

The 67th National FFA Convention

PROCEEDINGS

November 10-12, 1994



The new Bartle expansion provided the perfect backdrop for all convention attendees, especially students, to survey the newest agricultural technology for the 21st century.



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Letter from the Editor

It was a week to remember.

We tried to find a way to capture the brilliance of the stunning laser light displays, and the nine-football field vastness of the newly expanded career show. We wanted to relay the silent respect the crowd afforded a national officer who, when the sound system died, shouted his retiring address to thousands of eager, listening ears. These and many other impressions are left only to the memories of the record 34,491 who attended the 67th National FFA Convention.

But for each image that couldn't be translated into these 72 pages, you gave us hundreds that could. Your unbounded excitement at winning a national award, your concentration as you tested your skills in a contest, your smiles as you greeted members from far-flung corners of the country...these are the images that fill this book.

The Proceedings serves as the official record of this year's national convention. We hope you treasure the memories it holds within its pages, but even more, we hope that you find inspiration from an award winner's story, or a national officer's address. Perhaps you have yet to experience the wonder and excitement of FFA's annual celebration; or maybe your name is among those who have reached a pinnacle of success and this journey to Kansas City was your last. Whatever the case, we hope you use this not only to reminisce about a special week in your FFA career, but also to move forward to new levels of achievement.

Enjoy,
Lynn Hamilton

The 67th National FFA Convention

PROCEEDINGS

Volume LXVII

November 10-12, 1994

The 67th 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 10-12, 1994.

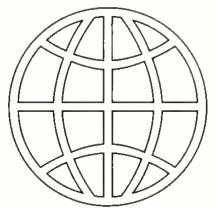
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Faces of Leadership



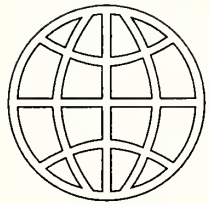
When you look at the face of someone attending the national FFA convention, you see the result of a combination of senses.

The ears have received the inspiring messages of guest speakers and national officers, been filled with the sweet sound of music from the band and chorus, have heard the calls of auctioneers and been deafened by the cheers of more than 34,000 enthusiastic members.

(Convention story continued on page 4)



Words could not capture the expression of joy on Corey Flournoy's face (left) as his name was called Saturday afternoon to serve as the new National FFA President. Outgoing President Curtis C. Childers (right) helps Flournoy to his feet after the announcement.



Faces of Leadership

The eyes reflect the success of FFA members who made history in Kansas City. Mixed within the blue and gold barrage of decorations, luminous laser light displays and moon rocks are visions of the past, the present and the future. The eyes may even see tears, as new-found friends say goodbye with promises to keep in touch, or perhaps they are from the bittersweet realization that these precious few, exciting days have come to an end. But this may soon be replaced with the memory of another face bursting with joy as their name is called as a contest winner or new national officer.

Faces of Leadership



Keith Dempsey of Kathleen Senior, Fla., FFA Chapter is overjoyed after being named the national winner of the agricultural electrification proficiency award.

The mouth has its share of memories, too. Clouds of warm air escaping into the cold midwestern morning, good-natured smiles, conversations with representatives at the Career Show, yawning from a well-spent day and night on the town, and the taste of a genuine Kansas City steak awaken the senses. Even the nose plays a role, recalling the scents of pizza at the food court, livestock areas at the American Royal, and the sweetest smell of all—success.

When the senses come together, they create lasting memories: of people, places and events; of things experienced and learned; of ways for members to improve themselves, their chapters, and the world around them. When this inspiration sets in, you know it when you look at their faces. They are wearing the faces of leadership.



Friendship and laughter always accompany convention participants, even when they take a break from the hustle and bustle.

(Convention story continued on page 6)



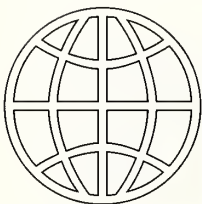
Facing the Pressure

Unequaled even by the bright lights shining in their faces, FFA members vying for national titles felt the intensity and pressure compelling them to do their best. Dealing with pressure helped convention participants gain insight into the 67th National FFA Convention theme, "FFA—The Leadership Advantage," which focused on using FFA opportunities and experiences to develop stronger leadership skills.

Contestants put their skills to the test, striving to deliver the perfect speech or present the ideal marketing plan.



Like other members competing for national titles, this contestant felt the pressure to do her best, carefully evaluating her comments on the plants she examined.



Eyes focused on the task at hand, this FFA member struggles to maintain concentration during a judging contest.

Other competing members strained to catch every detail of the plants, animals, engines and food products they were judging, or shared with interviewers how they developed SAEs worthy of a proficiency award.

Early in the week, 39 former state officers began the grueling process of interviews and evaluations that would end Saturday afternoon with only six called to serve as the 1994-95 national FFA officers. For these hopeful candidates, even the slimmest chance at that elation would be worth all the pressure.

Members of the national band, chorus and talent programs faced similar pressures to perform. There were solos in front of an audience of thousands, and countless songs to remember. Straining to hit that exact note or pitch took a toll on the lungs and vocal chords. But through it all, members displayed poise and came together in perfect harmony.

There was no escape from the pressure, no matter how carefree the corduroy-clad members appeared. The entire National FFA Organization was on display for the people of Kansas City, and every action of the convention participants was a reflection upon the organization. But the members accepted this challenge with enthusiasm, conducting themselves in the courteous, respectful and professional manner which gave FFA its reputation as a leader among youth organizations.



Taking time out from convention activities, these FFA members pose for a picture in one of the city's many sculptures.



Halloween may be over, but FFA members are still awed by the craftsmanship used when carving the FFA emblem into a pumpkin at the National Agricultural Career Show.

(Convention story continued on page 8)

The Face of the Future

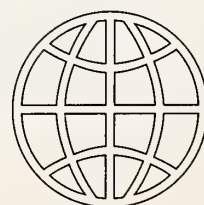


FFA members from across the nation come together once every year at the national FFA convention to practice brotherhood and fellowship.

Laser beams swept over the crowds to kick off each convention session, and appeared again after each closing gavel in a bow to modern technology. Members caught a glimpse of the future at the Career Show, where NASA's Building a Better World showed students the benefits of space technology and its applications to agriculture. Present and future FFA advisors alike went back to school when visiting the Classroom 2000, a working model of a futuristic agriscience classroom. The exhibit previewed some of the latest technology and applications in agricultural education, including displays of aquaculture, hydroponics and apiculture, the science of raising bees.

But the most futuristic feature of the national

FFA convention could not be found in the lasers, the computers or on exhibit at the Career Show. Rather, these events only mirrored the visions of the future seen in the eyes of more than 34,000 FFA members and guests. Long after the lights in the arena stage are dim and silence echoes throughout, the lessons learned and experiences shared by members at this convention will be relived often and resonate with a subtle echo whenever an idea comes to mind. By spending these few days in Kansas City, the senses have been awakened by the many opportunities the national FFA convention has to offer, and the faces of leadership look to the future.



FFA Career Development Events (Contests)

The many hours of study and practice paid off for participants in the National FFA career skill and leadership development events. These members had already experienced the satisfaction of winning their state events, and were ready to pit themselves against the best in the nation. From identifying flower species to troubleshooting engines, the teams were ready for the challenge.

