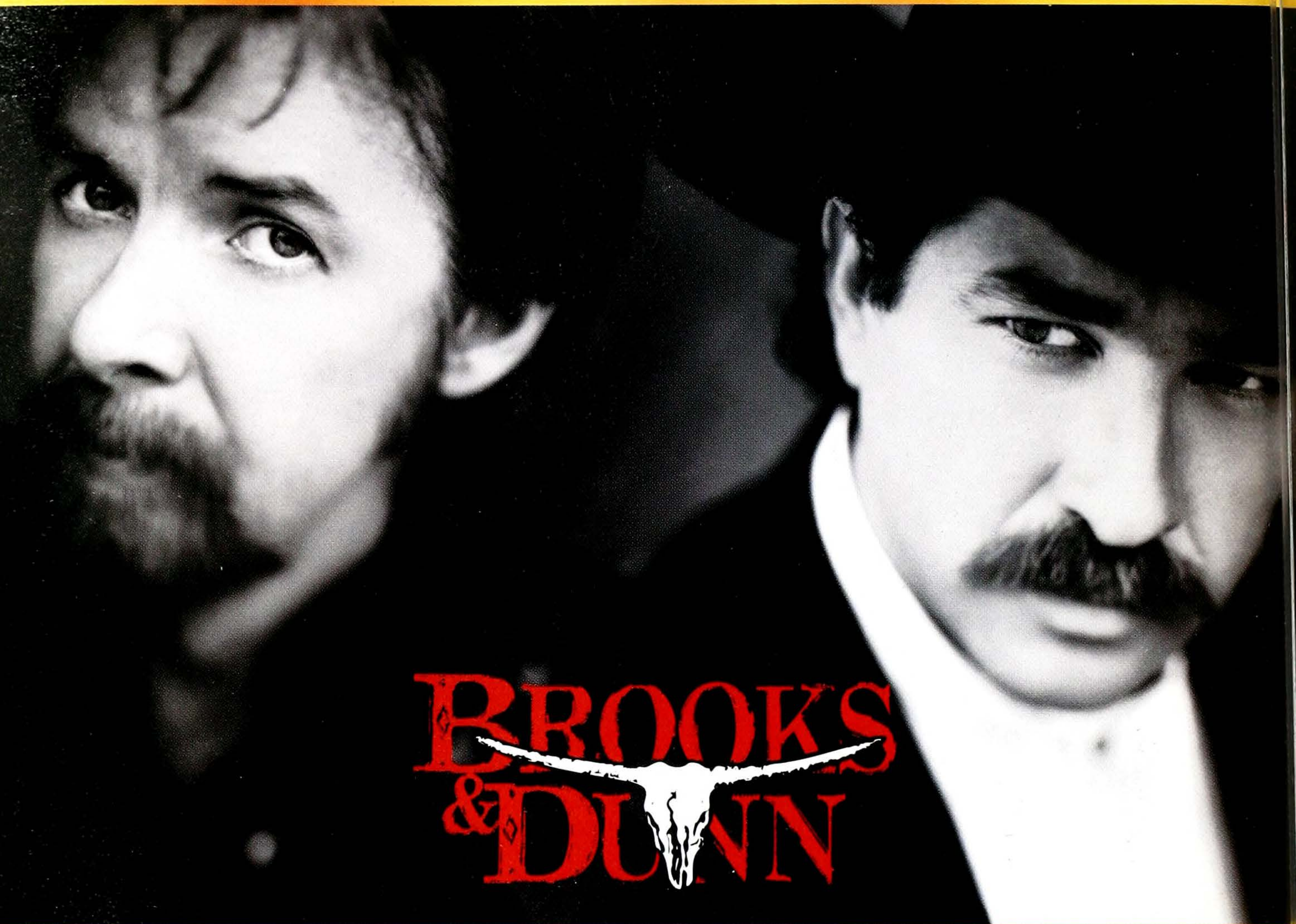
HIT THE ROAD FOR HOT SUMMER FUN

**meet Brooks & Dunn**

ONE-ON-ONE WITH KIX BROOKS



IT'S WHAT SEPARATES THEM FROM EVERYBODY ELSE



**BROOKS  
& DUNN**

# BORDERLINE

**Their new album**

**ELEVEN NEW SONGS, INCLUDING "MY MARIA"**

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**212-333-HITS** 

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PRODUCED BY  
Don Cook, Kix Brooks  
and Ronnie Dunn

MANAGEMENT:  
Titley, Spalding and Assoc.  
Nashville, TN



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May/June 1996



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

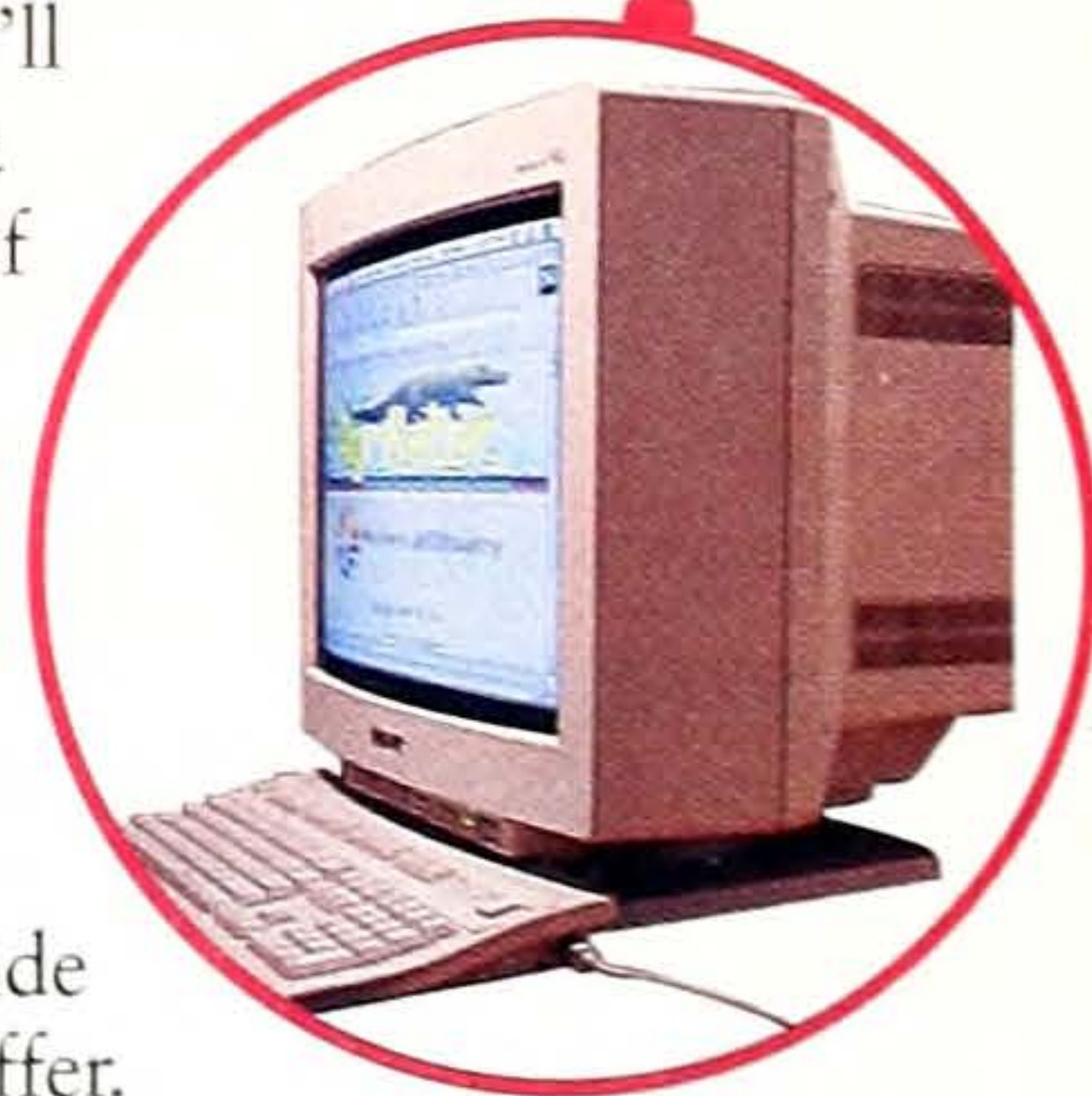
**Agricultural Education Mission**  
The mission of Agricultural Education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource systems.



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Surf's up! We'll take you on a guided tour of the Internet and show you some of the hottest ag-related home pages the World Wide Web has to offer.



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Charlie's back...and you can help him and his friends name their new comic strip!



## A few minutes with

# Clara-Leigh Horn

### Describe your FFA career.

I started learning about FFA in 8th grade through my interest in showing livestock. Once I got started, I became a chapter officer and then a district officer. I then ran for state office and finally for national office. Prior to becoming a national officer, I was president of the collegiate FFA at Auburn University.

### What made you take the plunge and run for national office?

I had crossed paths with Shane Black, a former national officer from Alabama, and Shane really inspired me. I really looked up to him and the other national officers and thought that I would like to inspire others in the same way.

### What is the national officers' goal this year?

All six of us are intent on promoting our theme of

"Creating a Future." We want to give the insight for people to see the gifts they have and that there's an awesome future if they'll do what it takes to become who they want to be.

### What's your message to members?

To encourage FFA members to step out of their comfort zone and take advantage of the opportunities in FFA and in their high school.

### What's the best part about being a national officer?

Definitely getting out, meeting the members and sharing their energy and excitement.

### What do you like least?

Although I love traveling, I do sometimes miss getting away from it all by riding my horses or working the cattle back home.

### What's your favorite subject at school?

I really like classes dealing with biology and endocrinology (the study of endocrine glands).

### What about your favorite performer?

That's a tough one, but I'd have to say George Strait.

### What was your most embarrassing FFA moment?

At the Alabama state convention a couple of years ago, I accidentally introduced the state FFA president, a guy, as 'Madam President' in front of the whole delegation. Fortunately, he was good-natured about it.

### What are your plans after the national convention?

Well, I had planned on pursuing a career as a veterinarian, but ag law is looking good, too. And after this busy year writing and delivering speeches, planning workshops and attending meetings, I wouldn't say I'm dead-set on any one thing. There's just so much out there. ■

**Name:** Clara-Leigh Horn  
**Age:** 21  
**Position:** Vice president-southern region  
**Hometown:** Ashville, Alabama  
**FFA Chapter:** Ashville FFA  
**FFA Advisor:** Tommy Hill  
**SAE:** Diversified livestock operation  
**College/major:** Auburn University/animal science & pre-veterinary medicine



photo by Todd Winters

## FFA new horizons

Official Magazine of the National FFA Organization

### Magazine Staff

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The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.



# Cherry blossoms and bullet trains

The national officer team discovers the “real” Japan during its recent tour



## Striking a pagoda pose:

Clockwise from left: Clara-Leigh Horn, Joe Caffee, Cody Wagner, Bill Catania, Andy McCall and Seth Derner.

It was a chance to see the Japan they don't talk about in vacation guides. For 12 days in February, the national FFA officer team raced across the island nation in the world's fastest trains, zooming past rice fields and high-tech factories, crowded cities and remote, rugged countryside. Along the way, they ate raw fish and slept on the floor in unheated homes with paper-thin walls. And they loved every minute of it. Surprisingly, despite the

different cultures and languages, each of the six officers came away with the same impression: “People are people everywhere.”

“I was very surprised to find how similar Japanese families are to American families,” said Seth Derner, national FFA president. “As a tourist you think you know how the Japanese function, but when you live with them you really begin to understand.”

Living for a few days with Japanese host fami-

lies was the highlight of the trip for Derner and his fellow officers. The families and officers exchanged many gifts, shared a few sushi (raw fish) meals and formed lasting friendships. Southern region vice president Clara-Leigh Horn noted, “Everything was a cultural experience.” Eastern region vice president Bill Catania learned how to do origami—the traditional Japanese art of paper-folding. “My host sister taught me how to create cranes, the symbol of peace.”

Central region vice president Joe Caffee, too, said he enjoyed spending time with his Japanese family: “It was fun to interact with my host family and compare a Japanese teenager's lifestyle to my own. The Japanese teen is tied to home more than we tend to be. In fact, they don't even get a driver's license until after they graduate!”

As for western region vice president Andy McCall, he was impressed by his host family's generosity. “The village I stayed in was located up

in the mountains, so it was very cold. But rather than let me be uncomfortable, they put their home's only heater in my room. Now that creates a bond.”

While the home stays provided a glimpse of daily life in Japan, the busy itinerary also gave the officers an inside look at Japanese agriculture and industry. The officers toured a Toyota factory and discussed global issues with representatives from Mitsui & Co. They also attended a reception hosted by the FFJ (Future Farmers of Japan), an organization 140,000 members strong.

“Throughout the trip, we learned the impact of foreign events on American producers,” Derner said. “And we saw the tremendous demand that exists in Southeast Asia for our agricultural products.” In fact, according to Scott Stump, one of the tour's leaders, “Japan simply cannot create enough food to feed its own people.”

For the national officer team, the Japan trip has left a lasting impression. As Cody Wagner, national FFA secretary, put it, “It's tough to learn about international travel and different cultures from out of a book.” ■





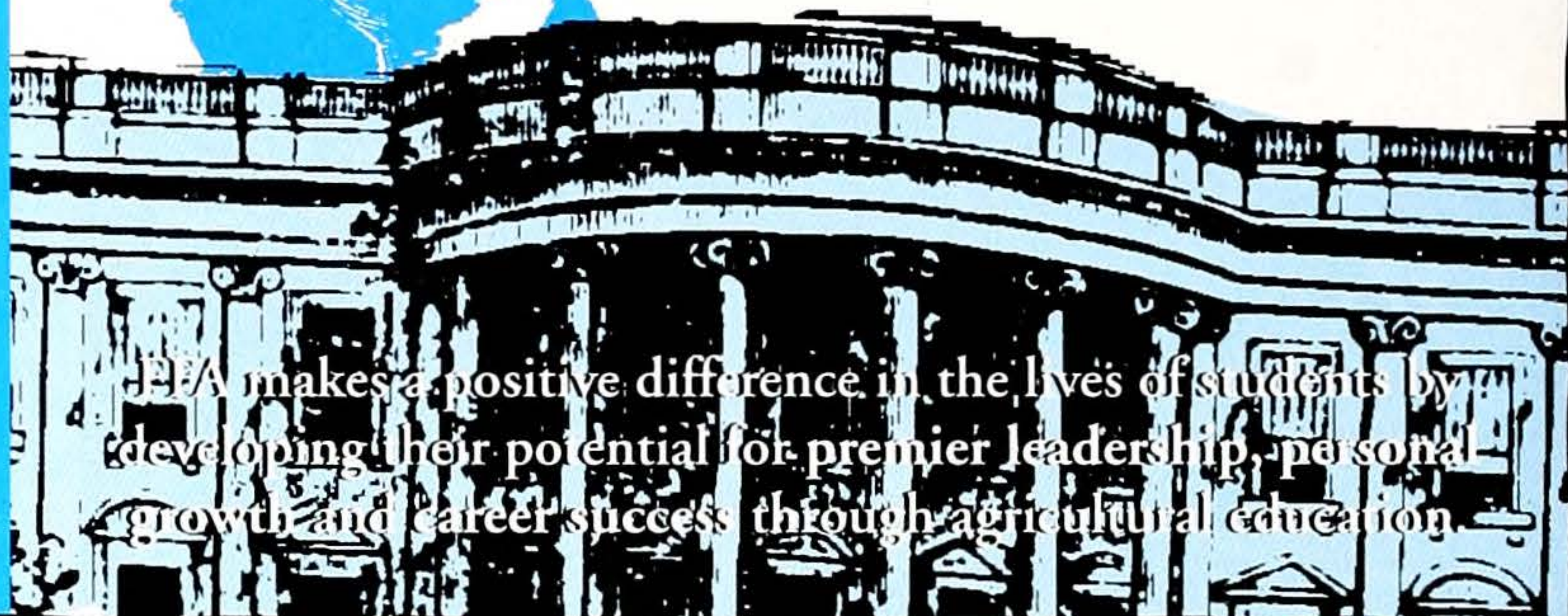
# FFA 1996 Washington Leadership Conference

Make a positive difference in your student's life. Invest in what it takes to make your students top chapter leaders at the number ONE leadership conference. Plan to attend WLC today!

One week of intense training in personal development, motivation, leadership, teamwork, citizenship and goal setting will give students the self-confidence and skills they need to succeed in your chapter. They'll make new FFA friends from all over the United States, tour our nation's capital, visit members of Congress, shop at the Hard Rock Cafe, meet national FFA staff and tour the home of George Washington.



I cannot tell a lie. WLC is the number ONE leadership conference in the nation! It's worth every dollar!



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

## The 1996 Washington Leadership Conference registration form

Mail or fax this complete form to National FFA Organization. Duplicate as needed for students attending.

### conference dates:

Please indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices.

\_\_\_\_ June 11-16      \_\_\_\_ July 16-21  
\_\_\_\_ June 18-23      \_\_\_\_ July 23-28  
\_\_\_\_ June 25-30      \_\_\_\_ July 30-Aug. 4  
\_\_\_\_ July 9-14

### package: (check one)

☐ Student Package (quad occupancy) \$450  
☐ Advisor Package (single occupancy) \$680  
☐ Advisor Package (double occupancy) \$505  
☐ Advisor/Guest Partial Package \$730  
☐ Advisor/Guest Full Package \$855

\* Registration fee must be paid at least two weeks in advance to avoid a \$45 late fee. There is a \$50 cancellation fee.

### prepaid\*

### payment method:

☐ VISA      ☐ MASTERCARD

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☐ Check Enclosed - Make payable to National FFA Organization  
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Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

FFA Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Is an advisor/chaperone attending with you? ☐ Yes    ☐ No

Advisor/Chaperone name \_\_\_\_\_

For chapters with four or more students attending, half of the group may be registered at each hotel to ensure students receive the maximum benefits of a national experience, unless otherwise requested by the chapter advisor.

### scholarship:

☐ Scholarship amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ National FFA Foundation, Inc.  
☐ National FFA Alumni  
☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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Alexandria, VA 22309-0160  
Tel: (703) 360-3600, ext. 309    NH  
Fax: (703) 360-5524



# BUZZ



## Who's behind FFA New Horizons?

**T**his spring, the first meeting of the FFA *New Horizons* Editorial Board was called to order by editor Jim Scott. This new board—consisting of four ag teachers and four FFA members from across the country; a state FFA executive secretary; representatives of Farm Progress Companies; and Jennifer Messenger and Frank Saldaña of the National FFA Organization—is charged with overseeing all facets of the magazine's editorial direction.

The board discussed magazine positioning, the editorial calendar, story ideas, advertising and special projects including *FFA New Horizons* on-line. Participants agreed that the premier meeting

was an overwhelming success. "I am certain that the valuable input and creative thinking of this new board will produce an even better magazine for our readers," Scott says.

The FFA *New Horizons* Editorial Board will meet once a year, but will actively funnel reader feedback and direction to the magazine staff on an ongoing basis. ■

## To our readers...

**W**e at FFA *New Horizons* are constantly striving to produce, print and deliver the highest quality magazine possible. Should you receive a copy of FFA *New Horizons* that does not meet our standards of excellence in printing and/or delivery, please call Tammy Curtis at 708/690-5600 with your comments.