The contests were held throughout the Kansas City area Thursday and Friday. Results were announced at a banquet provided by each contest's sponsors, and the top teams were recognized during Saturday morning's convention session.

All winning teams and individuals received plaques, and some of the event sponsors provided scholarships to the first place teams and high individuals. Those events were agricultural mechanics, agricultural sales, dairy judging, horse judging, farm business management, floriculture, livestock, meats evaluation and technology and parliamentary procedure.

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Sponsored by the Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund, a charitable Trust of Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.

First Place Team: Carrington FFA Chapter, Carrington, N.D.

High Individual: Jerry Gander, Shelbyville, Mo.

AGRICULTURAL SALES

Sponsored by Asgrow Seed Company

First Place Team: Wells FFA Chapter, Wells, Nev.

High Individual: Tennille Horn, Wells, Nev.

DAIRY

Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Incorporated and Babson Bros. Co./SURGE

First Place Team: San Jon FFA Chapter, San Jon, N.M.

High Individual: Wade Franklin, San Jon, N.M.

DAIRY FOODS

Sponsored by Patz Sales, Inc.; National Dairy Promotion and Research Board; and Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.

First Place Team: Ashland FFA Chapter, Ashland, Ohio

High Individual: Sara Johnson, Ashland, Ohio

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by John Deere

First Place Team: North Callaway FFA Chapter, Kingdom City, Mo.

High Individual: Jeff Resch, Lakefield, Minn.

FLORICULTURE

Sponsored by Geo. J. Ball, Inc.; American Floral Endowment; and The Solaris Group

First Place: Golden West FFA Chapter, Visalia, Calif.

High Individual: Tracy Schneider, Hermann, Mo.

FORESTRY

Sponsored by Champion International Corp. and STIHL Inc.

First Place Team: Taylor FFA Chapter, Taylor, Ark.

High Individual: Trey Stevens, Taylor, Ark.



Scribbling frantically, a livestock contest participant enters his evaluations while other members keep their eyes on the action.

HORSE

Sponsored by Acme Boot Company; and Manna Pro Corporation "The Calf Manna® Company"

First Place: Jay FFA Chapter, Jay, Okla.

High Individual: Whitney Rowell, Lander, Wyo.

LIVESTOCK

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.

First Place: Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield FFA Chapter, Lakefield, Minn.

High Individual: Matt Nesseth, Lakefield, Minn.

MARKETING PLAN ACTIVITY

Sponsored by Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company

First Place Team: Snyder FFA Chapter, Snyder, Texas

MEATS EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by Hormel Foods Corporation; Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation; and Excel Corporation

First Place Team: Clovis FFA Chapter, Clovis, Calif.

High Individual: Randy Hopkins, Clovis, Calif.

NURSERY/LANDSCAPE

Sponsored by Kubota Tractor Corporation; CHIPCO®/Specialty Products Group of Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company; American Association of Nurserymen; Valent U.S.A. Corp.; and Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Incorporated

First Place Team: Perry FFA Chapter, Perry, Ga.

High Individual: Steven Franklin, Perry, Ga.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Sponsored by Ciba Plant Protection

First Place Team: Carthage FFA Chapter, Carthage, Mo.

Runner-up Team: Roosevelt FFA Chapter, Roosevelt, Utah

POULTRY

Sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc.; Sanofi Animal Health, Inc.; and American Proteins, Inc.

First Place Team: East Central FFA Chapter, San Antonio, Texas

High Individual: Kyle Wieters, San Antonio, Texas

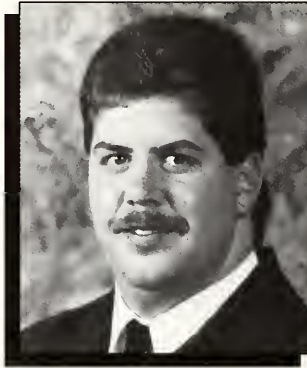


Stars Over America

Film sponsored by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and Universal Dairy Equipment, Inc. Cash awards funded by the executive sponsors of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

The air was thick with anticipation Thursday night as the eight finalists in the Stars Over America pageant awaited the announcement of the winners. The convention audience was able to share in their success stories via a film which profiled the agricultural and business achievements of these outstanding members. As the national officers prepared to announce the results, family members and advisors joined the stars on stage.

The American Star in Agribusiness and the American Star Farmer each received \$2,000, and the national finalists were presented with \$1,000. In addition to the cash awards, all eight stars received a plaque and an invitation to participate in a 10-day European agricultural tour next spring.



*David Snyder, 21
Hamilton, N.Y.
Hamilton FFA Chapter
American Star in Agribusiness*

Snyder began his business with a push mower, gas can and a snow shovel. Now he operates Snyder Services, a residential and commercial mowing, landscaping and snow removal business with four employees.



*Brian Johnson, 21
Gotebo, Okla.
Mountain View-Gotebo FFA Chapter
American Star Farmer*

Johnson operates a full-scale stocker cattle operation to complement a flock of 250 ewes. He and his father, sister and brother raise over 1,200 acres of wheat, forage and cotton.



Years of hard work finally paid off for Brian Johnson of Gotebo, Okla., the 1994 American Star Farmer, and David Snyder of Hamilton, N.Y., the 1994 American Star in Agribusiness. The national winners exchanged congratulations on a job well done.



STAR IN AGRIBUSINESS FINALISTS



*Craig Daniels, 21
Montello, Wis.
Montello FFA Chapter*

Daniels began doing chores for Daniels Brothers Tree Service as a child. Today he oversees employees, maintains and services equipment and machinery, and assists with financial record keeping for this family operation.



*Neal Floyd, 21
Nicholasville, Ky.
Jessamine County FFA Chapter*

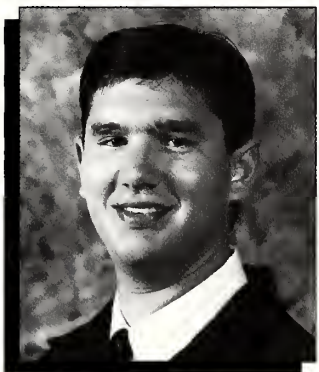
Floyd established his own firm, Lawn Care Service, and cares for residential and commercial clients' lawns. He totals more than 40 acres of lawn maintenance, and uses a computer management program to organize his business.



*Tammy Yost, 20
Joliet, Mont.
Joliet FFA Chapter*

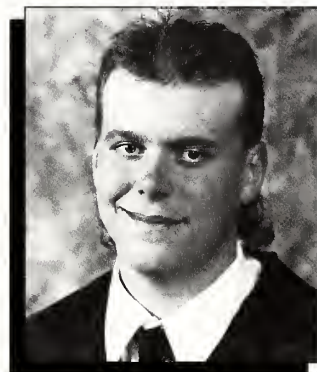
Yost operates Natural Foundations, a horse training business. Her clients now include 45 equestrian students and owners of 16 horses. She has full responsibility for management, advertising and staying abreast of current horse care techniques.

STAR FARMER FINALISTS



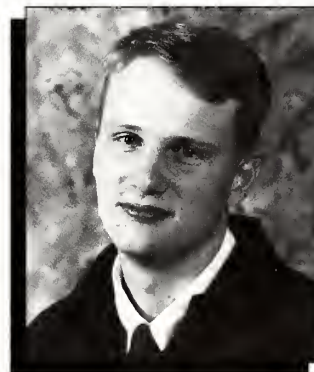
*Jeral Gross, 21
Bridgewater, S.D.
Bridgewater FFA Chapter*

Gross farms over 600 acres and owns 40 head of RX3 cattle. In addition, Gross plays a vital role in the management of 2,000 acres of cropland and 220 cows with his brother.