The FFA Editorial Board: (back row) Woodie Pugh, FFA advisor, Alabama; Rich Boerner, FFA advisor, Washington; Dean Folkers, FFA advisor, Nebraska; (middle row) Ruthie Webb, past state officer, Georgia; Ryan Bertao, state officer, California; Janet Hayes, FFA member, Pennsylvania; (front row) Lynn Boughton, state officer, Illinois; Vicki Lantz, FFA advisor, Pennsylvania. Not pictured: Kent Boggs, executive secretary, Oklahoma.

*Correction: In the March/April issue, an FFA Star was identified with the wrong home state. Misti Wells is a Texan. Sorry, Misti!*

## FFA MAILBAG

### Everything but the airline food

**I** recently received my FFA *New Horizons* magazine. I enjoy looking at all of the new happenings in FFA, but there is something I feel needs to be noticed and brought to the attention of all subscribers: FFA International Leadership Exchanges.

I had the chance to experience an International Exchange myself when I visited Russia. It is not every day that someone gets this kind of experience. Shouldn't the ones who do receive some recognition? Maybe we need to focus more on

international programs in FFA *New Horizons*.

All FFA members should be aware of the International Leadership Exchange programs offered to them. It is a great experience and every member should have a choice and chance to be involved in this type of program.

**Katie Heim**

Lost River FFA Chapter  
Klamath Falls, Oregon

*Editor's note: Thanks for the letter, Katie. With so much happening right here at home, it's*

*sometimes easy to overlook the fact that FFA truly spans the globe in search of agriculture-related adventure. Look for more international focus in upcoming issues. In this issue, FFA New Horizons takes off for foreign soil with state FFA officers participating in the State Officer Greenweek Seminar. Also, we attempt to keep up with the national FFA officer team during their recent visit to Japan.*



## No "Sundown" in sight for **Brooks & Dunn**

**B**rooks & Dunn have been tearing up the country music charts since the two veteran performers/songwriters teamed up in 1990. Their third album, "Waitin' on Sundown," is about to go triple-platinum (three million copies sold), and the duo recently pulled down five nominations from the Academy of Country Music Awards. Kix Brooks, the more boisterous half of the act, tells *FFA New Horizons* what defines Brooks & Dunn's sound and what it takes to make it in country music today.

**You're known for being a pretty wild performer, while Ronnie Dunn is very laid back on stage. When you first started playing together, did you think he was a stiff and did he think you were nuts?** Yeah, that's exactly what we said about each other. We still say that. But it doesn't make any difference. It just kind of works.

**How would you describe Brooks & Dunn's sound?**

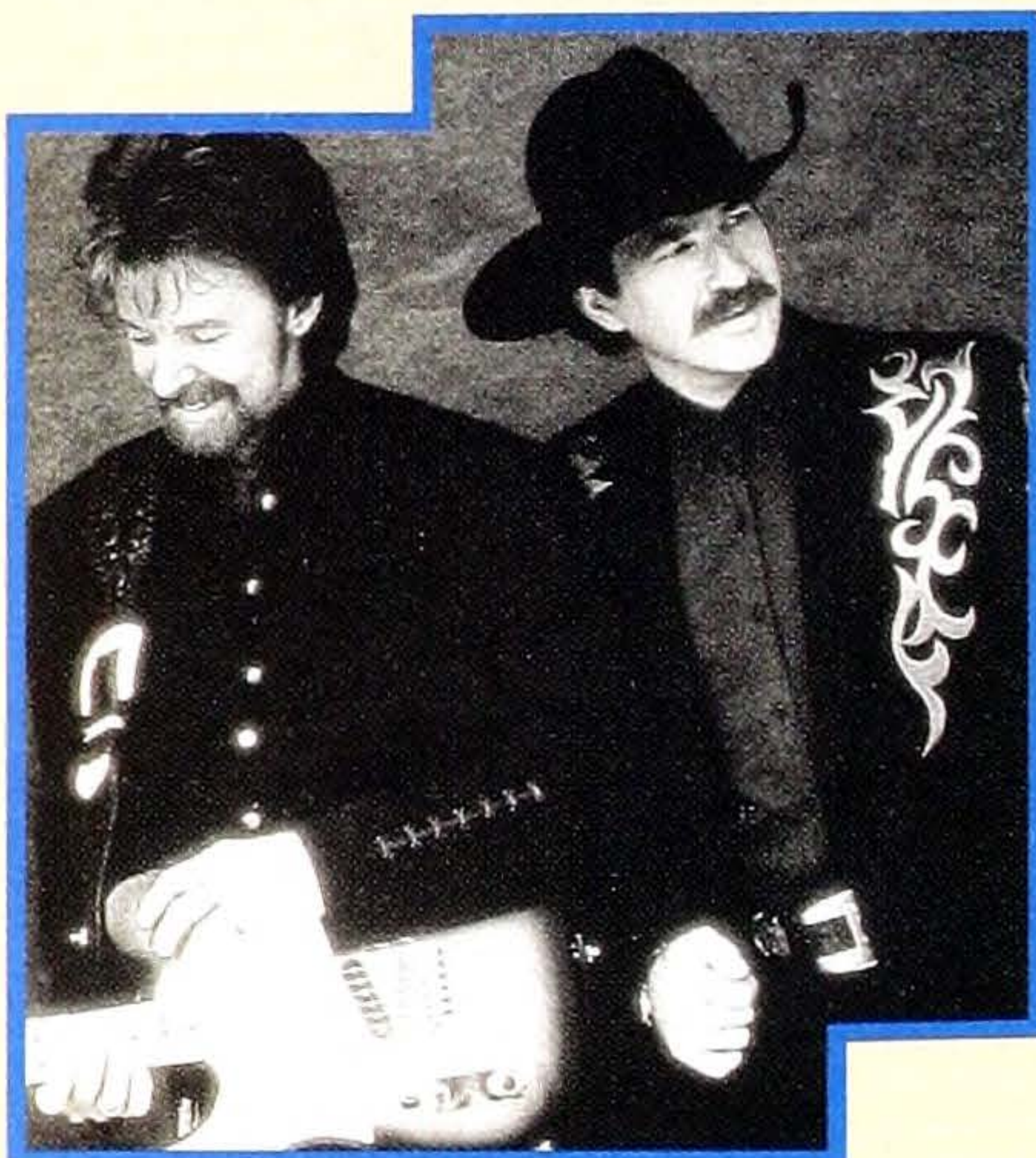
Well, I think lyrically our songs are real country. But we really haven't been afraid to express some of our influences from the rock side of the picture either. I really think there is plenty of room for that in country music. We can't all play the same three chords, and all play the same steel guitar. Otherwise, we'd get pretty bored. We are not afraid to step out and stir it up a little bit.

**You say you have some rock and roll influence in your music. Whom do you guys listen to?**

We like Eric Clapton, the Rolling Stones, Tom Petty, stuff like that. We're not too into head-banging stuff, though.

**Do you have any advice on how to reach the top in country music for the FFA members out there who might like to pursue a career in the business?**

Perseverance is the first word that comes to mind. In Canada recently, I was having dinner in a restaurant and this guy who



**Ronnie Dunn and Kix Brooks**

was playing upstairs came by and asked me, "What do I have to do to make it?" I hear that all the time. I wouldn't be 40 years old and just now hitting a lick if I knew a shortcut to success. There is no easy way that I know of. Everyone who has made it has found their own road. And there are lots of roads that lead to success and you just have to get on the one where you can keep between the ditches.

**What were the early days of your career like?**

When I got to Nashville, it was the first town I'd been in where I couldn't make a living playing and singing. Everybody was playing and singing in Nashville. For the first time ever I was about to starve to death. I couldn't even get a job waiting

tables. I was desperate. Luckily, Bob Dole, who wound up managing Garth Brooks, saw me playing at a writers' night (an "open-mike" performance where songwriters perform their own work). He met with me and liked the songs I had, so he hooked me up with a music publisher and I started writing songs and had a hit pretty quick and then ended up writing songs for a living for about 10 years.

**If you weren't in the country music business, what would you be doing right now?**

I'd probably be pipelining. My dad's a pipeline contractor and growing up I did a lot of pipelining. I even went to Alaska and stuff like that. I've also been involved in cotton farming in Louisiana. That would probably be my first choice.

**I understand you have a leather FFA jacket that you often wear. What's the story behind that?**

It was in Iowa. I can't remember the names of the folks who gave it to me, but these folks came to the show and they had on their FFA jackets. They had just come from a county fair where they had shown their animals. We were talking about how cool their jackets were and they showed up a few months later at a show in the same area and brought us a couple jackets.

**What do you guys do when you're not making music?**

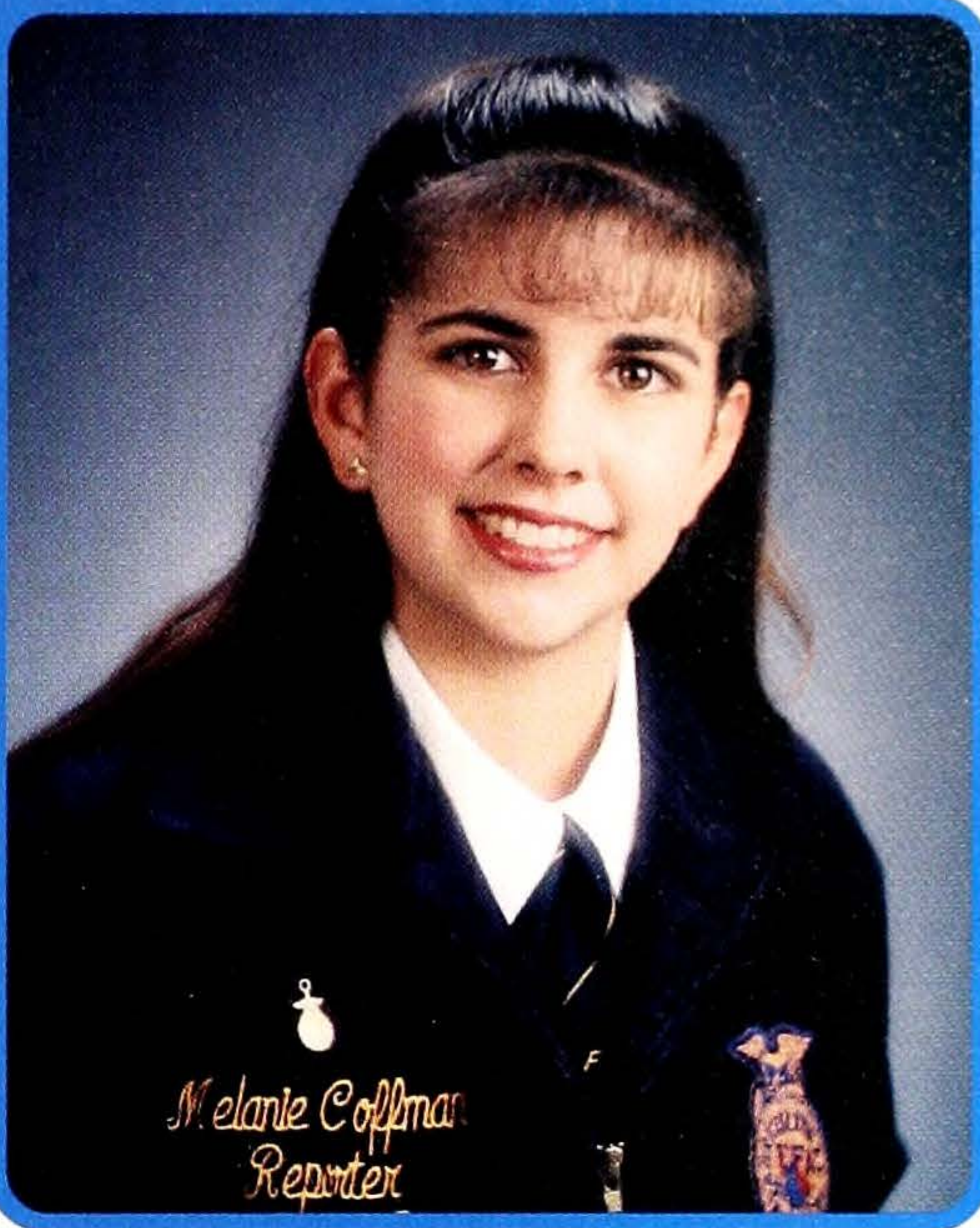
Car racing is our big hobby. We have our own Legend racing series in the summertime. We race every race, and we've been pretty successful. Ronnie's won a bunch of races, and I've won a couple myself. We are very competitive, and in our class we are hanging tough. We have wrecked these cars every way imaginable. We've crashed into walls, into other cars—Ronnie flipped his once. But it hasn't discouraged us. Nobody has gotten hurt...yet. ■



## CALIFORNIA

### Melanie Coffman

**C**ongratulations to Gilroy FFA member Melanie Coffman, state silver award recipient in the Discovery Card Youth Program! Melanie, who received a \$1,500 award in the Arts & Humanities category, was one of just nine winners in the state of California. To qualify, she had to excel in areas including special talents, leadership, obstacles overcome, unique endeavors and community service, as well as maintain a 2.75 or better grade point average. Melanie credits much of her success to her active involvement in FFA. She's held the offices of chapter president, chapter reporter and Santa Clara Section reporter, and she currently serves as South Coast Region reporter. A Golden State FFA Degree recipient, Melanie plans a career in ag education or public relations. ★



Submitted by the Gilroy FFA Chapter

## PENNSYLVANIA

## ARIZONA

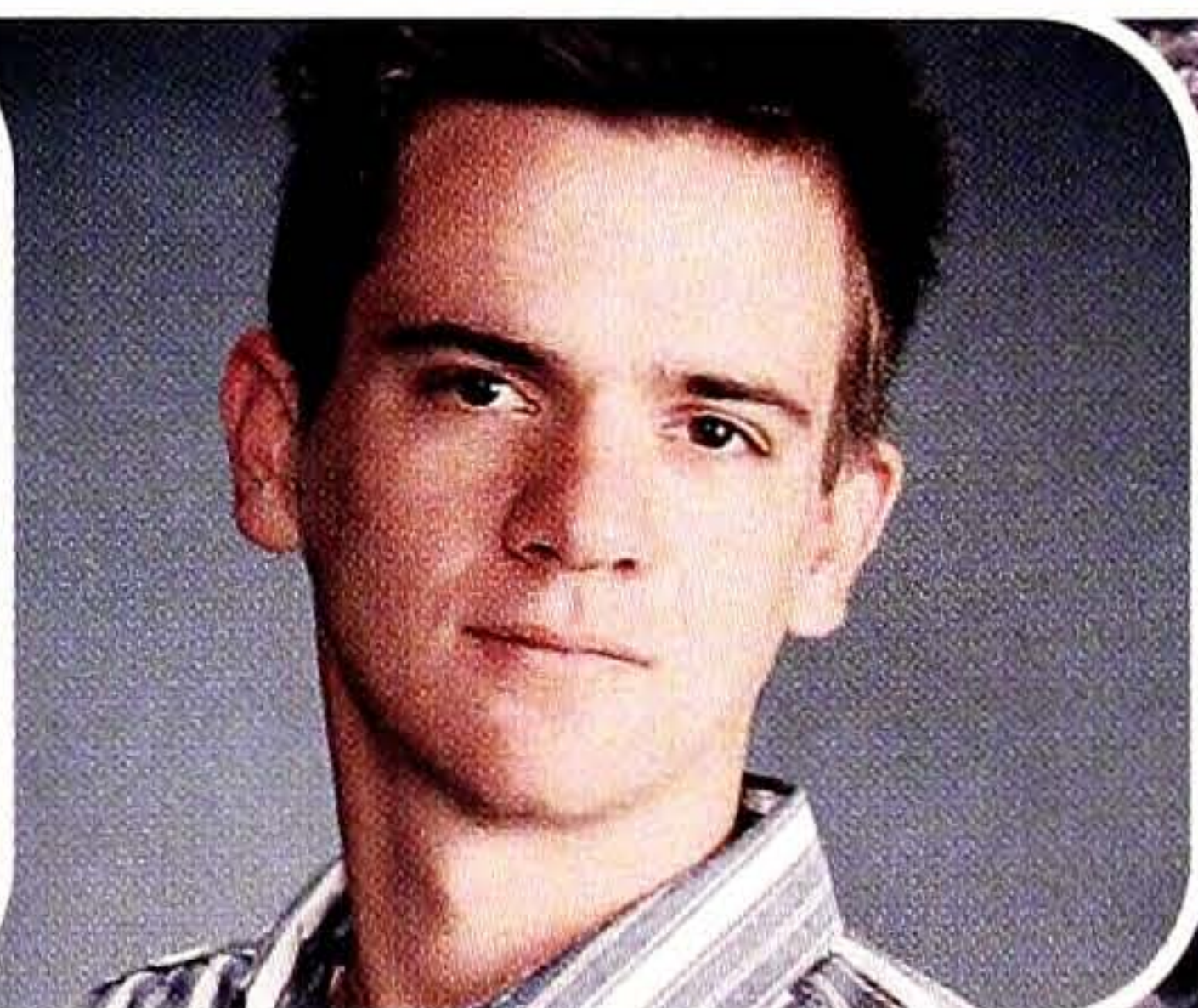
## COLORADO



### Krista Byers

**K**rista Byers of the Greenwood FFA Chapter in Millerstown overcame a critical injury to return to basketball, piano and the cattle show ring. During her recovery, she had to re-learn such basic skills as writing and walking. Krista is a former chapter president who plans to become an agriculture instructor. ★

Submitted by  
Dr. MeeCee Baker



### J.R. Sober III

**J**.R. Sober III entered Willcox High School in special education. But today, J.R. is a senior ready to graduate with honors in regular classes. Along the way, J.R. has participated in state FFA leadership conferences, led FFA parade floats, and earned honors including "Most Improved Student," "Student of the Month," and "Outstanding Camper at the Peoria FFA Mini-Camp." ★

Submitted by Mr. Wilkins &  
Ms. Linger



### Julie Kreps

**W**hen Julie Kreps of the Eaton FFA Chapter in Eaton, Colorado, spearheaded her chapter's holiday food basket drive, 64 needy families in the community benefitted from her leadership. Julie's organizational skills and diligence in food gathering, fund raising and food distribution demonstrated the citizenship and community responsibility for which all FFA members should strive. ★

Submitted by Ron Preston

## Jamie Redway

**O**klahoma's Grandfield FFA Chapter now has a member of royalty in its ranks! That's because member Jamie Redway was voted the 1995-96 Oklahoma Junior Brahman Queen at the Tulsa State Fair. Jamie was overwhelmingly elected by the Oklahoma State Brahman Breed Association at the fair and her new reign includes representing the association at all state functions and the junior nationals. According to chapter reporter Kent Kinzer, "Jamie represents the Grandfield FFA Chapter well and it is apparent from being around her that she is an honest and caring person and meets people easily." ★

Submitted by Kent Kinzer,  
reporter





# Study Aboard.



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## A tribute to Nathan



**A** tragic traffic accident claimed the life of Nathan Miller, an outstanding member of the Broadway FFA Chapter. As chapter members and family worked through the healing process, the Broadway FFA wanted to help the Miller family get back on its feet. So 16 FFA members, their families and advisors Randy Keyser and Dennis Smith spent an entire Saturday working to complete an equipment storage shed that Nathan and his father had started building before tragedy struck. The hard work and determination of the team was enough to nearly complete the 30-foot-by-40-foot structure. According to retired ag instructor James Hively, "Mr. Miller may have had a few less dents doing it himself, but the FFA did the job!" The shed now stands in tribute to the enthusiasm Nathan had for agriculture and for the Broadway FFA Chapter. ■

Clay Sellers, secretary

W.B. Saul FFA members helped raise the holiday spirits of children at an area shelter with their time and generosity.

## OHIO

### Call of The Wilds

**T**he West Muskingum FFA Chapter of Zanesville, Ohio recently received a \$2,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio FFA Foundation to be used at The Wilds, a nearby 10,000 acre animal preserve. A trail will be constructed by the chapter through a wetlands region in The Wilds to be used by research groups, education classes and visitors. The chapter will also build picnic benches, nesting boxes and graphics along the trail. ■

Submitted by the West Muskingum FFA Chapter

## PENNSYLVANIA

### One more from under the tree

**I**t may be summertime, but here's a little remaining Christmas cheer from Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love. Tamika Dover, Aliya Hart, Dawn Woods and John Woods, all members of the W.B. Saul FFA Chapter, along with their advisor Pam Synder, helped to brighten the holiday spirits of some less fortunate children at the Eliza Shirley House shelter with a delivery of gifts that truly made a difference. During a two-week period, the FFA team collected 40 stuffed animals; three large boxes of toys, games, and books; a festive wreath; and 20 fruit baskets donated from their chapter's fruit sale. When they delivered the gifts to the shelter, the FFA members said the children's hugs and smiles made all their hard work worthwhile. ■

Submitted by Tamika Dover, Aliya Hart and Dawn Woods





## MONTANA

### Where the buffalo roam

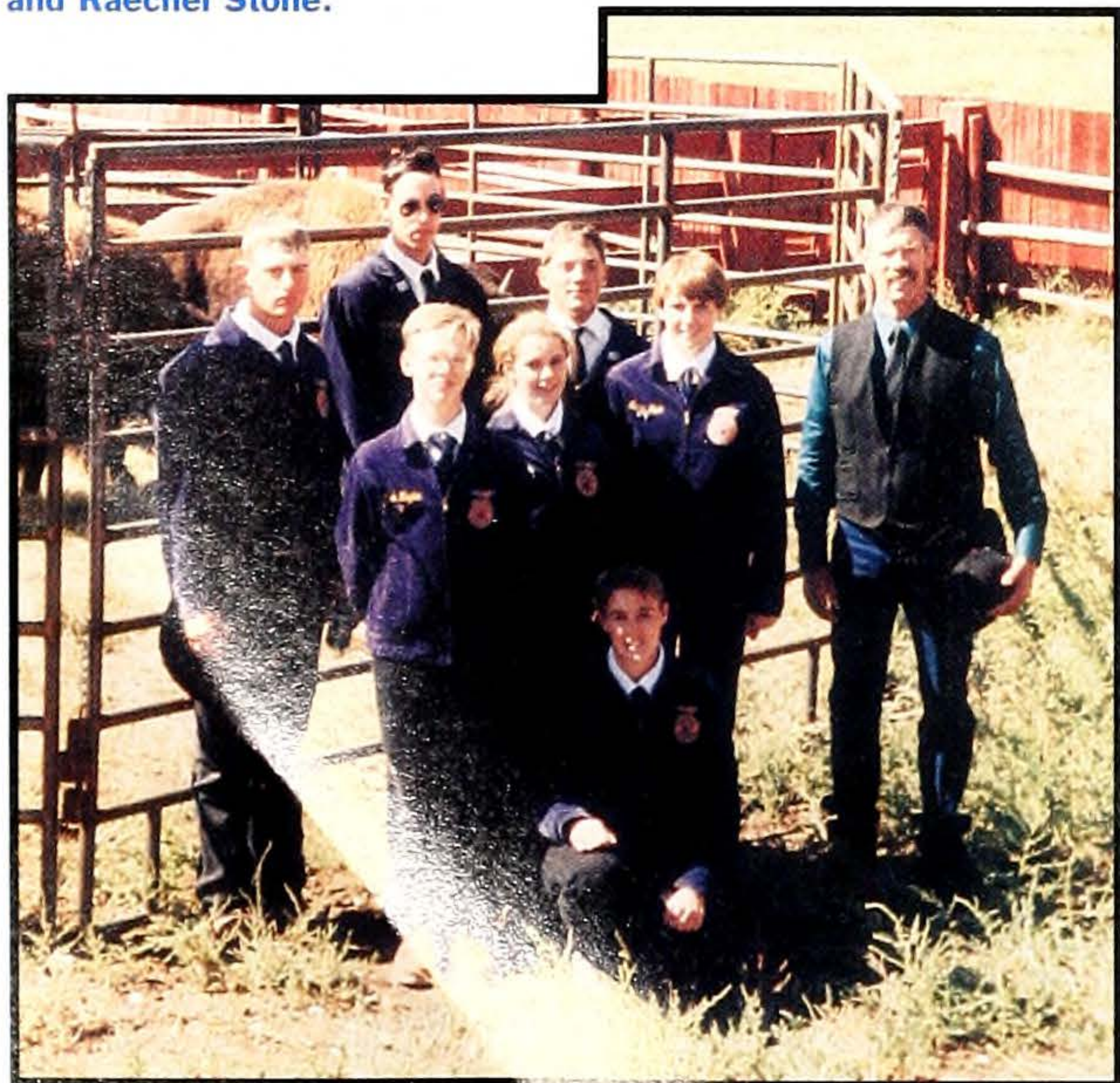
Last autumn, the Ruby Valley FFA Chapter of Sheridan, Montana, added an interesting new event to their annual Ruby Valley Invitational Livestock and Range Judging competition. For the first time, buffalo judging was included on the event roster. The chapter borrowed four bison from the nearby Snowcrest Ranch and invited FFA and 4-H contestants to judge the animals using the same criteria as cattle judging. To make the contest even more difficult, a female was inserted in the yearling breeding bull class. All but a few judges had trouble picking out the female. ■

Submitted by Raechel Stone



One of these "yearling breeding bulls" is actually a female! Can you spot her?

Bottom: Ruby Valley FFA officers pose outside the bison corral. Back row, left to right: Bill Stender, Andy Yecny, Brad Allhands, Kerry Buck and Ross Massar, advisor. Front row, left to right: Mark Hayden, Cori Dixon and Raechel Stone.



## ARIZONA



### Highland is hot!

Second year stand-outs! A few of the award-winning Highland FFA members.

In just its second year of existence—and its first year with senior members—the Highland FFA Chapter in Gilbert, Arizona, has already earned a gold ranking in the National Chapter Award Program. The young chapter also boasts the Arizona state champion agriculture sales team (which placed 25th in national competition) and the district champions in parliamentary procedure. What's

more, the chapter already holds an annual state FFA event—the GOLD conference for Arizona Greenhands. As for individual excellence, president Lance White of Highland is now a state FFA officer, while Brett Allen captured the State Star Greenhand award for first year members. Under the guidance of advisors Joe Granio, Clint Sanborn and Neil Schneider, the Highland FFA Chapter's roster now stands at 117 dedicated members. ■

Matt Simpson, reporter

HEY CHARLIE, CAN YOU BELIEVE HOW BUSY THESE FFA MEMBERS ARE?

YOU BET, LIL' SIS. GRAB THE CAMERA AND LET'S GET TO WORK, ROBIN. MAYBE NEXT MONTH, WE'LL BE HERE TOO!

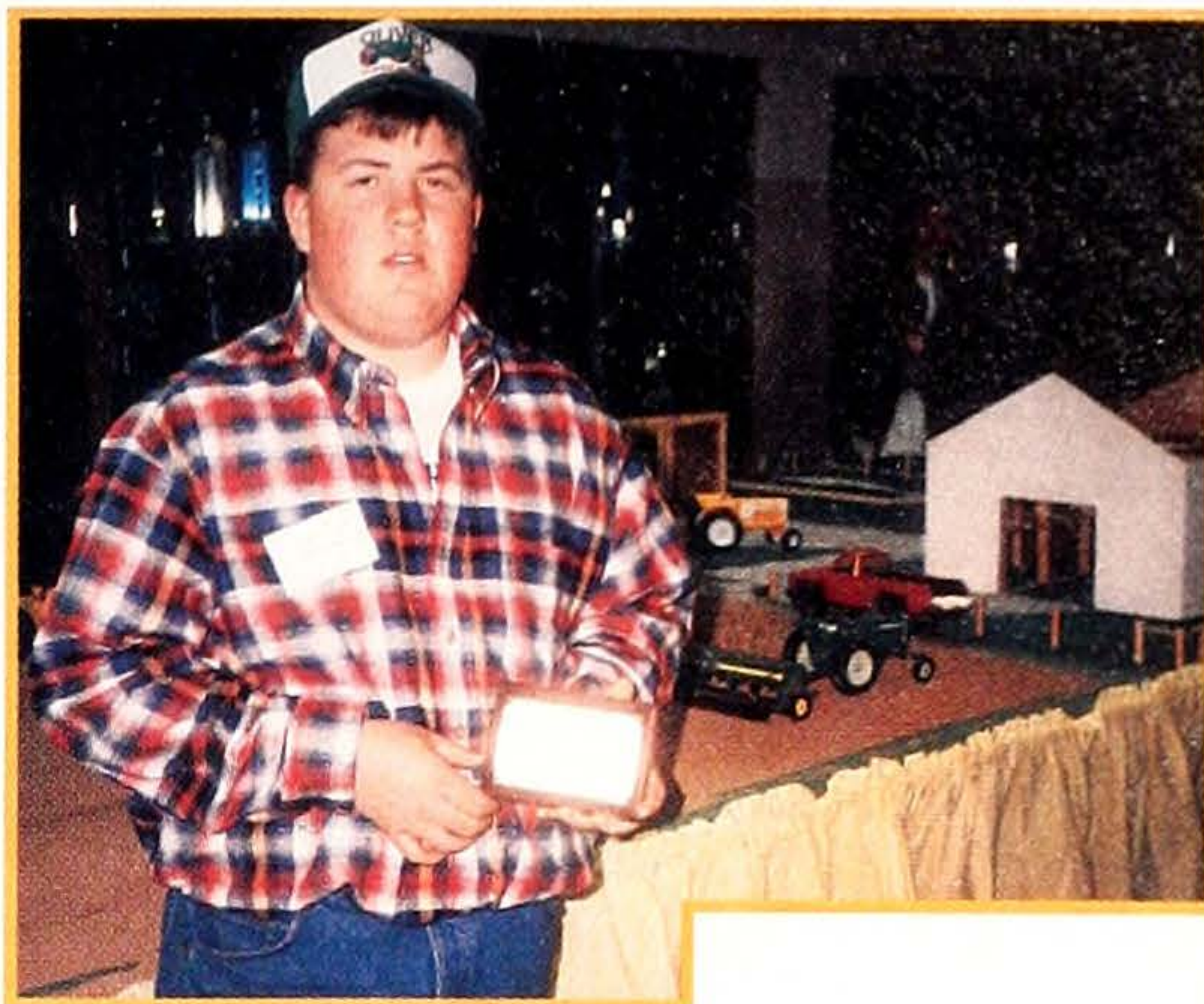




## KENTUCKY

### An FFA toy story

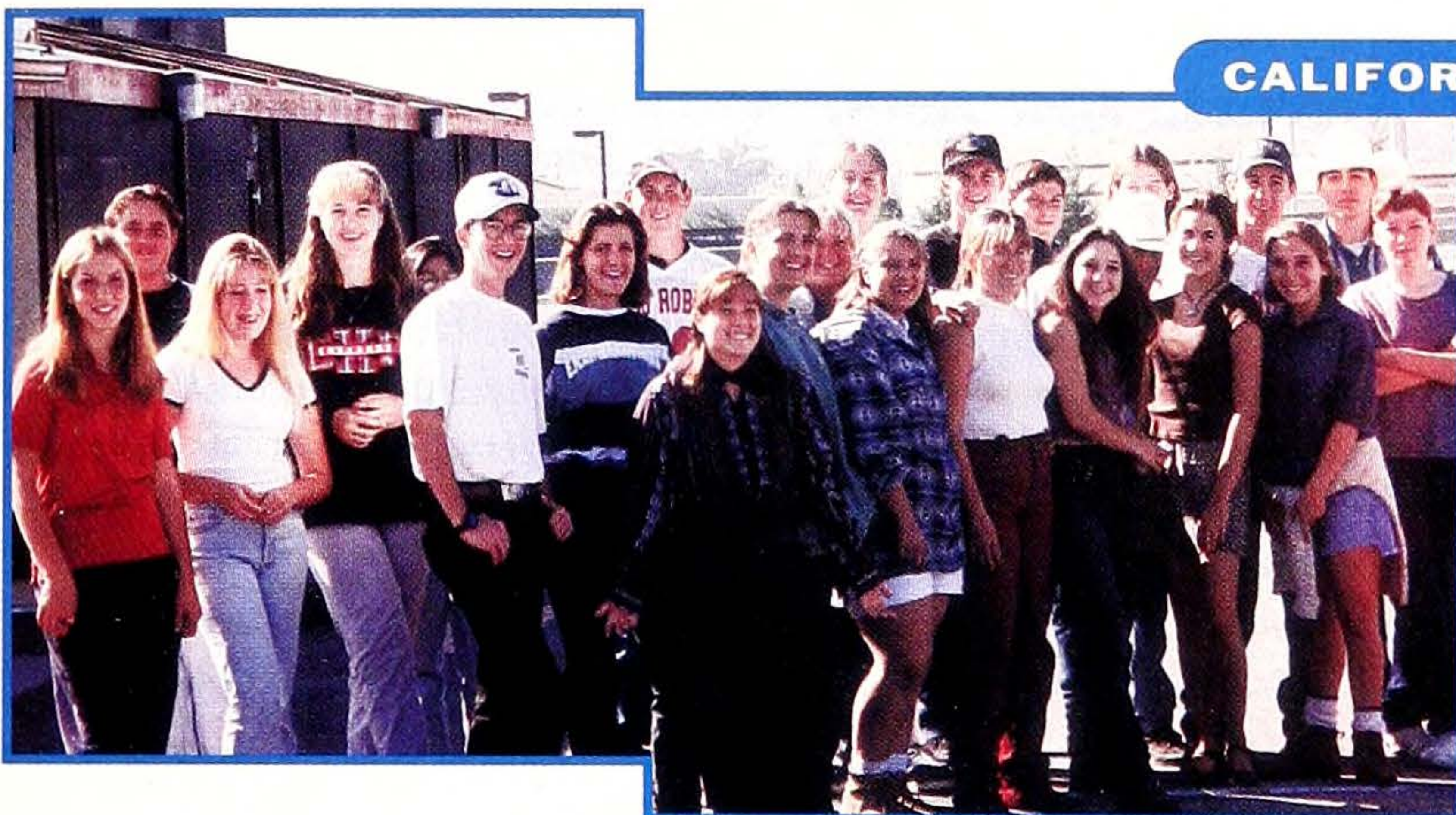
**Y**ou don't have to be a kid to love toys! Just ask members of the Spencer County FFA Chapter, whose Sixth Annual Farm Toy Show attracted more than 2,000 visitors and 153 exhibitors from as far away as Omaha, Nebraska and Buffalo, New York. Featuring miniature farmscapes and authentic scale models of famous farm equipment, the toy show was a fun way for the Spencer County FFA Chapter to raise funds for a new agri-science computer. The highlight of the show was an intense model and exhibit competition, with categories including largest display, best 1/64 scale display and best scratch-built display, among others. The 1996 toy show is scheduled for Dec. 13-14. ■



Travis Gordon, Best Overall Exhibit winner, poses in front of his first place toy display.

Ryan Bivens, reporter

## CALIFORNIA



Paso Robles students outside of the lathe house, a part of their new Agricultural Academy Laboratory Facilities.

### Paso Robles' new lease on learning

**P**aso Robles FFA members recently celebrated the grand opening of their brand-new Agricultural Academy Laboratory Facilities, located at Paso Robles High School. The new state-of-the-art facility includes a barn with beef, sheep and swine facilities; a greenhouse; a lathe house; several pastures; and even a fruit tree orchard. The six-acre working farm will provide the school's FFA members with a more hands-on agricultural

experience and will enable them to market, distribute and sell a vari-

ety of livestock and crop products for a profit. ■

Submitted by Bianca Cruz

## OREGON

### 'Twas' the season for selling

**W**hen your home is the Pacific Northwest, Christmas trees are a fixture year-round. So when it came time for the Crook County FFA to raise funds last winter, members bundled up and sold Christmas trees to local holiday shoppers. While many chapter members pitched in to help, Crook County FFA members Tim Rapp and James Wilson earned special recognition for setting up the area where the trees were sold. The sale was a great use of natural resources and a festive way to celebrate the holiday season!

Submitted by Jeff Reynolds

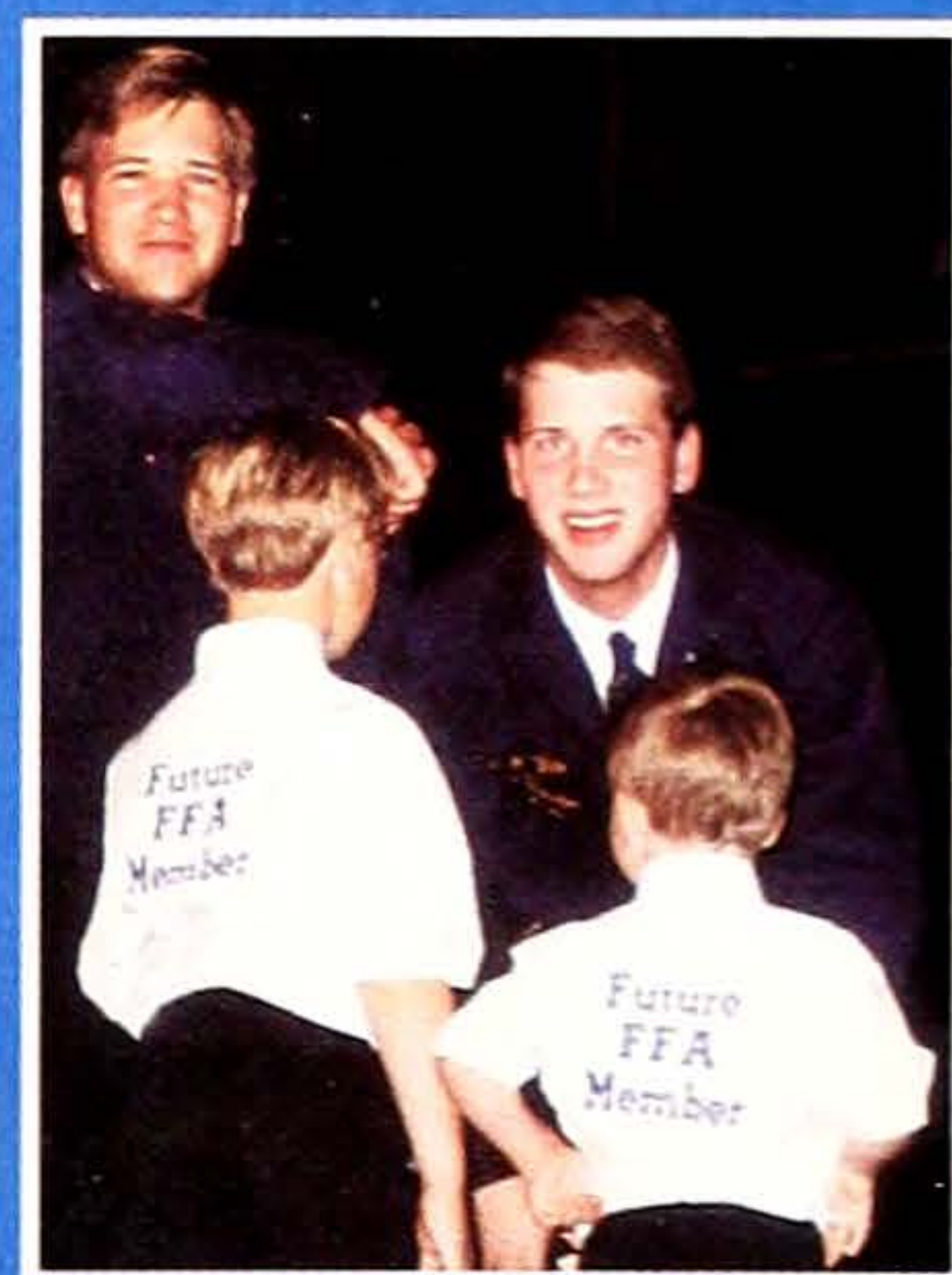
## ILLINOIS

### FFA: The next generation

**W**hen Ryan Tate, Illinois state vice president, delivered his retiring address at last year's Illinois Association FFA Convention, he was escorted to the stage by his two little brothers, Austin and Jordon. The two youngsters may have stolen the spotlight, however, when they approached the stage wearing matching shirts that read "Future FFA Member." The shirts, created by the boys' mother, Dianne, were a huge hit at the convention and show just how popular FFA already is with tomorrow's members. ■

Submitted by Shelly Shafer, Kirksville, Missouri

Brandon, Ryan, Austin and Jordon Tate are brothers who wear their FFA pride on their sleeves.