*Jamie Judd, 22
LaValle, Wis.
Reedsburg FFA Chapter*

Judd owns 142 head of Holsteins and markets embryos and breeding stock to buyers around the world. Currently 14 cows are contracted for embryo production to herds in Japan, Germany and Canada.



*Lloyd H. Vaill Jr., 20
Pine Plains, N.Y.
Pine Plains FFA Chapter*

Vaill has formed a partnership with his parents to establish Lo-Nan Farms. They milk over 200 Holsteins and farm 1,000 acres.



Proficiency Awards

The top 116 Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs in the country were honored Friday morning and evening during the two-part National FFA Proficiency Awards Pageant. Four national finalists in each of 29 award categories were selected for excellence in their areas of specialization.

National winners were determined by a panel of judges who interviewed the finalists Thursday. Each winner received \$500, a plaque, a cash convention travel award and an opportunity to participate in the 1995 European Travel Seminar. The remaining finalists took home \$250, a plaque and a cash convention travel award. The National FFA Foundation sponsors in each area provided funds for the awards.

National winners appear in boldfaced type.



Stoughton, Wis., FFA member Mike Willkomm, accompanied by his advisor, Jerry Wendt, is congratulated for winning the Home and/or Farmstead Improvement Proficiency Award.

AGRICULTURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Sponsored by the National Food and Energy Council, Incorporated and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

FLORIDA: Keith Dempsey, Kathleen Senior
IDAHO: Heath Thomas, Aberdeen
INDIANA: Kirk Long, Clinton Central
PENNSYLVANIA: Andrew D. Horning, Grassland

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS

Sponsored by Case Corporation

FLORIDA: Arthur Hammaker, Lake Weir
KANSAS: Henry D. Bohl, Phillipsburg
OHIO: Jon Dunkelberger, Talawanda
TEXAS: Michael K. Fisher, Cotton Center

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

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

FLORIDA: Ricky McDougald, Blountstown
INDIANA: Kevin Marsh, Shenandoah
KENTUCKY: Darryl J. Matherly, Spencer County
UTAH: Cole Ercanbrack, Payson

AGRICULTURAL SALES AND/OR SERVICE

Sponsored by Case Corporation; CHEVY TRUCKS; and Vigortone Ag Products, Inc.

INDIANA: Craig A. Robertson, North Putnam
MICHIGAN: Chad R. Bischoff, Marshall
MINNESOTA: Jay D. Paulson, Battle Lake
SOUTH DAKOTA: Chad Wosje, Sioux Valley

BEEF PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Nasco Division/Nasco International, Incorporated and Mallinckrodt Veterinary, Inc.

INDIANA: Justin Day, Shenandoah
MISSOURI: Dale Aubuchon, Hermann
MONTANA: Robert J. Stevenson, Hobson
OKLAHOMA: Chris Stephens, Chickasha

CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Kellogg Company and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

ILLINOIS: William J. Bender, Pinckneyville
INDIANA: Brian E. Johnson, Rushville
LOUISIANA: George M. Boyte, Oak Grove
NORTH CAROLINA: Landon Barrier, Mount Pleasant

DAIRY PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Alfa Laval Agri Inc.; American Breeders Service; and Calf Manna® and Suckle® mfg. by Manna Pro Corp.

INDIANA: Jennifer J. Dankert, Bremen
NEW YORK: Steven E. Smith, Cobleskill
SOUTH DAKOTA: Jeremy McGregor, McCook Central
UTAH: Colby Holmes, Wasatch

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Cargill

INDIANA: Eric L. Miller, Carroll @ Flora
IOWA: Pat Maynes, Red Oak
MISSOURI: Hoss D. Matthews, Norborne
TENNESSEE: Joe Welch, Dyersburg

DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Wayne Feed Division/Continental Grain Company and Continental Grain, Cattle & Swine Feeding Division

IOWA: Grant A. Moline, Manson-Northwest
NEBRASKA: Kent Kaup, West Holt
TEXAS: Neely Young, Katy
WISCONSIN: Twyla Peterson, Bloomer

FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

INDIANA: Brad Kohlhagen, Rensselaer
KANSAS: Jeff Bathurst, Chapman
KENTUCKY: Firmon M. Cook, Caldwell County
NEBRASKA: Ryan Baumert, Scribner-Snyder



FIBER CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Sandoz Agro, Inc.

CALIFORNIA: Wes Haynes, Chowchilla

FLORIDA: Chad Cole, Tate

NORTH CAROLINA: Brandon Turlington, Triton

TEXAS: James Pelzel, Pilot Point

FLORICULTURE

Sponsored by The Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch; American Floral Endowment; Professional Plant Growers Association; and Valent U.S.A. Corp.

INDIANA: Katrina M. Curry, Woodlan

MINNESOTA: Summer Moe, Winona

NORTH CAROLINA: Todd Jernigan, Triton

OHIO: Jeff Jackson, Live Oaks C.D.C.

FORAGE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Gehl Company and Northrup King Company

ALABAMA: Kirk Miller, Lineville

TENNESSEE: Travis Mundy, Powell Valley

WISCONSIN: Todd Thieding, Reedsburg

WYOMING: Richard Russell, Paintrock

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by Stone Container Corporation; Homelite; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

ALABAMA: Wade McCollum, Lineville

GEORGIA: Richard Wingate, Irwin County

TENNESSEE: Dan Murray, Bradley Central

WASHINGTON: Mike Baker, Elma

FRUIT AND/OR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Incorporated

ARIZONA: Rad Ramsey, Antelope

MAINE: Scott A. Martin, Caribou

OKLAHOMA: Samuel W. Nowakowski, Harrah

TEXAS: Adam Humphrey, Brownsboro

HOME AND/OR FARMSTEAD IMPROVEMENT

Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation General Fund

KANSAS: Lester E. Hayes, Buhler

MONTANA: Jennifer L. Peterson, Judith Gap

NEBRASKA: Ann Marie Schlautman, Howells-Clarkson

WISCONSIN: Mike Willkomm, Stoughton

HORSE PROFICIENCY

Sponsored by Equicare/Sandoz Animal Health; Red Brand Non-Climb Horse Fence/Made by Keystone Steel & Wire Company; and American Paint Horse Association

MISSISSIPPI: Dusty McMullan, Lawrence County

NEVADA: Sonia E. Sims, Wells

TENNESSEE: Robert L. Pearman, Powell Valley

TEXAS: Erin E. Bownds, Lubbock-Cooper

NURSERY OPERATIONS

Sponsored by Merck AgVet Division and Chrysler Corporation—Dodge Trucks

CALIFORNIA: Jonathan J. Clough, Linden

FLORIDA: Patrick Lasecki, Armwood

MINNESOTA: Kimberly R. Weckwerth, Montevideo

NORTH CAROLINA: Mick Donahue, Sun Valley

OIL CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by the Chicago Board of Trade and FMC Corporation, Agricultural Chemicals Group

IOWA: Andrew Yedlik, North Linn

OHIO: Dan Meyer, Fairbanks

OKLAHOMA: Chad Kirk, Tipton

VIRGINIA: Mark B. Warren, Park View Senior

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Sponsored by CHEVY TRUCKS; Schrade Cutlery; and O. F. Mossberg and Sons, Inc.

INDIANA: Jason F. Edwards, Woodlan

KENTUCKY: Chad Harston, Allen County Scottsville

MINNESOTA: Joe Geray, Mahanomen

VIRGINIA: Jason E. Ellis, Park View Senior

PLACEMENT IN

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Sponsored by National Crop Insurance Services and Mallinckrodt Veterinary, Inc.

INDIANA: Darren Wilkinson, Wawasee

IOWA: Brendt T. Warrington, West Bend Hawkeye

TENNESSEE: Ryan Moore, Warren County

VIRGINIA: Chad E. Springer, Park View Senior

POULTRY PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Schering-Plough Animal Health; Chore-Time Equipment Division of CTB Incorporated; Hudson Foods, Inc.; and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

FLORIDA: Errol Buchanan, Lafayette Senior

LOUISIANA: Shannon Watts, Saline

MISSISSIPPI: Wesley Nations, Lawrence County

TENNESSEE: Brian Williams, Paris

SHEEP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by the American Sheep Industry Association; Kent Feeds, Inc.; and Evergreen Mills

KANSAS: Jerrod A. Westfahl, Haven

OREGON: Louis D. Perry, Joseph

TEXAS: Pam Scott, Idalou

WISCONSIN: Kathy Mann, Augusta

SOIL AND WATER

MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Division

IDAHO: Ryan Arave, Burley

INDIANA: Greg D. Kneubuhler, Woodlan

MINNESOTA: Kenneth Newman, Grand Rapids

TENNESSEE: Aaron D. Rigsby, Warren County

SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION

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

LOUISIANA: Ted Fontenot, Elton

MISSOURI: Christopher M. Jones, Forsyth

NEBRASKA: Kristie Pfeiffer, Scribner-Snyder

TEXAS: Cody Stanley, Hamilton

SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Kubota Tractor Corporation; CENEX Foundation; Wilbur-Ellis Company; and Na-Churs Plant Food Company

ILLINOIS: Caroline Stead, Lincolnwood

NORTH CAROLINA: Bobby D. Balding, Madison

TENNESSEE: Hugh Ray, Powell Valley

WISCONSIN: Patrick Casper, Chilton

SWINE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Pfizer Inc. North American Animal Health Division

MICHIGAN: Chad E. Benjamin, Webberville

MINNESOTA: Craig Hoffbeck, Cedar Mountain

MISSOURI: Travis Gibson, Stet

NEBRASKA: Steven Tippery, Tekamah-Herman

TURF AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by The Scotts Company

CONNECTICUT: Steven E. Mickels, Stamford

TENNESSEE: Kurt R. Watson, DeKalb County

UTAH: Erik Sams, Manila

WEST VIRGINIA: Christopher J. Ryan, Ripley

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by Buck Knives and Bass Pro Shops, Inc.

ILLINOIS: Bill Bates, Carlinville

INDIANA: Brad A. Hieber, Woodlan

UTAH: Justin Archibald, Manila

WISCONSIN: Jamie Back, Independence



National Prepared Public Speaking Contest

***Sponsored by FMC Corporation,
Agricultural Chemicals Group***

"Having unlocked the door of knowledge to release the power of biotechnology, we cannot close it," said Heather Benson. "One must have a degree of faith in science."

Benson, of the Tulare Union, Calif., FFA Chapter, was delivering her speech, "Designer Genes Down on the Farm," for which she was named the national winner in the prepared public speaking contest.

Preliminary rounds eliminated all but four of the speakers who started out in the national competition. The finalists presented their six- to eight-minute speeches before judges and an assembled audience on the Finals Stage, and entertained five minutes of questions following their presentations.

For her efforts, Benson received \$300. Second place won \$275, third, \$250 and fourth, \$225.



Heather Benson, Tulare Union, Calif., FFA Chapter gave her advisor a hug on stage after being named the national winner in the prepared public speaking contest.

NATIONAL WINNER

Heather Benson
Tulare Union, Calif.

DESIGNER GENES DOWN ON THE FARM

SECOND PLACE:

Jan James
Creston, Iowa

THIRD PLACE:

Susan Shiver
Graceville, Fla.

FOURTH PLACE:

Julie Strickland
Abilene, Kan.

The time is the 21st century, a new era in agriculture. The place is the dining room of your dearest friends. As you pull up your chair to the attractively set dinner table, your host proudly announces that the meal you are about to enjoy is totally transgenic. Yes, everything from the filet mignon to the vegetable salad to the rice pilaf is transgenic. Even the pre-dinner wine and cheese and the rosebud adorning the table are all transgenic. All were derived from the innovations of biotechnology. You search your memory for the words "transgenic" and "biotechnology", but all you can envision is a scene from a science fiction movie. You become nervous and quickly depart, only to be embarrassed later when you get the facts on biotechnology and realize its vast possibilities

and contributions to agriculture and the world.

Stone-age farmers were, in a sense, the first genetic engineers. Ever since man first began to cultivate the earth and domesticate his livestock, agriculturists have been breeding plants and animals to improve productivity, reduce cost, and improve the quality of life. Man has utilized the natural diversity of over 300,000 types of plants and over one million kinds of animals in traditional breeding programs. Today, however, we are in a new realm of scientific advancement. We are in the age of biotechnology!

Biotechnology is, in reality, a variety of safe techniques involving the manipulation or transfer of genes in plants or animals. A transgenic plant or animal is



simply the product of intentional specific gene transfer. Researchers transfer a gene from one organism to another to improve the quality and form a superior product. Humans have been transferring genes between plants and animals through traditional breeding methods for thousands of years. Although genetic engineering is more complex than traditional plant-breeding practices, it is just as safe. A recent National Academy of Sciences report concluded that "crops modified by molecular and cellular methods should pose no risk different from those modified by classical genetic methods for similar traits." Biotechnology is really just a new term for the sciences of biology and genetics, combined with the latest scientific techniques and knowledge.

The benefits of biotechnology can be categorized into classes according to industry. Research in animal science is focused on therapeutics, proteins such as BST that can boost production, and advanced disease-detecting mechanisms. In plant science, biotechnology research is concentrating on increasing crop quality and diversity, increasing efficiency and cutting cost. The new crop plants of the 21st century could increase food production, reduce fertilizer usage, virtually eliminate pesticide usage and decrease the amount of land necessary for production. We will also develop new products for non-agricultural uses, thereby establishing new markets for agriculture. The long-range use of biotechnology will offer consumers greater convenience and decreased cost.

During the past 10 to 15 years there has been an unfortunate movement in our society toward antitechnology. Because of this, it is now possible for agricultural research companies to spend millions of dollars on research and development for a needed product only to have it rejected because of public misconceptions. Some of the tactics used by the antitechnologists include sensationalistic news stories and organized efforts to convince the public that scientists have no business tampering with genetics. If this antitechnology movement is successful, the future of an exciting new technology is in jeopardy.

Who is responsible for consumers' lack of knowledge and understanding of biotechnology? As Pogo put it, "We've

met the enemy and he is us." Today's agriculturists have a responsibility and an opportunity to provide the best information possible to help the public better understand what biotechnology really is. It is our job to answer questions in an objective manner and to continually educate the public about biotechnology.