# Grüne

**F**rom the bustling crowds of Berlin's Grünewoche (Greenweek) International Expo to the serenity of the Bavarian countryside, the 1996 State Officer Greenweek Seminar gave a group of 41 state FFA officers a once-in-a-lifetime look at European agriculture.

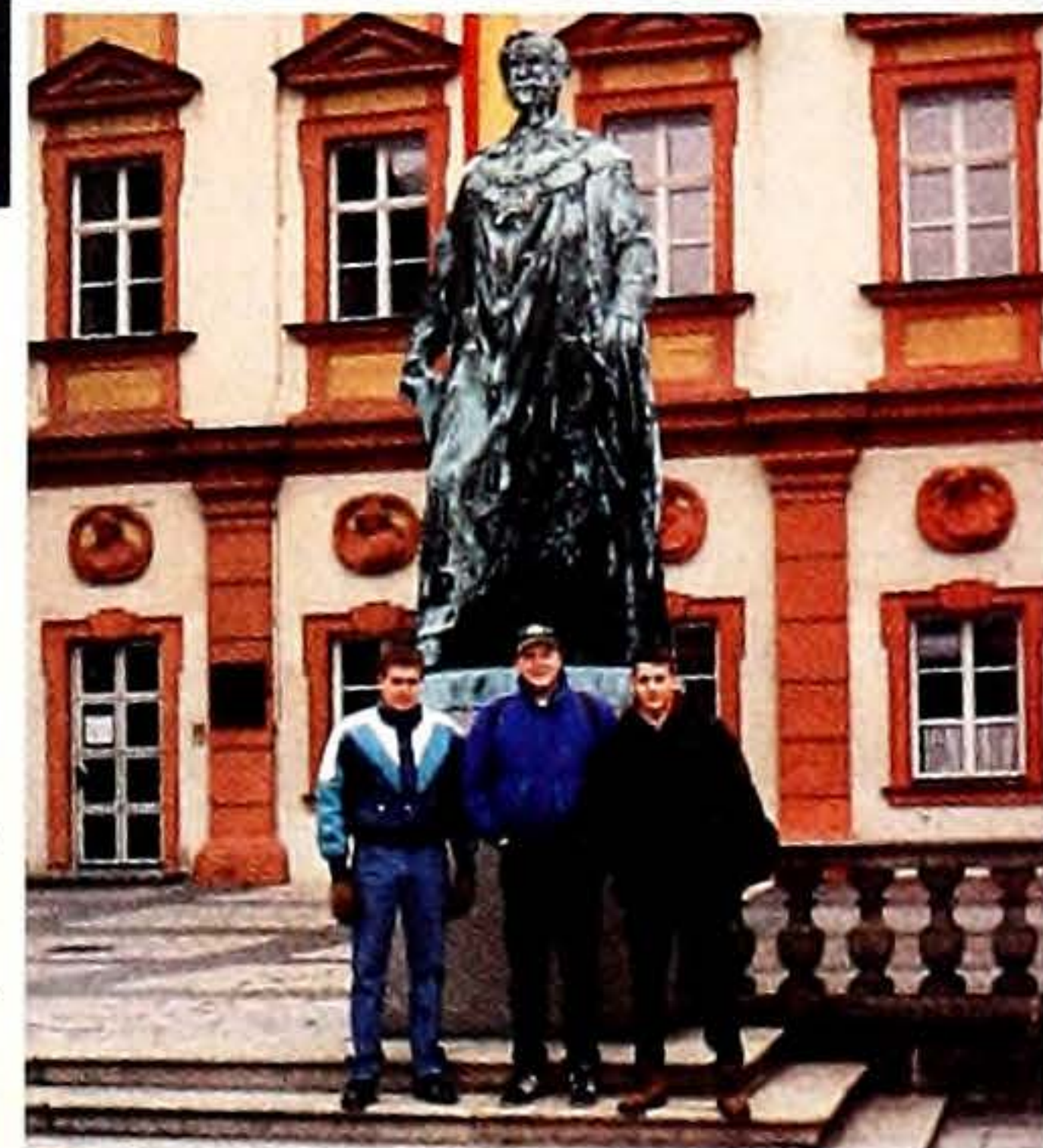
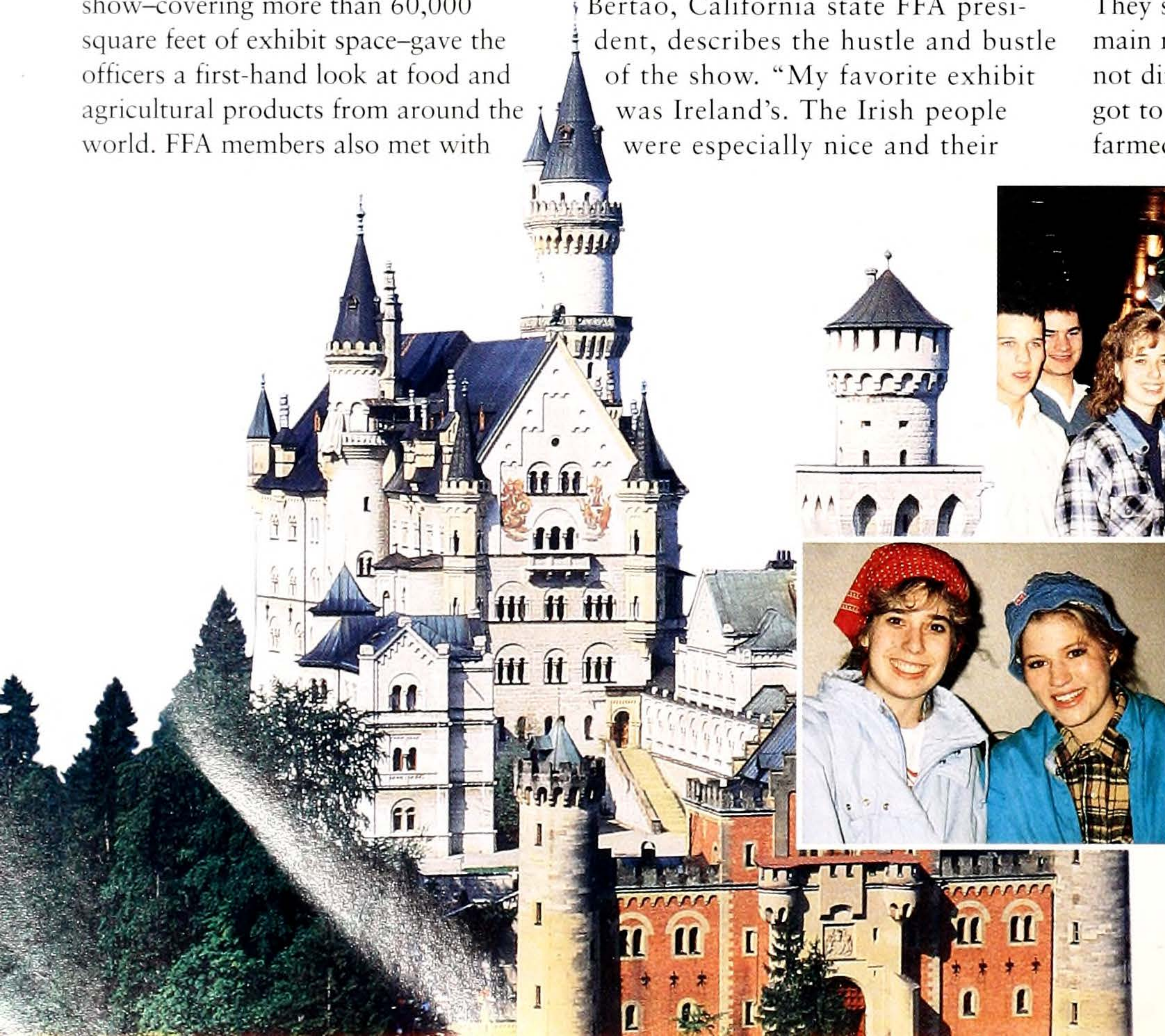
The 10-day tour began in the heart of Germany's capital city, Berlin, at Greenweek, the world's largest agricultural exhibition. This gigantic trade show—covering more than 60,000 square feet of exhibit space—gave the officers a first-hand look at food and agricultural products from around the world. FFA members also met with

American and foreign agricultural officials and displayed the “blue and gold” during the show's opening ceremony.

“Just awesome!” is how Ryan Bertao, California state FFA president, describes the hustle and bustle of the show. “My favorite exhibit was Ireland's. The Irish people were especially nice and their

decorations really stood out.”

From Berlin, the group journeyed into the German countryside for visits to a dairy farm, a teaching farm and a few nights' stay with a German host family. For most participants, this chance to live with local farm families was the best part of the trip. According to 19-year-old Alisha Walli, Washington state FFA secretary, living in a European home was a great learning experience. “It took a while to adjust to the language and the food. They spoke very little English and their main meals were breakfast and lunch, not dinner,” Walli says. “But once I got to see how the family lived and farmed, we formed a special bond.



Castle photo by Hideo Kurihara



# Woche!

**For a group of FFA state officers, the 1996 State Officer**

## **Greenweek Seminar**

**was the European**

**trip of a lifetime**

Now, I'm interested in learning another language and going back someday."

During her stay with a German host family, Janelle Johnson, Wisconsin state FFA vice president, gained a better understanding of European farming methods. "I was able to ask my (host) family lots of questions related to their farming practices. For example, I was surprised to learn Europeans avoid using growth hormones for cattle. And they keep their farms in the family, handing them down from one generation to the next."

Johnson and the other busy FFA travelers also toured a cheese processing plant, checked out a former East German collective farm and unwound

at Berlin's Hard Rock Cafe. They also learned about opportunities in European agribusiness from members of the Bund der Deutsche Landjugend, a Bavarian rural youth organization similar to FFA.

A high point for many on the Greenweek trip was a stopover in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Called "the city of one hundred spires" for its breathtaking architecture, Prague's winding streets and storybook castles were a unanimous crowd-pleaser. "It was like a museum," says

Dennis Fuqua, Alabama state FFA vice president. "Definitely one of the most beautiful cities I've ever seen."

After their Greenweek tour wrapped up in mid-January, the FFA officers came home loaded with souvenirs and filled with great memories. Many followed up their trip with presentations to local FFA chapters or community sponsors. And all are no doubt planning their next overseas adventure. ■

### **Global FFA adventure is a phone call away**

**G**rab your passport and pack your suitcase! If you want to learn about agriculture around the world, FFA has an international program just for you. And it takes just one phone call to the National FFA Center to get started. Explore adventures including:

- World Experience in Agriculture (WEA)
- Summer Homestay in England or Australia
- FFA Explorers Program in one of over 25 countries
- Agricultural Ambassadors to the United Kingdom
- Introduction to European Agriculture Seminar
- 1997 State Officer Greenweek Seminar

Application packets including itineraries, information, costs, passport applications and fund-raising pointers are available for all of these programs.

Deadlines are variable, so call today!

**Call Bruce White 703/360-3600 ext. 319 or Marti Lindell at ext. 238 for your application packets.**

The 1996 State Officer Greenweek Seminar in Germany gave 41 state FFA officers the opportunity to learn about European agriculture and experience German culture first-hand. During the 10-day trip, the officers toured different types of German farms, visited a host of famous German tourist sites and even spent time with a Bavarian rural youth organization similar to FFA.

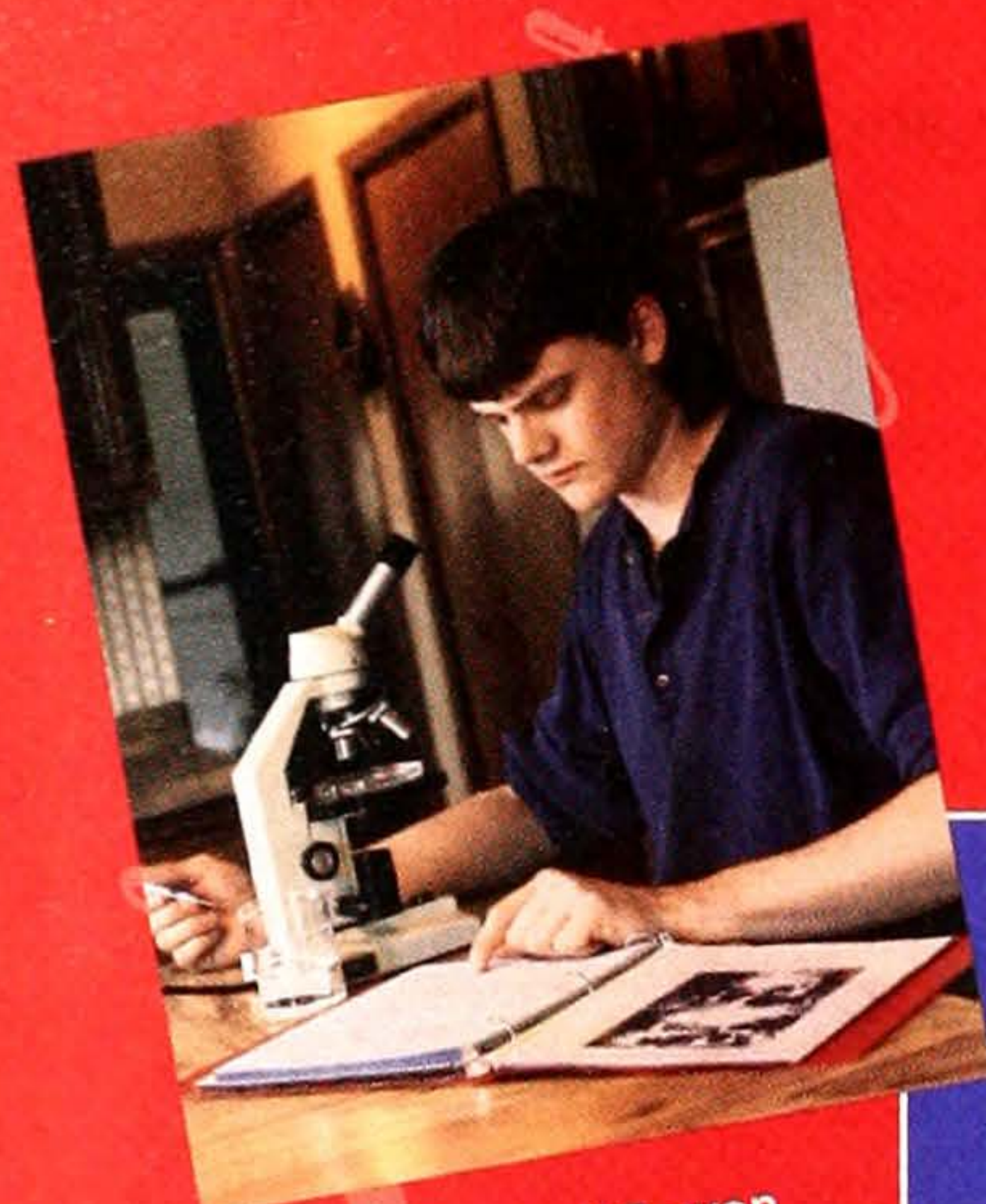


Brandenburg Gate photo by Steven Weinburg



# ag•ri•en•tre•pre•neur

(ag•ri•ân'tre•pre•nür) n. A person who identifies and pursues a market opportunity in the face of risk which may result in new businesses, products or services within the field of agriculture including food, the environment and natural resources.



Mike Jackson of Barron, Wisconsin, won a National Agri-Entrepreneur Award for his work in marketing dairy genetics via embryos.

Whatcha Gonna Do When You Graduate?

You're the  
**B**  **SS**

Whatcha Gonna Do When You Graduate?

## Just the Facts

- 75 percent of the American labor force works in companies with fewer than 100 employees
- 60 percent of Americans work for companies with fewer than 20 employees
- In 1995, Americans started three million companies

  
**Win \$10000!**



**Whatcha gonna do when you graduate? Next time you ponder a response to that never-ending query, consider an entrepreneurial answer.**

**W**hat's that you ask? Simply put, entrepreneurs are people who identify and pursue market opportunities. Bill Gates saw an opportunity to help make computers easier for the average person to use and created the Microsoft software empire. Deborah Fields thought people would be willing to pay top dollar for fresh-out-of-the-oven chocolate chip cookies and Mrs. Field's cookie kingdom was coronated. And let's not forget those master ice cream mixers in Vermont! Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield have tickled America's tastebuds all the way to the bank with creamy concoctions like wavy gravy and chubby hubby!

**I**f you're ready to taste the thrill of creating your own business, entrepreneurship may be just the ticket for you. There is no better time. Small business is booming in the United States and you can be a part of this exciting trend. As corporate America trims its workforce, many young people are finding their niche in entrepreneurial endeavors.

## **Win \$1,000**

**T**o help you and your classmates prepare for this emerging sector of the business world, FFA started a program last year to encourage and recognize budding agricultural entrepreneurs. Through the Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program, you can win up to \$150 at the chapter level and \$1,000 at the national level!

**I**f you've been thinking about starting a business or have already done so, then this program was tailor-made for you. You don't have to be the biggest to be the best. This program is designed to recognize ideas and business plans. A great idea that has just been developed will be just as competitive as an established business.

*For more information on this program, call The Council at 703-360-8832.*

The Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program is a joint activity of the National Council for Agricultural Education, the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association, the National FFA Alumni Association, the U.S. Department of Education and the National FFA Organization. This initiative is sponsored by and in partnership with the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Inc. of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City, Missouri, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

**A**pplying for the award is easy. The application consists of a series of questions asking you to describe your business or the business you're planning. Ask your advisor for an application today! To be eligible for national competition, all chapter-winning applications must be postmarked by July 15, 1996.