There are many checks and balances on the current system of biotechnology research, and there are also worldwide scientific accords and conferences on the ethics of biotechnology. There is a great deal of research and work that must occur before a biotechnology product ever reaches the field-testing stage. It is estimated that it takes at least 10 years and 35-50 million dollars to get a biotechnology product from the laboratory and into field tests.

Having unlocked the door of knowledge to release the powers of biotechnology, we cannot close it. One must have a degree of faith in science. The research will take place somewhere on the globe, so the question is whether or not the United States wants to be a player in the advances that will come. If we do not use the scientific technology available to us, we will have to compete with those societies and those economies which do. Therefore, we must ask ourselves not how to suppress or do away with the products of biotechnology, but how best to use and improve its capabilities.

It is vital that agriculturists look into

the future and realize that vast urban sprawl is engulfing large amounts of prime agricultural land every day and that the population is rapidly increasing. If agriculturists focus only on the needs of today, they will not be prepared to meet the demands of tomorrow. We cannot afford to take such a risk.

Many of the problems facing agriculture and the environment worldwide will be solved by the innovations of biotechnology. There are no boundaries to the advancement of this knowledge. Biotechnology is an emerging fusion of business and biology which is paving the way to unprecedented new capabilities in agriculture. We as agriculturists hold in our hands the future, which encompasses all of the great opportunities and rewards that one may reap from the power of biotechnology. In order to assure a future destiny of agriculture and of the world, we have a responsibility not only to ourselves, but to all mankind, to stay informed, to comprehend, and to educate society about the limitless possibilities of biotechnology.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving." If agriculture is to reach the ultimate plateau of success, we must move forward and embrace the ever-changing world of technology. The future of our nation depends on the future of agriculture. We will succeed as a nation, and as a people, only as our agriculture succeeds.



For the third year in a row, Texans have taken home top honors in the extemporaneous speaking contest. Pictured left to right are Neely Young, 1993 winner; Jason Johnson, 1994 extemporaneous speaking contest winner; and Curtis Childers, 1992 winner.



National Extemporaneous Speaking Contest

Sponsored by American Farm Bureau Federation

Thinking on your feet pays off when you compete in the extemporaneous speaking contest. Just ask Jason Johnson of the Mt. Pleasant, Texas, FFA Chapter.

Johnson walked away \$300 richer after being named the national winner for his presentation, "Water Rights—The Issue of the Nineties."

Contestants drew from a list of topics and had but 30 minutes to prepare a four- to six-minute speech using information they had previously researched. Following their presentations, judges asked the speakers questions about their topics.

The second-place winner, Jody Gale of the Licking, Mo., FFA Chapter, took home \$275. Third and fourth place speakers won \$250 and \$225, respectively.

NATIONAL WINNER:

Jason Johnson
Mt. Pleasant, Texas

SECOND PLACE:

Jody Gale
Licking, Mo.

THIRD PLACE:

Chris Yandell
Caldwell County, Ky.

FOURTH PLACE:

Amy Jo Burrie
Melba, Idaho

WATER RIGHTS — THE ISSUE OF THE NINETIES

Have you ever dreamed of traveling to the Moon? Now just for a moment, imagine with me if you will, strapping yourself into that airplane we call a space shuttle and lift off. There it is, you travel through the Earth's atmosphere and "poof" you enter a black void. And there she is, the Moon. And you turn around and you take one last look at Mother Earth and you'll probably see her in a way that you've never seen her before. You'll realize that she's made up predominately of two colors—blue and

white. White swirling clouds that hover over a mass of what appears to be one huge swimming pool. In fact, 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water and only three percent of that is fresh water which we drink. What's very interesting to me, is that the water we have, is the water we have and it's the only water that we will ever have.

I'm excited when I stand on this stage right now. I'm excited because the future of agriculture is bright. Over the past 50 years, populations have increased and agriculturists have come under increased pressure to produce more food with less land, and we're doing it. I'm excited to be a part of the backbone of this great country. But, when 400,000 people in Milwaukee become ill and 50 die—that's 50 deaths from *cryptosporidium*—something's wrong. When my own aunt, who knows that I'm a member of the FFA, says, "Jason, the farm is out to get us," something's wrong. When every time you turn on the TV, the Washington bureaucrats are adding increased regulation and making it tougher on the agriculturists, something is wrong. And we, the agriculturists, find ourselves asking, what in the world are our rights?

Water rights are the issue of the nineties, you'd better believe it. What are our rights? First of all, read your history, the Fifth Amendment, the Constitution of the United States, what my forefathers believed in. The government shall not take the use of private property for the good of the public without just compensation. And you ask, what in the world does that have to do with water rights? In my home state of Texas, the Edwards Aqua Core, the government comes in and says, "guys, we have this blind salamander under the Earth in the Edwards Aqua Core that is endangered, and we believe we're going to have to step in and restrict the use of this water instead of having you, the person that owns this property, use it. We're going to send it to the folks in San Antonio not only to drink, but to water their lawns and hey, you farmers, you don't have a right." But I think on Nov. 8, just a couple of days ago, a message was sent to Washington. We've got rights, we believe in our rights and that one right is private property rights

which ties hand and hand with water rights.

It leads me to the second point. Why in the world, if it is spelled out in our Constitution, have people been questioning our rights? Is there a problem? You heard me mention the 400,000 people becoming ill, the 50 people dying. I'm sure we've all heard of Schwann's salmonella, the *E. coli* contamination of meat. There has been a problem. Oftentimes, I've griped at my sister for her room being dirty when my room's kind of dirty itself. My mom always tells me "son, get your room cleaned before you talk about your sister's." I'm afraid, possibly, we need to do some introspection. We need to look at some of the practices that aren't so common sense, that aren't so wise because there are some of us out there who are contaminating our water. And when this is happening our water rights are being taken away. Our property rights are being taken away. We have the right, but we're not wisely using it. And when that happens, we have people who don't even know what a farm is step in and rob us of that right.

Which brings me to the third point. What in the world are we going to do about it? If I could look around this room and if I could see the faces in this auditorium, I believe I would see a lot of blue and gold jackets out there. I'm positive that I do. And, I think that there are 428,000 eager minds of the United States of America; 60,000 members of the FFA in my home state who are ready to learn. Dr. Dennis Avery of the Hudson Institute says that, "it's a sad thing when the American consumer thinks that the farmer is against him," and it is. When are we going to start using these people? When are we going to start using the people in the blue and gold to let the people know that the farmer is a steward of his land? The farmer eats the same food that the consumer does. The farmer drinks the same water. It's happening.

Is it an issue of the nineties? You bet. These are the nineties, it's happening in the nineties, but don't think that it's going to stop now. I told you earlier that I'm excited; I am. Because every time I read the newspaper I see where agriculture has made increasing strides in the legislature, where we are winning more battles. But don't think it's over, don't lie down. Water rights are the issue of the 1990's and they will continue to be an issue of the 21st century. We're ready to reach for the Moon, we're ready to reach for the stars. If we identify this problem that we have, tell people in Washington we have rights to our property, and we utilize these young people sitting in this auditorium right now.



National Officer Candidates

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

Student leaders from 39 states came to the national convention with a single purpose—to pursue their dream of being elected to national office. These nervous, but motivated members endured a week-long process of exams and interviews to reach that goal. But, the anxiety never got the better of their smiles.

The national nominating committee had the arduous task of choosing from among these state leaders the six individuals who would serve as the 1994-95 president, secretary and regional vice presidents. Poise and professionalism, a commitment to teamwork, and a thorough knowledge of agricultural education and the FFA were just a few of the qualifications the committee sought as it narrowed the field to the final slate.

The anxiety ended Saturday afternoon as the nominating committee presented its report as the last item of business brought before the convention. The 1994-95 officer team is shown on page 70.

ALABAMA: Clara-Leigh Horn, Ashville
ARIZONA: Sarah M. Turner, Buckeye
CALIFORNIA: Travis Hagen, Chico
COLORADO: Kelly Longacre, Valley
CONNECTICUT: Keith Robert Brodersen, Storrs Regional
FLORIDA: Trisha Ann Bailey, Plant City Sr.
GEORGIA: Ruthie Webb, Morgan County
IDAHO: Matthew Quesnell, Twin Falls
ILLINOIS: Corey Dwayne Flournoy, Chicago High School for Ag. Sciences
INDIANA: Chad Ripberger, Tipton
IOWA: Brian R. Feldpausch, DeWitt Central
KANSAS: Jennafer Neufeld, Inman
KENTUCKY: Jodie P'Pool, Trigg County
LOUISIANA: Tait J. Martin, South Lafourche
MASSACHUSETTS: Kimberly J. Goncalves, Bristol
MICHIGAN: John H. Schut, Hopkins
MINNESOTA: Nicholas Kilen, Greenbush-Middle River
MISSISSIPPI: Keith Monta Cain, Vaiden
MISSOURI: Fred O. Stemme, Hermann
MONTANA: Jeremy Fritz, Flathead
NEBRASKA: Seth Lane Derner, Wheeler Central

NEVADA: Kyle R. Prior, Owyhee River
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Meredith Cari Davis, Fall Mountain
NEW JERSEY: Tiffany M. Roberson, Northern Burlington County
NEW MEXICO: Shelly Vaughn, Las Cruces
NORTH CAROLINA: Scott King, Princeton
OHIO: Lee Richard Schroeder, Leipsic
OKLAHOMA: Greg Jeter, Copan
OREGON: Michelle L. Gilmore, Canby
PENNSYLVANIA: Scott Robert Stone, Williamsburg
SOUTH DAKOTA: Scott Cammack, Sturgis
TENNESSEE: Benny Joe McDonald, Mt. Juliet
TEXAS: Scot Pollok, Falls City
UTAH: Joshua C. Evans, Pleasant Grove
VERMONT: Justin M. Poulin, Central Vermont
VIRGINIA: Brian Carpenter, Spotswood
WASHINGTON: Christian C. Giles, Finley
WISCONSIN: David C. Meyer, Loyal
WYOMING: Gregory R. Vetter, Burns



In a rare moment away from the intense interview process, all 39 national officer candidates gathered at the Allis Plaza.



Agriscience Student Recognition Program

Sponsored by The Agricultural Group of Monsanto Company

The national Agriscience Student Recognition Award winner, Luke Haywood of the Hastings, Mich., FFA Chapter was recognized at a special awards ceremony during Friday's afternoon session. Haywood received \$7,000 in cash scholarships and a plaque for his project, "Evaluating Tillage Methods,

Fertilization Applications, and Nitrification Inhibitors on *Zea mays* Yields."

Darin Mann, Parma, Idaho, FFA Chapter was named runner-up for his project entitled, "Differences in Digestibility of Nine Commercial Corn Hybrids." He received a plaque and \$5,500 in scholarships.

NATIONAL WINNER:

Luke Haywood, Hastings, Mich.

NATIONAL FINALISTS:

CALIFORNIA: David Hart, Visalia

IDAHO: Darin Mann, Parma

KENTUCKY: Melanie Ann Story, Flemingsburg

MICHIGAN: Luke Haywood, Hastings

MONTANA: Angela M. Flechsenhar, Cascade

VIRGINIA: Scott Hudson, South Hill

WISCONSIN: Janelle Lyn Johnson, Bloomer

WYOMING: Jennifer Ray Vineyard, Sundance



Luke Haywood of Hastings, Mich., was congratulated by his proud mother backstage after being named the Agriscience Student of the Year.

Agriscience Teacher of the Year

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund and PCS Sales

A DNA model made from jellybeans and toothpicks, micro-organic studies in antibacterial hand soaps and plant propagation labs are a few of the innovations Linda Rist has implemented, earning her the national Agriscience Teacher of the Year Award.

The program recognizes agriscience instructors whose studies focus on applying scientific principles and emerging technologies in agriculture in their classrooms. Rist, a teacher at the West Central FFA Chapter in Hartford, S.D., was awarded \$2,000 and a plaque for her outstanding accomplishments. In addition, her school received a \$1,500 grant to purchase equipment for the agriscience program.

NATIONAL WINNER:

Linda Rist, Viborg, S.D.

NATIONAL FINALISTS:

MINNESOTA: Brian R. Albers, Montevideo

SOUTH DAKOTA: Linda Rist, Viborg

VIRGINIA: Bradley W. Bryant, South Hill

WISCONSIN: Paul A. Larson, Appleton



Linda Rist, West Central, S.D., FFA Chapter posed with students Melissa Ranochan (left); John Schmidt, principal; Laura Alderson; Jackie Stockwell; Brad Ludens; and Greg Peterson after being named Agriscience Teacher of the Year.



National Chapter Safety Awards

Sponsored by the Equipment Manufacturers Institute and New Holland, Incorporated

Safety has never been more important, especially when it comes to agriculture. Those chapters, which spread the word throughout their communities, were rewarded for their efforts Thursday afternoon by recognition in the National Chapter Safety Award Program.

The Lexington, Tenn., chapter was among the 48 who were awarded Gold status for their programs. Safety demonstrations at every chapter meeting were supplemented by three "Safety Days" that featured a particular subject, such as safety when using lawnmowers, chainsaws or tractors. Lexington's safety message continued into the night, as the

chapter hosted "Community Safety Nights" in which local farmers gave demonstrations covering various aspects of farm safety.

GOLD

ILLINOIS: Amboy, Cissna Park, Seneca, Sycamore

INDIANA: North Newton

IOWA: Creston, Horn O' Plenty, Marengo, West Bend Hawkeye, West Dubuque, West Lyon

KANSAS: Marysville, Plainville

LOUISIANA: Elton, Lacassine

MINNESOTA: Willmar

MISSOURI: Union

NEBRASKA: Ravenna, Schuyler

OHIO: East Clinton, West Muskingum

OKLAHOMA: Coyle

SOUTH DAKOTA: West Central

TENNESSEE: Lexington

TEXAS: Brownsboro, Mansfield, Ysleta

UTAH: Box Elder, Manila

VIRGINIA: Park View Senior, Stonewall Jackson

WASHINGTON: Cathlamet, Elma, Mabton, Winlock

WISCONSIN: Bloomer, Denmark, Evansville, Freedom, Juda, Loyal, Monroe, New Holstein, Reedsburg, Waupaca, Wauzeka, Weyauwega-Fremont

National Chapter Awards

Sponsored by National FFA Foundation General Fund

FFA members who accepted awards on behalf of their chapters Thursday afternoon had something to be proud of. Their chapters had been ranked best in the nation, out of a field of 7,257 chapters.

To reach the national convention stage, a chapter must exhibit excellence in all 12 areas of their programs of work. The best are ranked gold, followed by silver and bronze awards.