## **Ideas unlimited**

**L**ast year's National Agri-Entrepreneur Award winners showcased a wide range of business ideas. Charles Pearce from Wisconsin took advantage of the building boom in his area and started marketing the rocks picked out of fields as landscaping material. Johnathan Clough of California followed his interest in orchids and built a small business around

the exotic flowers. Mike McIntyre from South Dakota hired a couple of friends to help build fence and then decided to market the service to area farmers and ranchers. Jere Stewart of Idaho turned a liability into an asset by composting the manure produced by a dairy and selling the compost as a fertilizer/soil conditioner to local farmers and gardeners.

**Y**ou can become an entrepreneur, too! Look around your community for needed products or services. Match the opportunities with your interests and then make it happen!





**unearth**



Richard Galt  
President

**Richard Gallo, 1995-1996  
Vice President of New Jersey's  
East Brunswick FFA Chapter,  
is one of the many FFA  
members now surfing the Net.**



# Adventures

A journey online

a wealth of agricultural information

# in

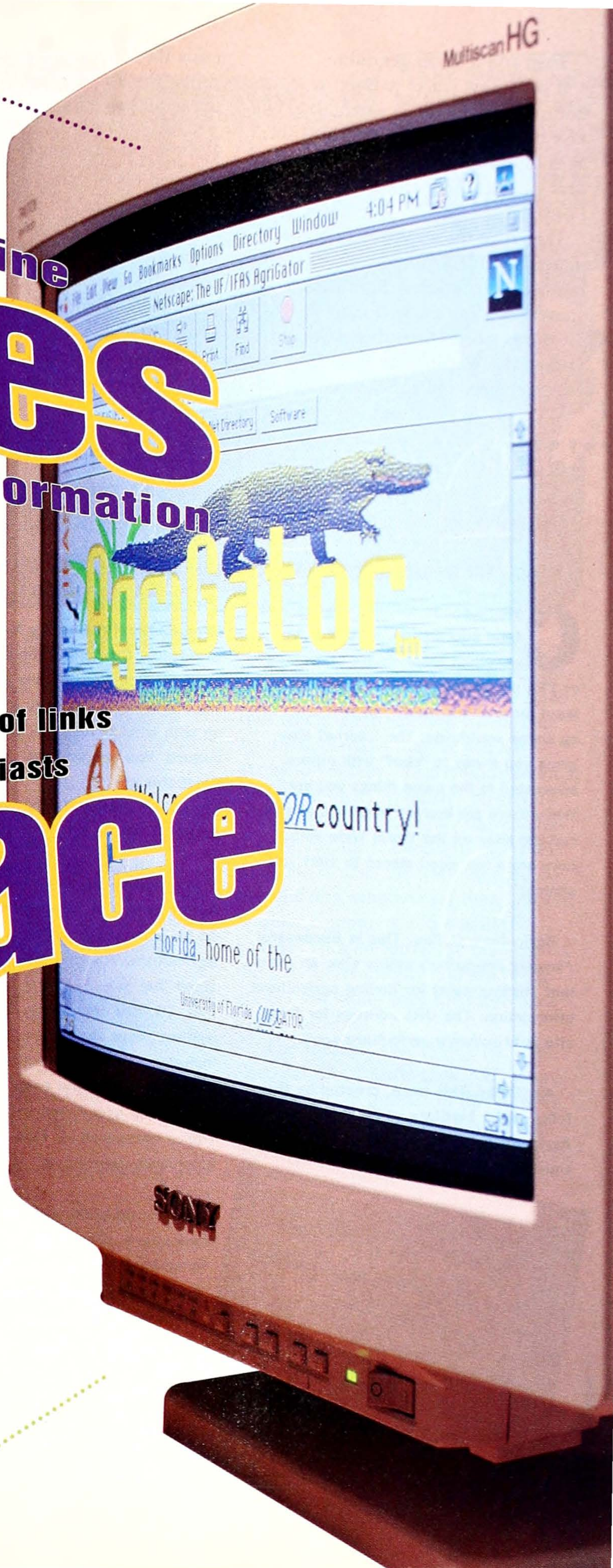
as well as hundreds of links

to FFA members and ag enthusiasts

# cyberspace

from around the country  
by Carlotta Mast

**W**ant to know what FFA members in Nebraska are up to? Looking for a way to swap ideas with other students from around the country interested in agriculture? Need to find out about cattle breeds for a school project in a jiffy? (continued on page 18)





Then you'd better get online.

If you know where to look, you can unearth a gold mine of agricultural and FFA information as well as meet other ag enthusiasts and organization members while cruising around cyberspace. I sure did.

Thanks to the wealth of FFA and ag material available online, the Internet has become a primary information source for all of my *FFA New Horizons* stories. (For this article, I cruised the World Wide Web to find FFA members and ag teachers who are

using the Internet in agricultural education projects, and I conducted most of the interviews via e-mail.)

## The search

I started my online journey with a keyword search for "FFA" using my Netscape browser, which linked me to more than 100 World Wide Web sites containing the word "FFA" (the results are similar using any Web-based browser). While some of these links were not associated with the National FFA Organization, the search was a

good starting point.

From this query, I found the home page of the Mississippi FFA Association, which is maintained by Sturgis High School agriscience teacher David Holten. The site's "visitor guest book" proceeded to link me to the hundreds of FFA members and advisors from across the country who had signed the page and left their e-mail addresses.

This is how I met Brandy Marsich, vice president of the New Castle County FFA Chapter in Delaware. Brandy uses the Internet to research school and FFA projects as well as to keep in contact with other FFA members.

"There are so many possibilities on the Internet," Brandy wrote me in an e-mail message from the University of Delaware, where she is a freshman.

"You can do anything from apply to college or for a job, get information

for a paper, play games, meet new friends, or even find out what's going on on your favorite TV show. The possibilities are endless. This is the way people will probably commu-

nicate in the future.

"I've mainly just 'cruised' when I've had a little extra time and found all kinds of neat things. I've had the chance to tap into several agricultural resources on the Internet. It is a great way to learn about many different aspects of agriculture without ever having to leave my computer. Many of these resources have pictures and even movies.

"I use e-mail to keep up with my state president. She also attends the University of Delaware. Although we only live about 10 minutes from each other, we both have very different, busy schedules. E-mail allows us to leave messages for each other. Because we both use it so much, we often get an e-mail message before we would ever have checked our phone messages."

## Hot sites

# Wired with information

Looking for ag sites? Here are a few you won't want to miss.

**C**yberspace is teeming with agricultural information, making it an excellent resource for school, ag or FFA projects, or for just browsing to learn more about what's happening on the ag scene worldwide. The Internet also gives you a way to "chat" with others interested in the same things you are. While there are literally hundreds of agricultural sites on the World Wide Web, here are a few good places to start your search:

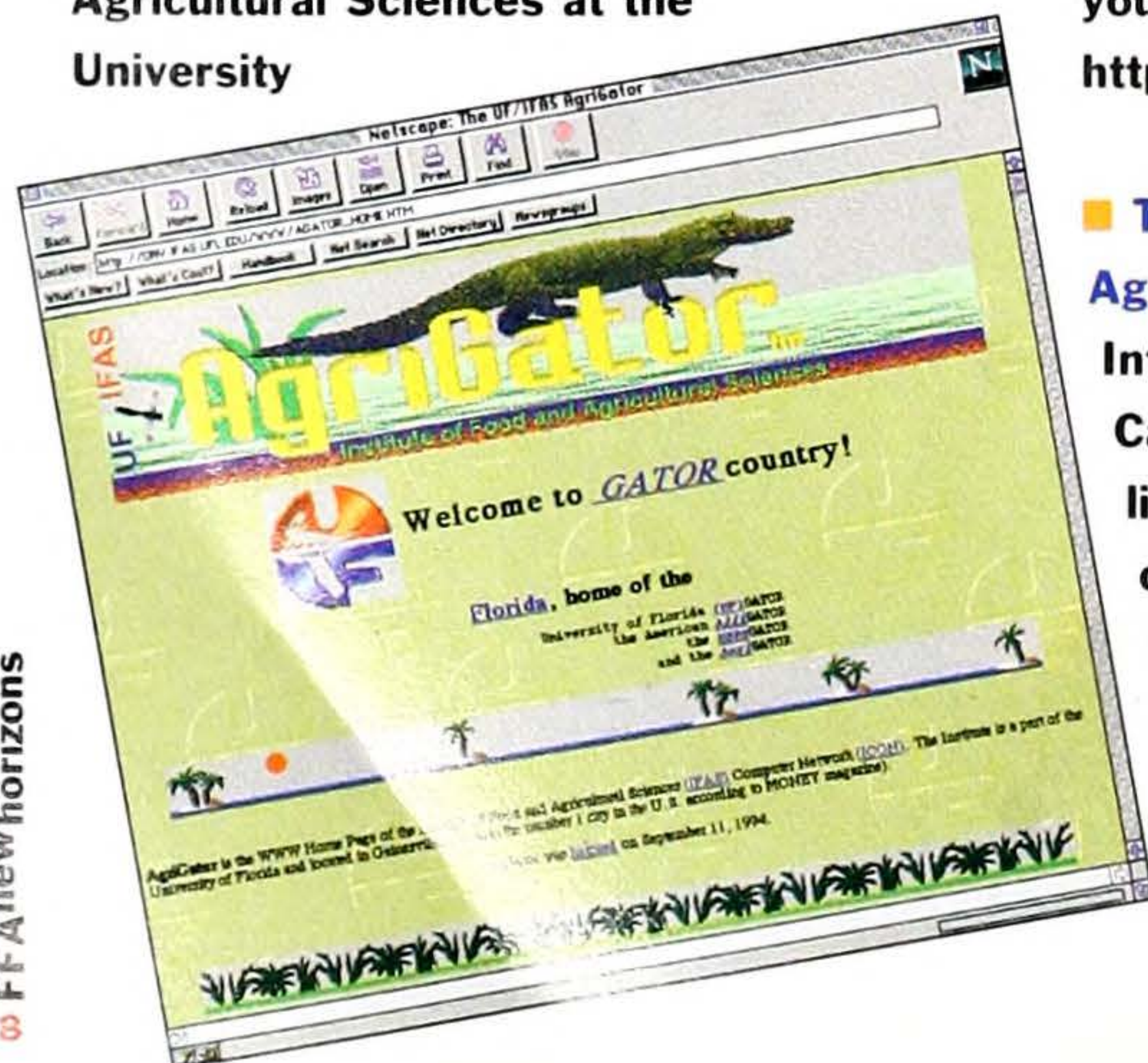
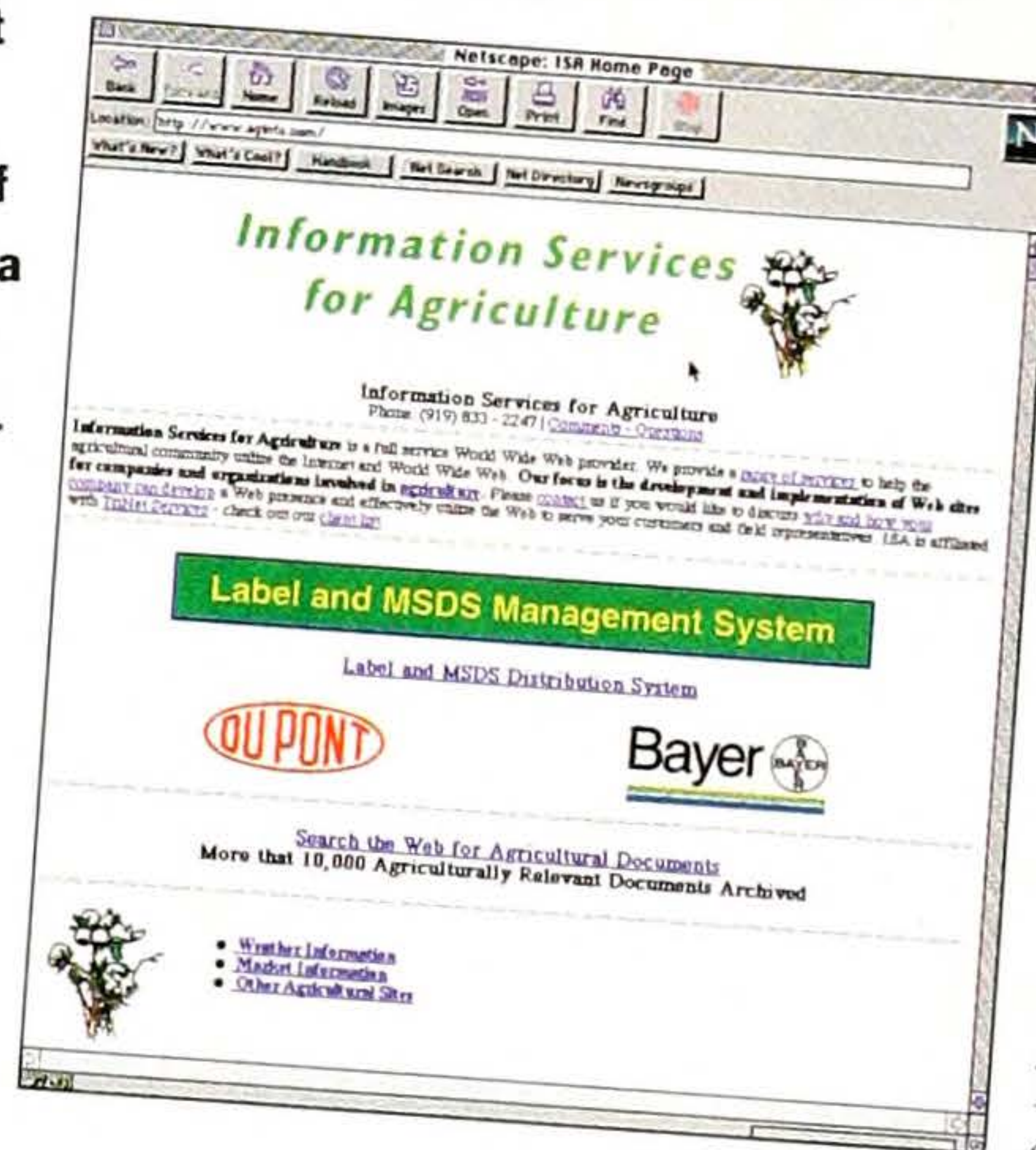
■ **@agriculture Online.** This is *Successful Farming* magazine's online site, an excellent starting point for finding agricultural information. The URL address for this site is <http://www.agriculture.com/>.

■ **AgriGator.** This page, created by the folks at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University

of Florida, packs an extensive list of agricultural resources found worldwide. Created in the form of a cyberspace swamp, this site is a fun and entertaining way to keep up with what is happening in agriculture. You can find the AgriGator at [http://GNV.IFAS.UFL.EDU/WWW/AGATOR\\_HOME.HTM](http://GNV.IFAS.UFL.EDU/WWW/AGATOR_HOME.HTM)

■ **Information Services for Agriculture.** This site was created by Information Services for Agriculture. The cool thing about this page is that it contains more than 10,000 documents that have been written about agriculture. ISA's page includes a special search engine that uses key words you enter to locate the documents associated with the topic you're interested in. Find this site at <http://www.aginfo.com>

■ **The World Wide Web Virtual Library for Agriculture.** Maintained by the Center for Integrated Pest Management at North Carolina State University, this page links to an unbelievable amount of agricultural information on home pages from all over the world. You will definitely want to "bookmark" this site for future use. The address: [http://ipmwww.ncsu.edu/cipm/Virtual\\_Center.html](http://ipmwww.ncsu.edu/cipm/Virtual_Center.html)





The Mississippi FFA home page also linked me to Charles Robison, a member of the Dallas FFA Chapter in Dallas, Oregon, and a freshman at Hillsdale College in south-central Michigan.

"I've used the Internet to research cattle breeds, livestock and NAFTA," Charles told me in an e-mail message.

"Students can use the Internet to find information that is very up-to-date and possibly unavailable to them in text books or local libraries.

Information about government agencies and university research is also out

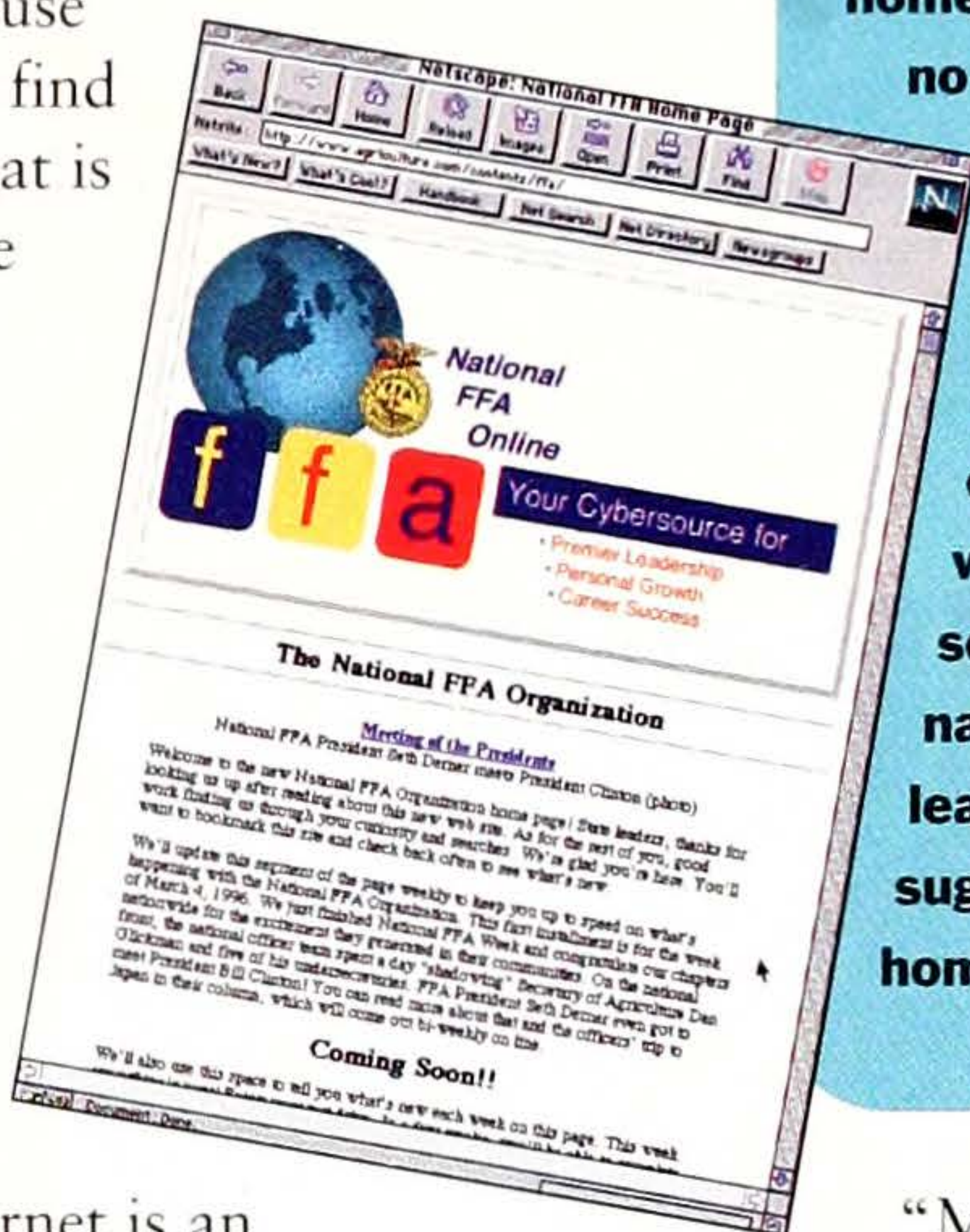
there. The Internet is an excellent resource for FFA competitions that require research."