The Bradley Central FFA Chapter of Cleveland, Tenn., provides one example of the effort put forth to win the gold. Its 228 members took on such projects as:

- P.R.I.D.E., a multi-year community service project for environmental awareness.
- A safety program to educate the community about home and farm safety, and to create a positive attitude about safety habits.
- A mentor program which paired older members with younger members to encourage and motivate the newer students.

GOLD

ARIZONA: Antelope

CALIFORNIA: Ceres, Chowchilla, Fullerton, La Puente Valley ROP

COLORADO: Flagler, Fort Morgan

FLORIDA: Branford, Lafayette Senior, Orlando-Colonial Senior, Ponce de Leon Senior, Sebring, Taylor Senior, West Orange

GEORGIA: Colquitt County, Perry

ILLINOIS: Amboy, Cissna Park, Seneca, Sycamore

INDIANA: Clinton Central, Shenandoah, South Adams, Tri-County, Woodlan

IOWA: Creston, Marengo, Montezuma

KANSAS: Hill City

KENTUCKY: Apollo, Breckinridge County, Garrard County, Spencer County

LOUISIANA: Elton, Mt. Hermon

MAINE: Presque Isle

MICHIGAN: Branch Area Careers Center, Marshall, Unionville-Sebewaing Area

MINNESOTA: Willmar

MISSOURI: Carthage, Chillicothe, El Dorado Springs, Eldon, McDonald, Mount Vernon, Troy, Union

MONTANA: Flathead County

NEBRASKA: Norris, Tri County, Verdigre

NEW YORK: Hamilton

OHIO: Fairbanks, Fairfield Union, Otsego, Preble Shawnee, Wauseon

OKLAHOMA: Adair, Altus, Drummond, Grandfield, Harrah, Kingfisher, Madill, Moore, Stillwater

PENNSYLVANIA: West Snyder

SOUTH DAKOTA: Marion

TENNESSEE: Bartlett, Bradley Central, Lexington, McMinn County, Powell Valley, Riverside, Warren County

TEXAS: Booker, Brownsboro, Clear Lake, Mansfield, McCullough, Pleasanton, Ysleta

UTAH: Bear River

VIRGINIA: Fauquier, James Wood, Park View Senior

WASHINGTON: Elma, Monroe, Winlock, Yelm

WISCONSIN: Black Hawk, Bloomer, Denmark, Fort Atkinson, New Auburn

WYOMING: Southeast Goshen



Building Our American Communities

Sponsored by RJR Nabisco Foundation Inc.



The Ysleta FFA Chapter in El Paso, Texas, was named the national winner in the BOAC program. Members promoted environmental education, including using their agriscience department farm to train community members about water rationing.

NATIONAL WINNER: Ysleta FFA Chapter, El Paso, Texas

Serving America's communities is what FFA and the Building Our American Communities program is all about. The top four BOAC chapters in the nation were recognized at the Friday afternoon session.

The Ysleta FFA Chapter of El Paso, Texas, was named national winner for their promotion of environmental education. The chapter's project focused on drought resistant turf and landscape in El Paso, a city which must adhere to restricted water use. The chapter's agriscience farm was utilized to train the community in proper water rationing.

NATIONAL FINALISTS:

ILLINOIS: Franklin Center
IOWA: Creston, St. Ansgar
KENTUCKY: Spencer County
MISSOURI: Hardin-Central, Union
NORTH CAROLINA: Southern Guilford
TEXAS: Ysleta
WASHINGTON: Cathlamet, Monroe

GOLD

ARKANSAS: Acorn
ILLINOIS: Seneca, Sogmonauk-Leland, Warsaw
INDIANA: Carroll @ Flora, Shenandoah
IOWA: Manson Northwest Webster, Nashua Plainfield
KANSAS: Concordia, Marysville, Plainville
LOUISIANA: Lacassine, Midland, Oak Grove
MISSOURI: Carthage, Hermann
MONTANA: Cascade
NORTH DAKOTA: Finley-Sharon
OHIO: Bowling Green, Otsego
OKLAHOMA: Weleetka
PENNSYLVANIA: Spud Growers
SOUTH CAROLINA: Britton's Neck
SOUTH DAKOTA: West Central
TENNESSEE: Bartlett, Bradley
WASHINGTON: Bethel, Elma, Mabton, Onalaska, Winlock, Yelm
WISCONSIN: Denmark, Fort Atkinson, Spencer

Achievement In Volunteerism

NATIONAL WINNER: Renee Hill, Monroe, Wash.

Each year, FFA's Building Our American Communities program rewards outstanding individual FFA members for their leadership skills, volunteerism and community service.

This year, the 1994 BOAC Achievement in Volunteerism Award was presented to Renee Hill of Monroe, Wash.

Hill, dedicated to helping others, assisted the Monroe FFA Chapter in organizing its BOAC project. Her desire was the driving force behind the community's involvement in providing school supplies to underprivileged children.

The winners were presented plaques at the Friday afternoon award ceremony.

NATIONAL FINALISTS:

IOWA: Bradley T. Sudol, Nashua
MINNESOTA: Tim Bakeberg, Waverly
NEW YORK: Michael E. Burt, Elmira
TEXAS: Tania Vasquez, El Paso
VIRGINIA: Janel Dalton, South Hill
WASHINGTON: Katie Borne, Olympia; Renee Hill, Monroe; Mikko Laukkanen, Cathlamet
WISCONSIN: Rebecca Kapinos, Denmark
WYOMING: Amy P. Wolff, Sundance



American FFA Degrees

Recognition program sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.; American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Division; Case Corporation; and Farm Credit System.

The 1,454 young men and women who proudly received their American FFA Degrees Friday afternoon represented the culmination of years of hard work and dedication to FFA and agricultural education. Parents and advisors who had supported the members' efforts cheered as they received their keys and certificates. Earlier in the day, the degree recipients were treated to a luncheon, courtesy of the National FFA Foundation sponsors, listed above.



History has a way of repeating itself at the national convention. Jack Heidenreich received his American Farmer Degree in 1969, and was present Friday afternoon to watch his daughter, Jayme Heidenreich of the Platte Valley, Colo., FFA Chapter receive her American FFA Degree 25 years later.

ALABAMA: Jason D. Ball, Speake; Bobby A. Boggs, Plainview; Cheri L. Childs, Hartford; Jonathan M. Cooper, Russellville; Adam Daniel, Mt. Hope; Colby Hammock, Russellville; William S. Hanserd, Elkmont; James A. Harris, Russellville; Bryan Helms, Enterprise; Ryan C. Hodges, Ardmore; Clara-Leigh Horn, Ashville; Larry J. Jackson, Speake; Mickey L. Jordan, Enterprise; Jimmy Letson, East Lawrence; Michael Martin, Enterprise; Erik S. McBryar, Ider; Russell Minor, Enterprise; Timothy H. Murray II, Hazlewood; Darren J. Ponders, Russellville; Jeff Reeves, Enterprise; Jason S. Smith, Talladega City; Ross Thomley, Hartford; Brad Wade, East Lawrence; Tonya R. Williams, Talladega City; Christopher B. Zirbel, Ardmore