## Spreading the word about FFA

While cruising along online I also uncovered a ton of FFA members using their own home pages to promote the organization. Jed Aplaca, state reporter for the Hawaii FFA Association and a member of the Kahuku FFA Chapter, has linked his personal home page to the state's FFA Web site.

"It's a good way to do some advertising for our association," Jed wrote me in an e-mail message. "I created my home page just for fun and to see if I could do it. I'm hoping it will communicate who I am and promote the FFA."

Richard Gallo, vice president of the East Brunswick FFA Chapter in New Jersey, has created an FFA home page as one of his SAE projects in hopes of promoting agricultural literacy. Right now, the site offers information about FFA as well as news from his chapter and the New Jersey FFA Association. Richard has also linked his page to the Web site for the National FFA Organization, which was officially launched in cyberspace in March. Richard invites everyone to visit his site at: <http://pages.prodigy.com/NJ/turfman/FFA.html>.



Check it out...

## National launches website

If you've been looking for the National FFA Organization's official home page on World Wide Web, look no longer. National's brand new site is up and running, and just waiting for you to visit.

The site boasts general FFA and agricultural information, excerpts from FFA publications as well as information on awards and scholarships, and a column by the national FFA officers. Members can leave their ideas, comments and suggestions about the site on the home page's message board.

Eventually, the page will offer members access to FFA documents, including FFA program applications for downloading, FFA and agricultural clip art, and links to state and local FFA pages and other ag sites on the Internet.

Stop by National's new site at <http://www.ffa.org>. And remember to visit often—new material is being added all the time.

IT'S ME DARRYL! I'VE JUST 'BOOKMARKED' MY NEW FAVORITE WEB SITE—THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION HOME PAGE. YOU CAN BET I'LL BE CLICKING ON THIS ONE!



"Millions of people surf the Web everyday," he says. "It's a great way to let people know about our organization and I think it will help increase membership. It can mean a lot for the future of the FFA."

## Learning while surfing

Along with bumping into FFA members on the Web, I met a number of ag teachers who are using the Internet in the classroom. One such teacher is Ed Settle, an agriscience teacher at Biggersville High School in Biggersville, Mississippi. Settle received a NASA grant in 1994 to equip his classroom with 10 computers and a cyberspace connection. He uses the computers as well as the Internet in his daily agriscience lessons.

"Students are very excited about the information they are able to access on the Internet," Settle says. "It's proved to be an excellent tool in their education. In my classes, we try to keep everything focused on agriculture. There's a lot of ag information out there. We just conducted an Internet search to gain more information on photosynthesis."

"Students will read a screen when they won't pick up a book. They realize the information is current and that makes it

more appealing. I believe the classrooms of the future will have very few printed text books. Most of our reference materials will be electronic and will be constantly updated so that we will have access to virtually all current information that is out there. And that's powerful."

Using e-mail, Settle has started conducting his agriscience tests electronically. He e-mails the test questions to the students, who answer the questions on their computers and e-mail the answers back to Settle. He then grades the tests electronically and sends the graded test along with the score back to the student.

"The students love taking the tests electronically," Settle says. "They have really taken an interest in this form of testing and are doing really well with it. With this procedure, nothing is ever written down on paper."

## Happy trails

If you're not currently online, inquire within your school or FFA chapter or at your local library about how you might be able to get wired. Your local county extension service or university may even offer free classes on how to use the Internet. No matter how you get online, do it now. There's so much information out there just waiting to be found.

See you online. ■



# SUMMER

## Places to hit on your

compiled by **Michael Speck**



### Bigfoot Hunt

#### Mount Hood National Forest, Oregon

Don't believe in Bigfoot? Then you won't mind camping a few nights in the scenic forests considered his home turf. 503/666-0771

### Redwood National Park

#### Crescent City, California

Drive through a forest filled with trees weighing more than 500 tons each and rising taller than the Statue of Liberty. No climbing! 707/464-6101

### Nani Mau Gardens

#### Hilo, Hawaii

Take a stroll through an old-style garden of orchids and exotics. Then, see how traditional Hawaiian leis are made. 808/959-3541



### Petrified Forest National Park

#### Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona

Once a vast flood plain and home to dinosaurs of all sizes, this remarkable park is now chock full of fossils. 602/524-6228

### Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame and Museum of the American Cowboy

#### Colorado Springs, Colorado

Where do old cowboys go when their rodeo days are through? You'll find most of the sport's top superstars right here. 719/528-4764



### Wall Drug Wall, South Dakota

You've seen the signs, bumper stickers and t-shirts. On your next trip through the Badlands, check out this unusual shopping world first-hand. 605/279-2175



### National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame

#### Bonner Springs, Kansas

Learn about the history and traditions of American agriculture in this museum dedicated to the best farmers in the world. Don't forget to take a look at the very first FFA jacket on display here. 913/721-1075

### National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Museum

#### Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

From John Wayne to the real thing, if it's cowboy lore you want, gallop into this place. 405/478-2250





# vacation



## National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame

Hayward, Wisconsin

A museum dedicated to the ones that didn't "get away."  
715/634-4440

## "Field of Dreams" House

Dyersville, Iowa

Kevin Costner may have left, but you can still stop by the movie's featured house and famous cornfield baseball diamond.  
319/875-8404

## Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory

Waterbury, Vermont

If you love Chunky Monkey® and Cherry Garcia®, come tour the plant where chunks and chips meet eggs and cream. And tell 'em FFA New Horizons editor Jim Scott sent you! 802/244-5641

## Cranberry World

Plymouth, Massachusetts

Forget the town's favorite rock! Once you've learned cranberry cultivation techniques and the stories of the first Thanksgiving, it's on to samples of muffins, juices and jellies!  
508/747-2350



## National FFA Organization Headquarters

Alexandria, Virginia

While zipping through the sights of our nation's capital, be sure to catch a glimpse of the organization's colonial-style headquarters building located on the grounds of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. 703/360-3600

## James Dean Memorial

Fairmount, Indiana

A tribute to the guy who defined teen rebellion. If you thought this 1950s screen legend was pure Hollywood, wait until you see Dean's preserved 4-H soil experiment at the Fairmount Museum. 317/948-4555



## Country Music Hall of Fame

Nashville, Tennessee

Branson may be hot, but here's where it all began. Exhibits of country artists past and present are sure to keep your toes tappin' and send you running to the record store—or, even better, the nearby Grand Ole Opry. 615/255-5333

## Ernest Hemingway Home

Key West, Florida

Sure, it's summertime, but why not do a little extra credit for your upcoming lit class? This is where "Papa" lived in the '30s and descendants of his beloved six-pawed cats still roam the halls and garden. 305/294-1575



## John Deere Center

Moline, Illinois

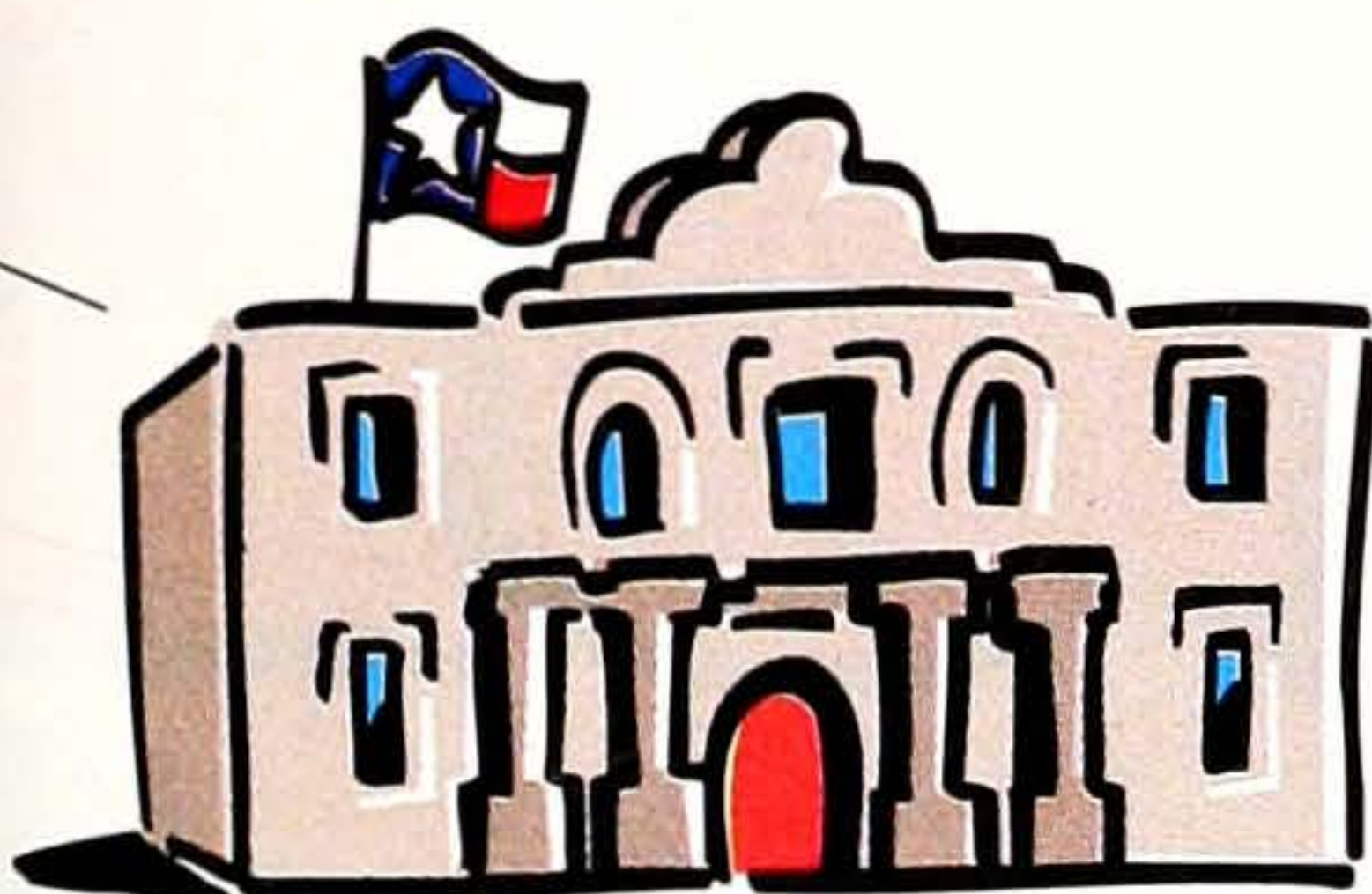
Trace the proud heritage of this agriculture equipment manufacturer with a visit to the company's museum. You'll see everything from Deere's first plow to today's high-tech combines. 309/765-8000



## The Alamo

San Antonio, Texas

This old mission is not just for history buffs! Visit the spot where Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie went down fighting in 1836. 210/225-1391





**A**ntonio Alvarado thinks it's fun to spend two long, hot days every year shoveling dirt and picking up trash on a remote mountain trail in California.

It gets weirder. He has more than 25 friends who feel the same way.

"Sure it's hard work," Antonio says, "but it's a lot of fun getting to know other people in the FFA, and getting along together around the campfire."

It really isn't so weird once you learn more about it. Antonio, a member of the Orosi FFA Chapter in central California, knows his hard work on those annual trail-building trips in the Sierra Nevada Mountains makes a difference. Other chapters are doing their part by cleaning up once-pristine areas blighted by trash or attracting wildlife back to native habitats. Still others are creating outdoor classrooms where they can learn first-hand about a host of basic environmental issues.

Twenty-five of these environmentally

aware chapters, including Orosi, were rewarded for their efforts recently with National FFA Environmental Grants, sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Rifle Association.

The Orosi Chapter began restoring a two-mile section of the Bear Wallow recreational trail two years ago. The project involves an annual overnight trek to regrade the 20-foot-wide trail, install water bars and dips, build stair steps and clear away debris. They do this so livestock can reach pasture and sightseers can access the awesome beauty of the Sierras without upsetting the area's delicate ecological balance.

"The cattle trample and destroy the trail during the year, so we focus on reconstructing and repairing the damage, which helps reduce soil erosion," says chapter secretary Stacy Marquez.

But the project does as much for the students as it does for the environment.

"Before I joined the ag program, I

by **Charles Laughlin**

# giving natu

**FFA members roll up their sleeves and  
make a difference by cleaning up—and  
learning from—the great outdoors**







really didn't know very much about the environment," Antonio says. "I cared mostly about myself." Today it's a different story. After two years of ag classes, Antonio, 19, has decided on a career in natural resources management. And even though he's still a high school senior, he's already getting college credit through a special program at a local community college.

Kent Kinney, Antonio's chapter advisor, says projects like the trail restoration effort and general awareness from the media and other sources has boosted interest in careers in environmental science, resource management and outdoor recreation.

"Interest in environmental science in our chapter has really skyrocketed," Kinney says. "And I think that reflects a national trend."

### Being **out** in **nature**

Walker Dunn has combined FFA principles and his own Native American wisdom to pass along a much-needed message about respecting nature to members of an Arkansas FFA chapter. Dunn, a chief in the Cherokee Nation, is also advisor of the Bradford FFA Chapter in Bradford, Arkansas.

His 160 students have transformed a



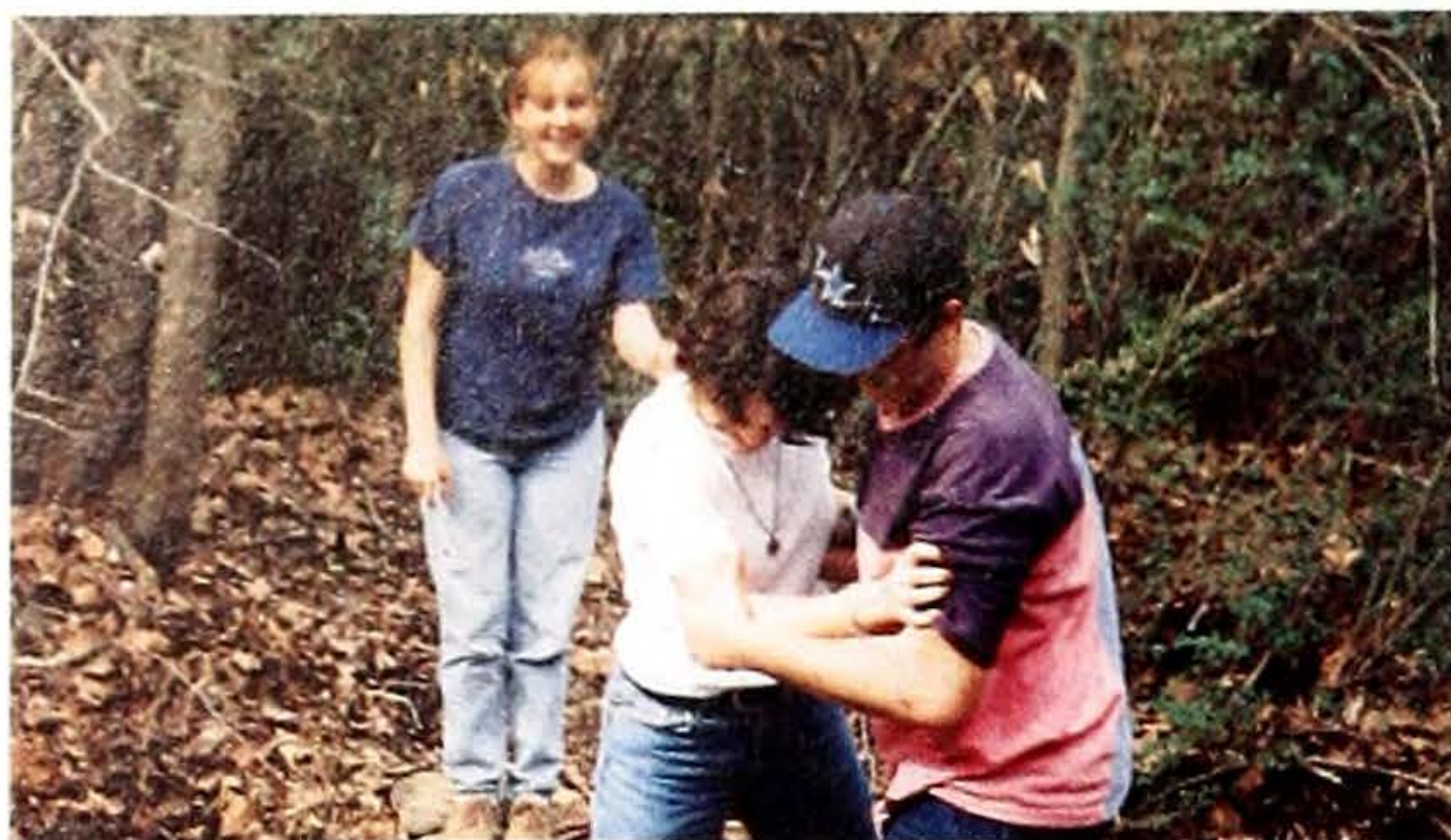
**Top: Morgan County, Georgia, students check on the catfish population. Above: The Orosi FFA trail team takes a breather.**

woodland area running along a creek bank near the high school from an underappreciated, litter-strewn dump into a nature trail that draws people from all over the rural northeastern Arkansas community.

But restoring this stretch of woodland

# re hand





**Bradford, Arkansas, chapter members help each other cross a dam they built in a once-neglected woodland area.**

oak and buckeye is valuable because it's a fun place for students to just hang out. "You can just see how happy they get when they are out there," he says. "There is something about being out in nature that suddenly makes people more pleasant."

### **The ag program was dead**

In Morgan County, Georgia, an ambitious environmental project helped revive the local

FFA chapter more than seven years ago. "When I came here, the ag program was dead; there was no program going on," says Morgan County advisor Blane Marable. "We were looking for a way to revive it."

was not Dunn's main objective. His goal was to bring back an appreciation for nature that he says has been lost in this country. And because his chapter has a high percentage of Native American students, he feels it's extra important to reinforce the strong bond with nature that is central to native cultures.

"The students have really learned to appreciate and respect the environment,"

After looking around for something to help breathe life back into the Morgan County High School ag program, Marable finally found what he was looking for right under his nose: a three-acre garbage-strewn eyesore located between the high school and middle school. "I met with the students that we had—there were about 10 FFA members at the time—and the environment was a hot topic," he says. "So we decided to focus our community development program on environmental education."

The chapter took that neglected piece of land and transformed it from the unofficial local dump into a one-acre pond on a three-acre site with a diverse fish, plant and wildlife population. The pond area became an outdoor laboratory where students study water samples, do species balance checks on the fish population, and work with state and federal resource management agencies to learn how they go about managing natural resources. And when school's out, community groups and others use the area for gatherings.

Marable says the pond project has really been the driving force in bringing the chapter back from the verge of extinction. There are now more than 100 FFA members at Morgan, and its members keep an active events schedule including last year's second-in-state finish in the "Enviro-thon" national environmental science competition.

## **"This project has really brought a higher quality of students into our program."**

"This project has really brought a higher quality of students into our program," Marable says. "We have a lot of college-

Dunn says. "Before, when you would take a large group of students out into nature, the first thing they'd start doing was pulling the leaves off the trees and kicking off moss and that kind of thing. Now they realize that isn't what they want to do at all. They want to protect those things."

The outdoor classroom is used for the usual things: plant science, aquaculture, you name it. But Dunn doesn't mind admitting the hilly area filled with cedar,

bound members who are very interested in environmental aspects of agriculture, and it has drawn in a lot of students who are committed to the environment."

How committed? "There is so much interest that we've started a 'zero period' where students on a voluntary basis come in one hour early to meet before the regular school day starts," Marable says. "Instead of six classes, they are taking seven classes a day."

Now that's committed! ■

## **Thinking about a career in the environment? Check out these resources:**

### **Organizations**

**The Environmental Careers Organization (ECO)**  
68 Harrison Ave.  
Boston, MA 02111  
617/426-4783

### **Student Conservation Association**

P.O. Box 550  
Charlestown, NH 03603  
603/543-1700

### **Books/Directories**

**World Environmental Directory**  
Business Publishers Inc.  
951 Pershing Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301/587-6300

### **Peterson's Job Opportunities in the Environment 1995**

Peterson Guides  
P.O. Box 2123  
Princeton, NJ 08543-2123  
800/338-3282

### **1995 Conservation Directory**

National Wildlife Federation  
1400 16th, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20036-2266  
202/797-6800

### **A Guide to Environmental Internships**

National Society for Internships and Experiential Education  
122 St. Mary's St., 2nd Fl.  
Raleigh, NC 27605

### **Internet**

**Outdoor Environmental Careers Guide**  
<http://www.princeton.edu/~rcurtis/careeroe.html>

### **Environmental Careers World Online**

<http://www.infi.net/~ecw/>

**The Environmental Careers Organization**  
<http://www.shore.net/~eco/>





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**MATTER IF**  
**YOU DID** *or*  
**DIDN'T**  
**WEAR** *it.*  
**JOIN IT!**



*Catch a Rising Star*

**IT'S TRUE.** Whether you were an FFA member or not, you can join the National FFA Alumni Association and be a part of an organization that prides itself in helping make our children's lives better.

As a member you will take an active part in building your community at the local, state, and national level, while playing a vital role in your children's lives today. Your commitment helps ensure the continued success of America's premier leadership organization, **join the National FFA Alumni Association.**

*Call the National FFA Alumni Association at (703) 360-3600, ext. 293 or mail in the attached card today for more information.*





**C**redit card companies want you! But when you charge, charge, charge, you have to pay, pay, pay. However, choose the right card, treat it right and it'll be your friend.

FFA members are ripe prospects for credit card companies. According to one recent survey of FFA members, FFA members are far more likely to hold a job or operate their own business than a typical teen. And 16.3 percent of FFA members have credit cards, compared with only 9 percent of all teens.

### Find the **best** deal

Before you send in any credit card applications, flip them over and see what kind of interest rates they carry. Generally speaking, credit cards that are easy to get carry high interest rates—and credit card companies that woo students usually fall into this category. So shop around.

Ruth Lytton, associate professor of family resource management at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, says, "Check to see if the interest rate is fixed or not. Some cards offer a low teaser rate that is temporary and increases dramatically."

**16.9% apr**

**14.9% fixed**

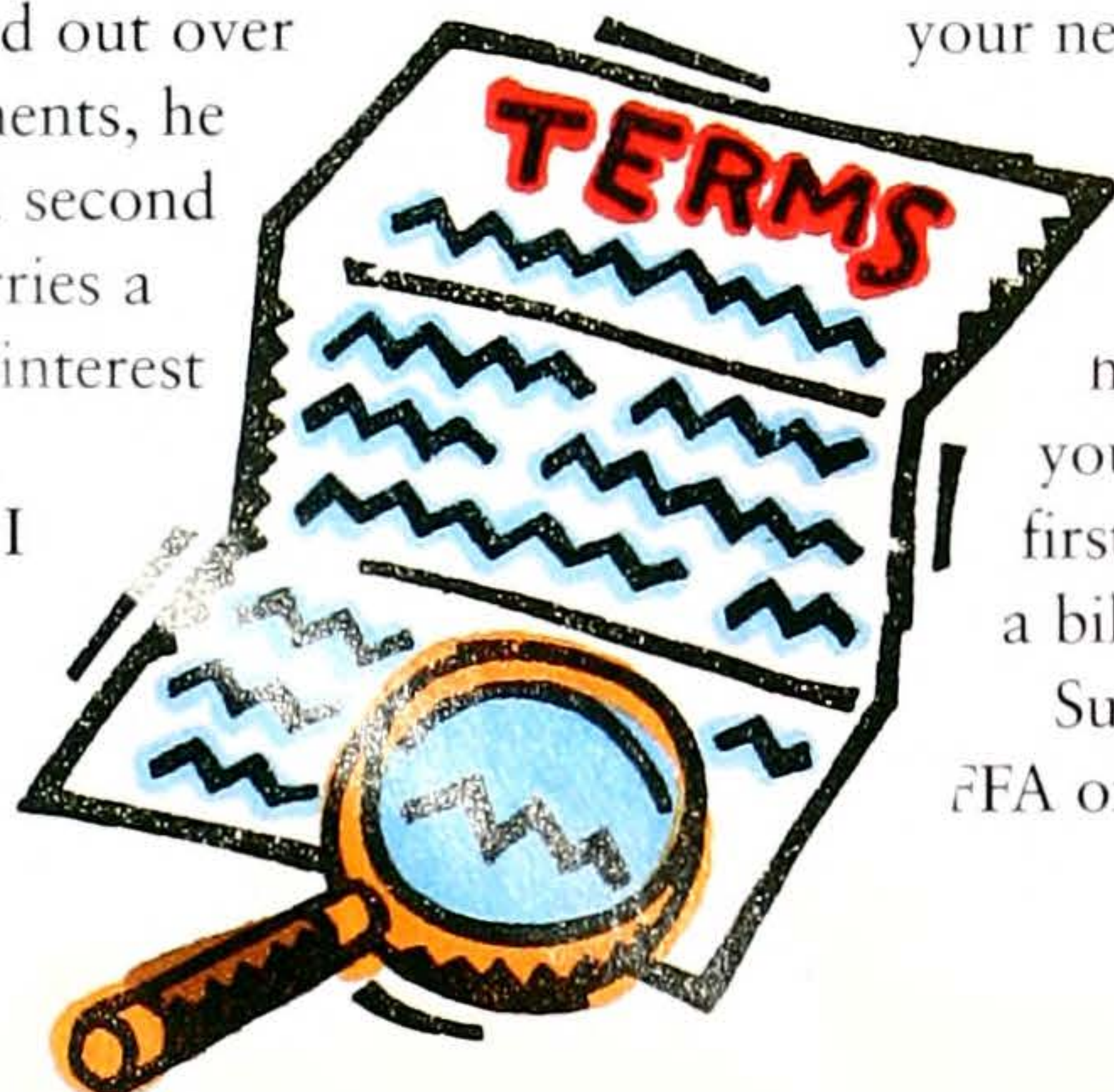
**11.9% variable**

Former FFA member Mike Prelesnick, now a student

at Michigan State

University, has several credit cards, but primarily uses his high-interest GM Card for ordinary purchases like books and gas, which he pays off every month and earns points toward a new GM car or truck.

If he has to make a purchase that will be spread out over several payments, he reaches for a second card that carries a much lower interest rate (around 9 percent). "I suggest students shop around for



# the

the lowest interest rate credit card and one that does not have any annual fee. None of my cards carries any annual fee," Prelesnick says. "College students get many credit applications in the mail, school newspapers, at bookstores. But you have to be careful and pick the one that is best for you."

### It's **not** free money

When you get a credit card, it's not like you won the lottery. Bruce McManis, a professor who heads the department of economics and finance at Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, Louisiana, says, "Be very careful with your new card. Make one or two purchases and put it away.

See how well you handle paying the bill. It's easy to see how much you've improved your standard of living during the first billing cycle, but then you get a bill and have to pay for it."

Sue Ann Stuever, a former state FFA officer in Michigan and now a

## Expert advice on credit

senior at Michigan State University, got her first credit card when her FFA activities began involving extensive travel. She urges FFA members to understand that plastic doesn't make you one penny richer. "Pay it off every month. A credit card is for convenience, not for buying things you can't afford."



### One is enough

Be careful if you have more than one card. One card, one bill. Two cards, two bills. Three cards, three bills. Get the picture?

### Never use it for "vice" shopping

If you've got a weakness for shoes, CDs, whatever, and you tend to over-buy, definitely leave your card behind.



card do's and don'ts

# trap

by Brenda Wilhelmson



## Good times to use it

McManis advises students to use credit cards for back-to-school purchases or to pay college fees. "It's a way to smooth out cash flow patterns," he says. "You might need to use it to get in school."

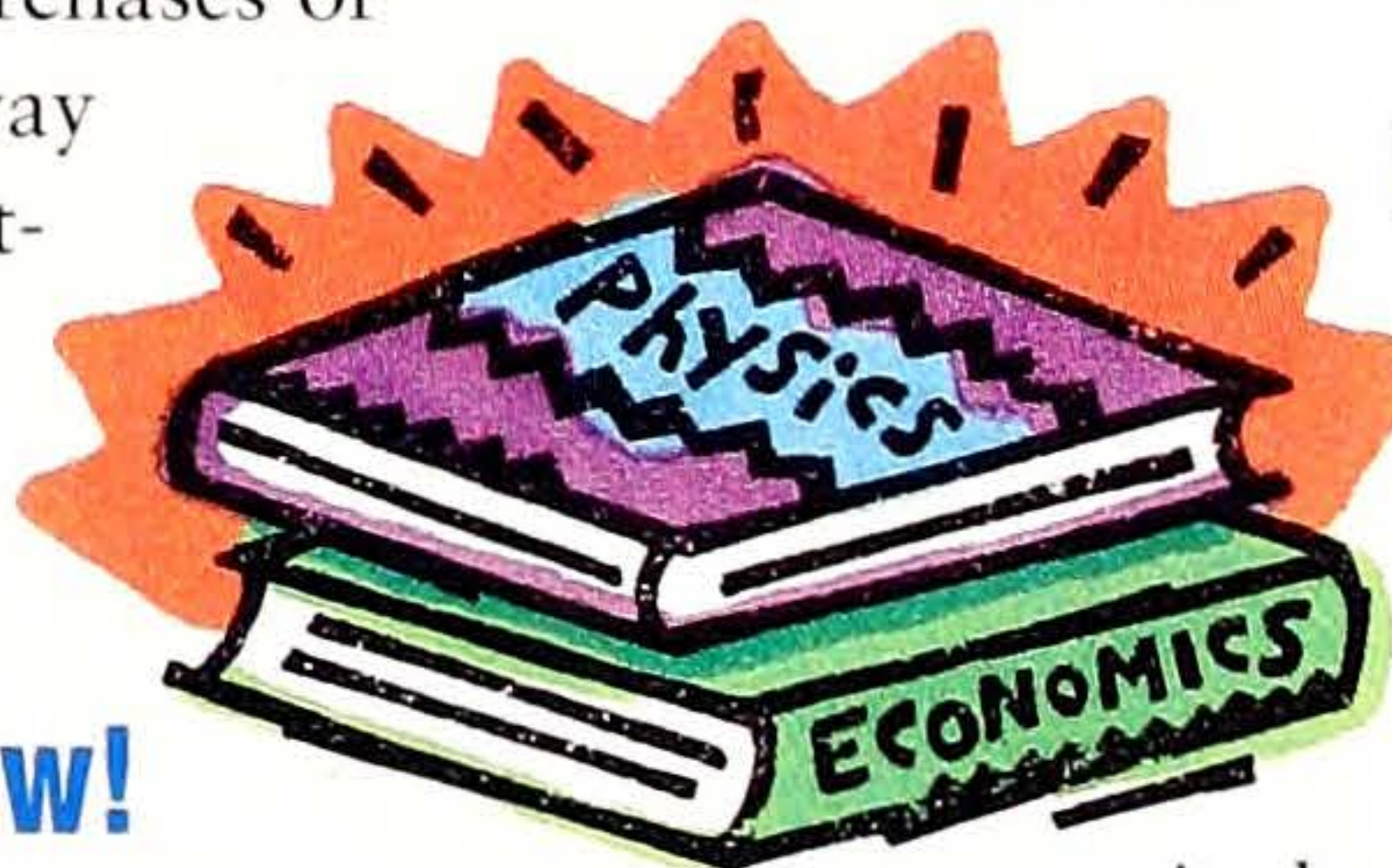
## Pay as much as you can—now!

"Don't wait for the bills," Lytton says. "Pay as much as you can as soon as you can. Most credit card companies charge interest on your average daily balance, so reduce it as quickly as possible."



## When to bury it

"Once you've made your necessary purchases, put your card away until the balance is paid off," McManis says. "It's easy to find excuses to use it, but don't."



## No cash advances

Credit card companies charge high interest rates on cash advances.

And many charge a cash advance fee. Don't treat your credit card like an ATM card.

## Rules of thumb

1. Pay your entire bill off each month.
2. If you buy something you can't pay for when the bill comes, make sure it's an item that will outlive the interest payments.
3. Your credit obligations should be no more than 10 percent to



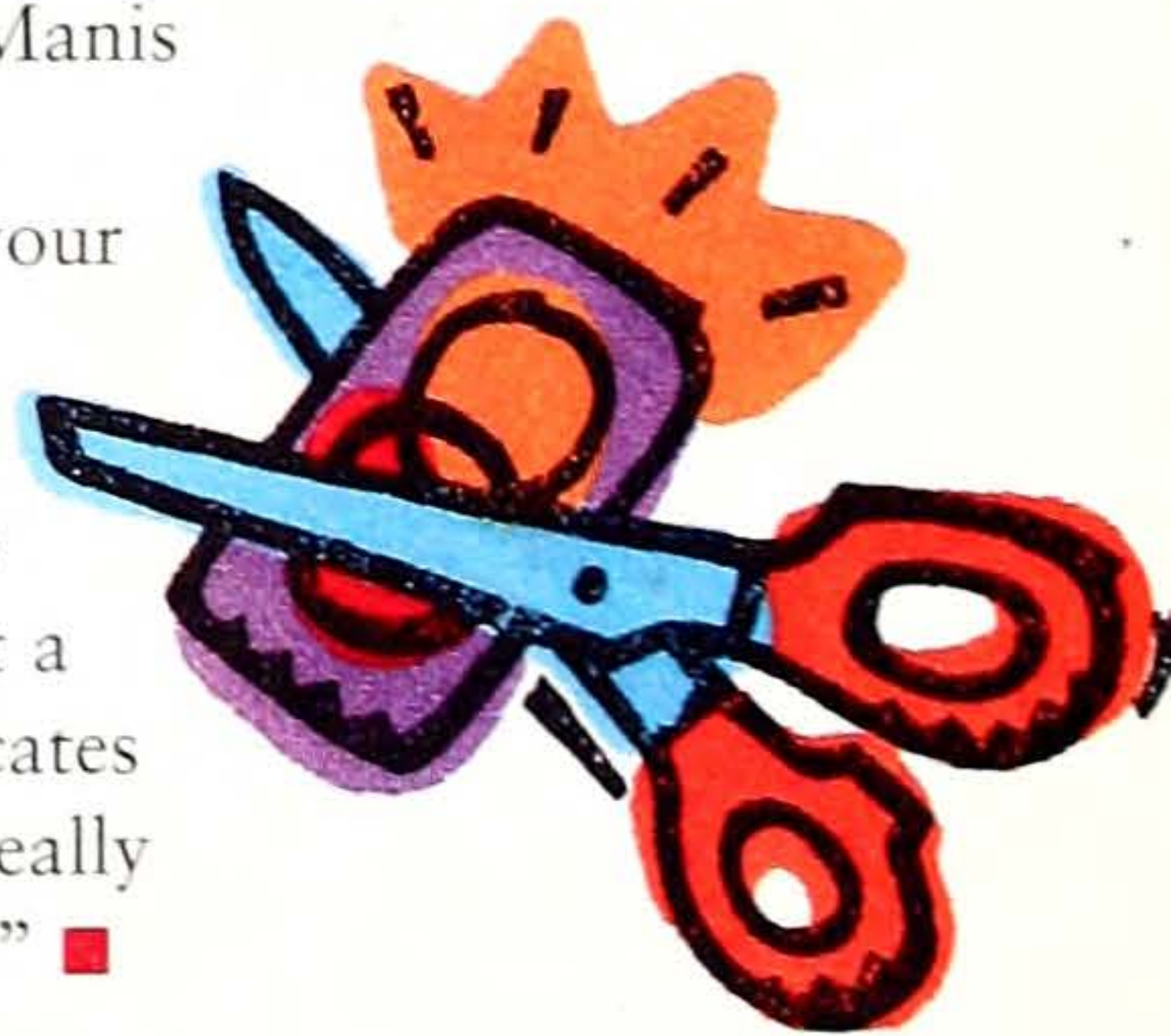
15 percent of your income.

4. Always read the fine print in any credit card application you complete.

## When to cut it up

"If you find you've messed up a couple times in fairly short order," McManis says, "you should cut your card up."

Everyone is allowed one mistake, but a second indicates you're not really ready for it." ■





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McDonald's and you'll be satisfied for a few hours.

Invest \$3.50 in the FFA

and you'll meet new

friends, learn

valuable skills

and gain

leadership

abilities

to last a

lifetime.

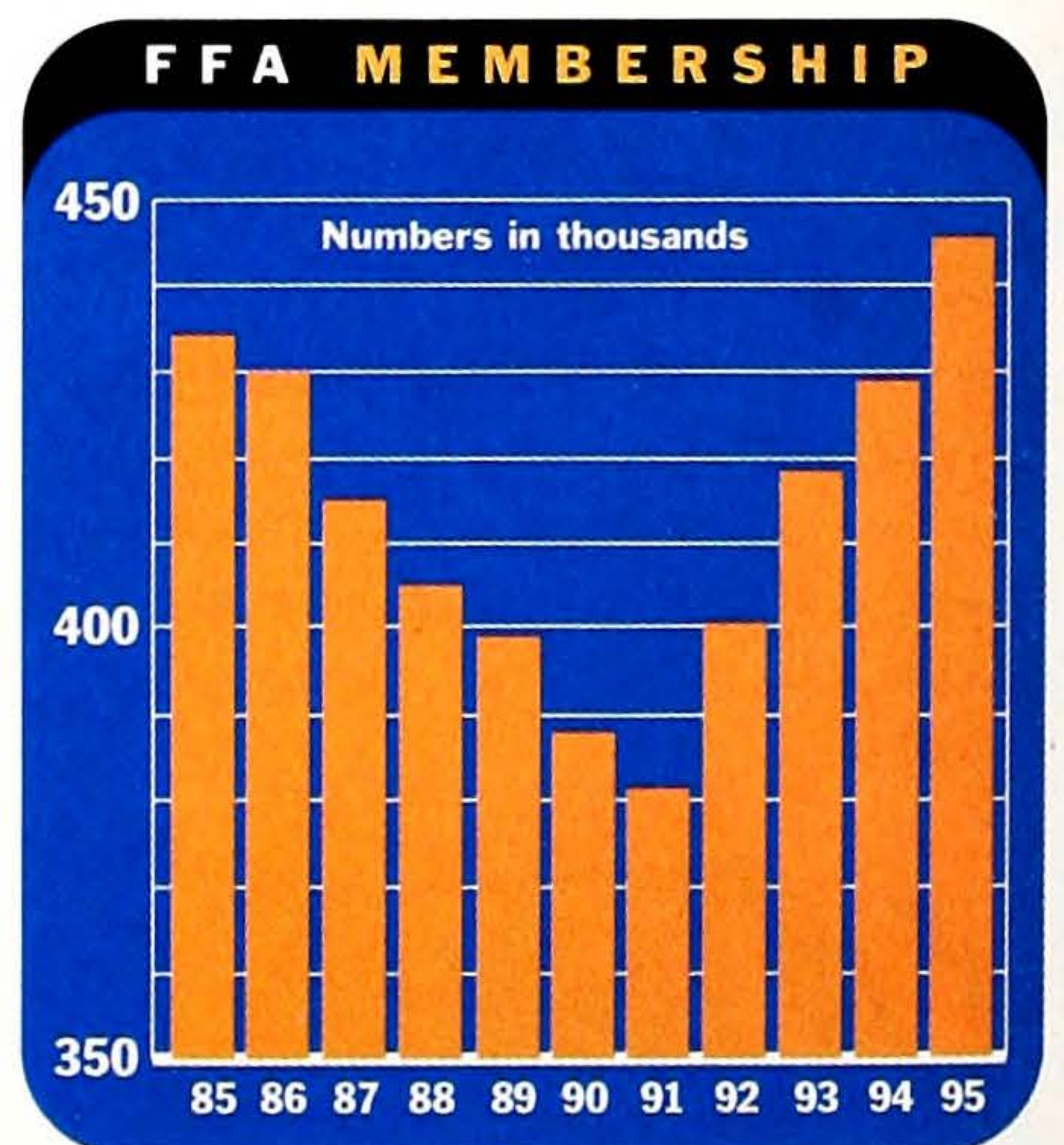


## Stretching your dollars

When you pay your \$3.50 annual dues to the National FFA Organization, you receive a subscription to *FFA New Horizons*, worth nearly \$3 alone. You also gain access to more than \$1 million in scholarships and awards, an average value of nearly \$10 per member. Add to this the priceless learning experiences and opportunities available through FFA and agricultural education, and you're getting quite a value!

## Now that's a record book!

The value for your membership dollars seems even bigger considering that mem-





bers' dues account for just 9 percent of FFA's total operating budget. FFA is able to provide premier leadership, personal growth and career success opportunities through agricultural education for its 444,497 members by combining members' dues with the nearly \$5 million the National FFA Foundation raises annually from corporate and foundation sponsors, registration fees from Washington Leadership Conference and Made For Excellence and other sources.

# you'll ever spend

## More to come

Delegates at the 68th national FFA convention voted to raise national FFA dues to \$5, effective September 1996. This increase, the organization's first in seven years, will provide even more programs and services to members.

## Membership increases again

FFA membership increased in 1994-95 for the fourth straight year, gaining 16,388 new members for a total of 444,497. Historically, FFA membership reached an all-time high in 1977 at 509,735 members, began dropping in 1978 and bottomed out in 1991 at 382,748 members. It's been climbing ever since, and is projected to top 500,000 by the year 2000. ■

# FFA opportunities keep growing

**A**s FFA membership increases, so do new opportunities for members. FFA added several exciting new programs and products in 1995:

- Members may now participate in 11 new proficiency areas, bringing the total number of options to 40.
- State officers gained a new tool with the debut of Leadership Connection, a bi-monthly newsletter filled with tips, facts and FFA information to share.
- Arkansas, Vermont and New Hampshire participated in a pilot state officer leadership training program sponsored by the national FFA.

As FFA continues to add new programs, existing ones are still going strong.

Here's a sample of 1995 activity:

- The 68th National FFA Convention set an attendance record with 37,200 members, advisors and guests.
- Nearly 300 companies, organizations and educational institutions exhibited in the National Agricultural Career Show.
- FFA sent 174 members overseas to explore global agriculture and culture through a variety of international programs. Stateside, 177 international students came to the U.S. through FFA programs.
- Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS), a mentoring program pairing FFA members with elementary school students, grew 700 percent to 1,441 PALS chapters.

- The FFA presented 1,466 American Degrees.
- FFA members applied for a record \$1,084,020 in scholarships through the National FFA Foundation—an increase of \$63,220 over 1994. Competition was stiff: 7,048 members applied for 849 scholarships donated by 194 sponsors.
- Six hundred seventy teams participated in Career Development Events, up from 633 the year before.
- Washington Leadership Conferences gave members the chance to develop leadership skills and learn more about Washington, D.C. A total of 1,742 members and 154 advisors attended the seven one-week sessions.

- Washington, D.C., also hosted the State Presidents Conference, attended by 102 state officers.
- FFA conducted Made For Excellence leadership conferences in 34 states, where 6,200 students explored topics such as self-esteem, motivation and teamwork.
- Approximately 545 members participated in National Leadership Conferences for State Officers in 1995.
- Each of the six national FFA officers logged more than 100,000 miles as they traveled the U.S. representing members to officials in business, education and government, and interacting with members throughout the year.



## FFA INCOME

Sales of all items	\$5,851,000
Magazine subscriptions and ads	\$1,238,000
Member fees (leadership conferences, etc.)	\$1,127,000
Convention	\$967,000
Dues	\$744,000
International program fees and grants	\$397,000
Career Show booth rentals	\$210,000
Income on savings	\$132,000
All other income*	\$782,000
Foundation funding (FFA activities only)	\$4,846,000
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$16,294,000</b>

## FFA EXPENDITURES

Cost of items sold, handling, freight, etc.	\$5,550,000
Foundation-funded awards, programs, etc.	\$4,846,000
Magazine (all costs)	\$1,297,000
Leadership conferences	\$1,200,000
Convention	\$963,000
Advisor services and training	\$552,000
International programs	\$542,000
Savings	\$493,000
Communications and public relations	\$435,000
National officer travel and expenses	\$138,000
Career Show	\$96,000
Other*	\$182,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$16,294,000</b>

All numbers rounded to the nearest thousand. \*Includes hundreds of other expenses or income sources



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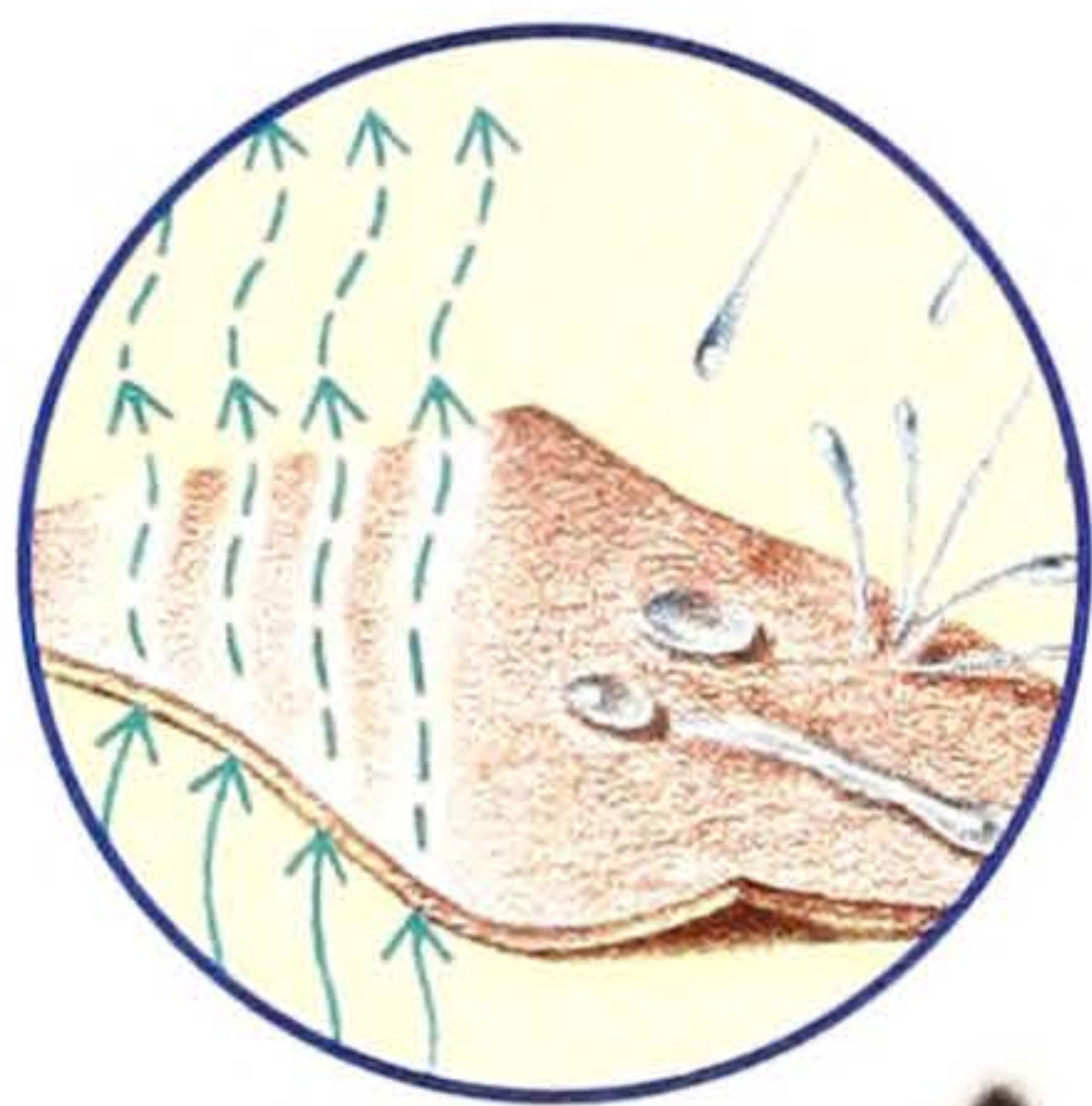
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WHAT

THEY

DISH OUT.





## AMERICAN ROYAL 1996 STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM \$5000 SCHOLARSHIP TO WINNERS



Applicants will soon be accepted for one of the American Royal's most exciting programs. Every one of the 32 finalists selected to participate in Kansas City in November 1996, will receive scholarship money!

First place male and female winners each receive \$5000 scholarships plus a 10-week summer internship with Farmland Industries and the American Royal. Each intern's salary and living arrangements will exceed \$4800 for the summer.

- Qualifications of applicants:
- \* Must be an active FFA member
  - \* Be 18 years of age or older
  - \* Enrolled in an accredited college or university
  - \* First place male and female participants must be prepared to stay in Kansas City one week after convention and return the following summer for the ten-week internship program

FOR INFORMATION contact your State FFA Advisor or write Student Ambassador Coordinator, c/o American Royal Assn., 1701 American Royal Court, Kansas City, MO 64102.

## Charlie needs you

Here's your chance to name his strip

Charlie is back! And so is a whole new cast of FFA characters. There are his friends, Darryl and Anita; his dog Clyde; even his kid sister, Robin, and her pet, Rocky. Now Charlie's strip needs a title!

That's where you come in. Just check the box next to your favorite title, clip out this page and send it in. The FFA New Horizons editorial staff will select the winning title in the July/August issue, so get your suggestion in today!

### Choose One:

- ☐ Agri-Cultured    ☐ Agri-Nauts  
☐ Agri-Nuts        ☐ Charlie & Friends  
☐ Charlie in the Agri-Zone

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

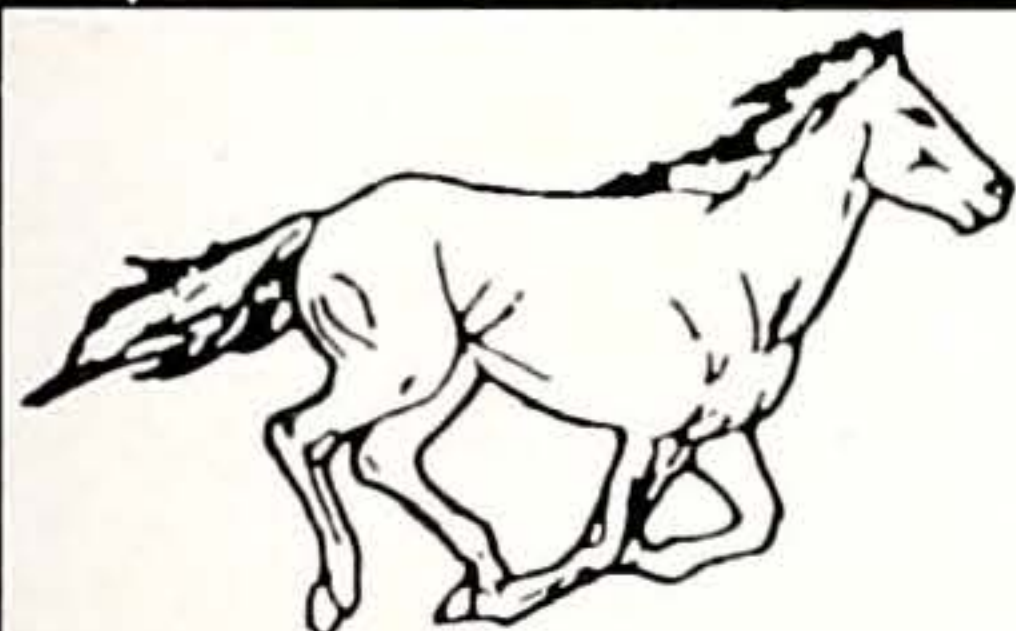
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### Send your title suggestion to:

FFA New Horizons/Name Charlie  
 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway  
 P.O. Box 15160  
 Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

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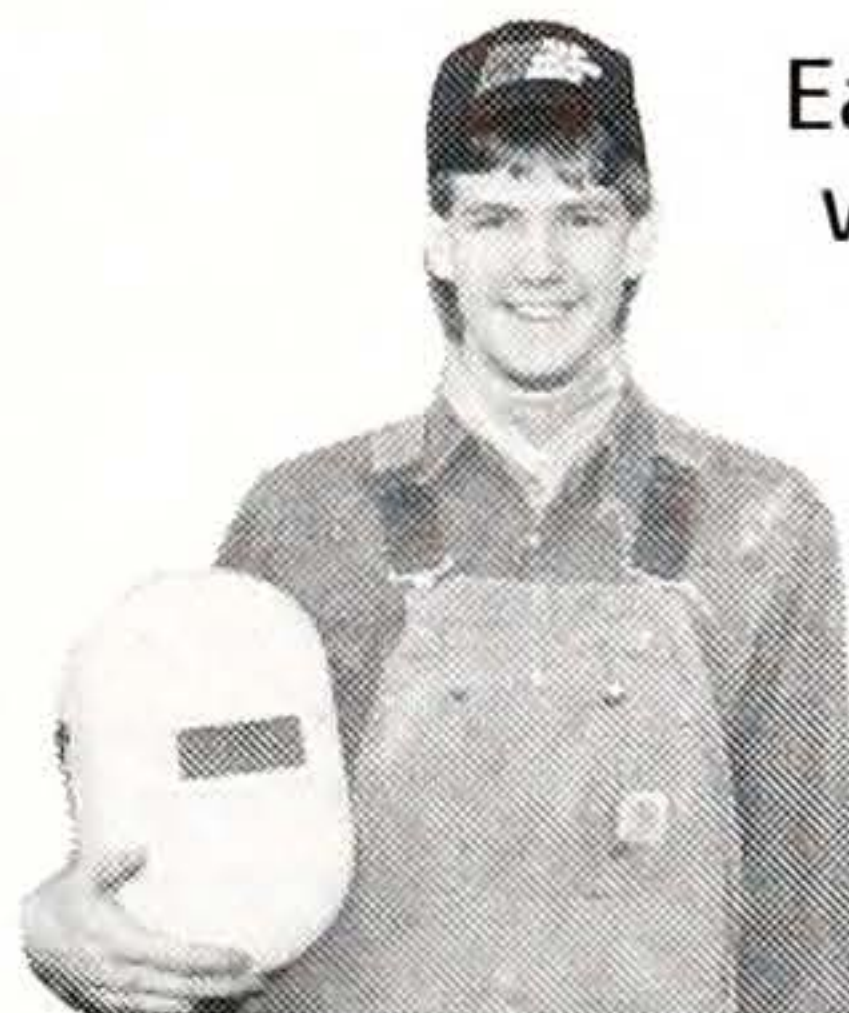
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## Pay less for college with the new FFA Loan Program

The National FFA Organization is now offering FFA members a comprehensive, low-interest student loan designed to help you meet your educational financing needs.

You may be familiar with the Federal Stafford Loan Program. This loan is available to eligible students enrolled in an approved school at least half-time, who are U.S. citizens, and who meet other eligibility criteria.

Students may borrow up to \$2,625 during their first year; \$3,500 for the second year and \$5,500 for the third and remaining years in an undergraduate program. If the Federal Stafford Loan is subsidized, the Federal government pays the interest on the loan while the borrower is in school. The FFA Loan Program is similar to the Federal Stafford Loan, with special rates and conditions not available with standard loans and not offered anywhere else.

For all the facts, call the FFA Student Loan Hotline today at 800/777-1136. ■



# Last Laff

**Q.** What animal has more lives than a cat?

**A.** A frog. He croaks every night.

**LuciTeague**

Greenwood, South Carolina

**Q.** What goes up and down a hill, yet stays in the same place?

**A.** The road.

**LauraMoore**

Bradenton, Florida

Here's a brain-teaser: A man has two American coins in his hand. They equal 55 cents, but one of them is not a nickel. What are the two coins?

*One coin can't be a nickel, but the other one can! Answer: He has a half-dollar and a nickel.*

**JacobLetson**

Lanett, Alabama

**Q.** Why can't a farmer living in Kentucky be buried in California?

**A.** Because he's still alive.

**JamesHorn**

Greenup, Kentucky

**Fred:** I'm afraid I just ran over your

cat. I'm so sorry. Can I replace him?

**Ed:** That's very nice of you. Do you think you'll be able to catch mice?

**Bobbie MaeCooley**

Bowen, Illinois

**Q.** What do all fish have in their cars?

**A.** A shell-ular phone.

**CourtneyThrower**

Camden, Arkansas

**Patient:** Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a goat!

**Doctor:** How long have you had this problem?

**Patient:** Ever since I was a kid.

**LeahCroteau**

Windham, New Hampshire

**Q.** What would you get if you crossed a cow with a rabbit?

**A.** Hare in your milk.

**BlairCrain**

Sonora, Texas

**Q.** What is black and white and green and black and white?

**A.** Two zebras fighting over a pickle.

**LewisJones**

Middleton, Tennessee

**Q.** What has four wheels and flies?

**A.** A garbage truck.

**Tara JoAmbrose**

Amherst, Wisconsin

**Q.** What do champion golfers eat for breakfast?

**A.** Wheat tees.

**JohnWesthoven**

Liberty Center, Ohio

**Q.** How do you catch a unique rabbit?

**A.** Unique up on it.

**Q.** How do you catch a tame rabbit?

**A.** The tame way.

**DevinHaines**

Waverly, Kansas

**Q.** What do pigs do after a trip to the dentist?

**A.** Not much.

**HestonHenley**

Ripley, Tennessee

**FFA New Horizons will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for Last Laff. Jokes must be addressed to:**

**FFA New Horizons**  
5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway  
P.O. Box 15160  
Alexandria, VA 22309-0160

**In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.**

## Name this strip! See details on page 31

by Jim Bradshaw





A large, professional-grade Oster clipper, model ST-100, is shown diagonally across the frame. It has a gold-colored body and a silver-colored head. The clipper is resting on a dark, textured wooden surface. The lighting is warm, highlighting the metallic finish of the clipper.

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