ARIZONA: Christopher Accomazzo, Buckeye; Micca Albert, Antelope; Andrew B. Aslesen, Amphitheater; Shaugn M. Benson, Buckeye; Jason Burton, Peoria; Becky Cardenas, Antelope; Pat Chacon, Amphitheater; D. Duane DeSpain, Safford; Jennifer L. Eastman, Buckeye; Billy S. Forrester, Antelope; April T. Glenn, Kofa; Gary L. Hedges, Peoria; Kari B. Johnson, Antelope; Stephanie Kissel, Antelope; John D. Novak, Kofa; Bryce W. Peterson, Antelope; Jennifer C. Pitsch, Antelope; Rad E. Ramsey, Antelope; Leah B. Rodriguez, Mesa; Ryan N. Stuhr, Antelope; Sarah Turner, Buckeye; Nathaniel P. Udall, Round Valley; Cristy L. Webster, Antelope; Rhonda Willoughby, Antelope

ARKANSAS: Cindy M. Ham, Gurdon; Douglas R. Harber, Izard County Consolidated; Jed

Harris, Gravette; Michael Himschoot, Nettleton; Misty L. Martin, Gravette; Jared Munyon, Lincoln; David L. Nelson, Southern Arkansas University; Jerry D. Reynolds, Prairie Grove; Jeremy T. Robertson, Cabot; Jason Umberson, Lincoln; Eric W. Walker, Prairie Grove; David A. Williams, Mansfield

CALIFORNIA: Tony Agueda, Lemoore; Orlando Alamillo, La Puente Valley; Santiago Alvarez, Fullerton; Zmer Andranigian, Kingsburg; Shantelle Andrews, Dos Palos; Tony Avila, Atwater; Clemente Ayon, Santa Maria; Fortino Banda Jr., Orosi; Scott D. Bartlett, Colton; Jacquie Bell, Lemoore; Michelle M. Bender, Grace M. Davis; Brett Bonomi, Fowler; Devry S. Boughner, Gonzales; Courtne Braziel, Elk Grove; Will Brennan, Kern Valley; Eric Bright, Chowchilla; Barbara J. Brooks, Petaluma; Frank Cabrera, Fullerton; Jeremy Calabro, Gonzales; Todd M. Chaney, Arcata; Jennifer Coloma-Danes, Susanville; Shane Corley, Mt Whitney; Larry Correia, Merced; James J. Costa Jr., Tulare Union; Matthew Costa, Chowchilla; Jana Cullum, Tulare Union; Jeffrey B. Davidson, Jurupa Valley; Ann M. DeLay, Chowchilla; Kristen DeRose, Tulare Western; Michael Dieleman, Jurupa Valley; Rebecca S. Doster, Quartz Hill; Norbert S. Duarte, Atwater; Nicole Y. Duran, Rubidoux; Aimee Eltringham, Bret Harte; Alyson Fagundes, Chowchilla; Lisa Ferguson, Chowchilla; Cindy Fletcher, Fullerton; Gina Galloway, Bret Harte; J. Manuel Godoy, Imperial; Aaron Gomes, Tulare Western; Travis Gorham, El Centro; Eric Graham, Dixon; Kris Gudel, Elk Grove; Wes Haynes, Chowchilla; Dustin Hill, North High; Debbie Holbrook, Dixon; Geoffrey G. Holland, Hilmar; Sandi Hurtgen, Oakdale; Garrett Iden, Mt Whitney; Clay Jacobson, Orland; Ryan Jacobson, Mt Whitney; Traci L. Jents, Jurupa Valley; Robert Jimenez, Kingsburg; Will John, Shandon; Adam T. Johnson, Lompoc; Roselle Johnson, North High; Jeanette Jones, Fullerton; Chris Kastner, Chino; Jeremy Kavanagh, Fullerton; Brandy Keelin, Colton; Mike Kindred, Norco; Brian Lanting, Mt Whitney; Benjamin J. Laplante, Lemoore; Amy LaSalle, Merced; Mark Lopes, Merced; Mike Maciel, Merced; Keely Martin, Etna; Refugio Martinez, Fullerton; Laurie McCormick, Fullerton; Jenny McNabb, North High; Glen McWilliams, Shandon; Patrick M. Mederos, Tulare Union;

(Continued on Page 22)



American FFA Degrees

(Continued from page 21)

Eduard A. Mello, Atwater; George Mize, Jurupa Valley; Rodney M. Neugebauer, Hughson; Ryan L. Newsome, Hughson; Todd E. Nicewonger, Davis-Modesto; Anastasia N. Norris, Fullerton; Freddy Oliveira, Hilmar; Shane Patterson, Atwater; Allen Pettay, Bloomington; Shawn Pierson, Jurupa Valley; Loren A. Poncia, Tomales; Stephanie R. Porovich, Bret Harte; Tiffany Rausser, Galt; Nicole Reyburn, Highland; Isaac J. Robles, Davis-Modesto; Michelle Rocha, Los Banos; John M. W. Rockey Jr., Quartz Hill; Angelina M. Rodriguez, Sunny Hills; Gretchen Rooney, Esparto; Julie Rose, Righetti; Mike Rossi, Gilroy; Kara Rowlett, Atascadero; Adam L. Sanders, Kern Valley; Brad Saylor, Chowchilla; Rebecca Seifert, Galt; Kimberly S. Sevier, Kern Valley; Matt Siegalkoff, Galt; Karen A. Skillett, Salinas-North Salinas; Michelle Soares, Tulare Western; Gary Sousa, Dos Palos; David Souza, Atwater; Rodney D. Starn, Hughson; Sharon Stephenson, North High; Crissy Stuteville, Santa Rosa; Carol Taecker, Jurupa Valley; Troy Thompson Jr., Williams; Shelly Tibbets, Jurupa Valley; Launa B. Valente, Bret Harte; Robin Wade, Indio; Rhonda K. Wallace, Santa Rosa; Chris Wallis, Dixon; Ryan Watson, Norco; Jenny Weisman, Fullerton; Matthew Wenstrand, Kern Valley; Sarah White, Jurupa Valley; Robert J. Wilder Jr., Bear River; Clint Woods, Mt Whitney

COLORADO: Adrian Absmeier, Alamosa; Jaden D. Blach, Yuma; Angie Bledsoe, Flagler; Tim Crum, Holly; Brent Davis, Peetz; Jesse J. Donaldson, Valley; Nick W. Fehringer, Peetz; Kara Gill, McClave; Jayme J. Heidenreich, Platte Valley; Jason Iacovetto, Eaton; Mark Jackson, Kim; George J. Klobdanz, Sterling; Kelly L. Longacre, Valley; William D. Longacre, Valley; Elaine K. McCallum, Holyoke; Jason Nichols, Flagler; Chasity Niles, Hi-Plains; Kimberly A. Pachner, Woodlin; Justin Rumsey, Valley; Latisha Saunders, Montrose; Michael Schmidke, Yuma; Ronald S. Schneider, Caliche; Ryan L. Smithburg, Flagler; Jason W. Stewart, Montrose; Andrew J. Thacker, Akron; Jennifer A. Ulrich, Valley; James D. Wyatt, Wiggins

CONNECTICUT: Keith Robert Brodersen, Storrs Regional; Christopher P. Hannan, Woodbury; James Jacquier, Housatonic Valley; Alex D. Taylor, Lyman Hall

DELAWARE: Jefferson T. Benz, Caesar Rodney; Mark A. Breeding, Lake Forest; George M. Dixon, Smyrna; Tonya S. Glass, Caesar Rodney; Deborah L. Warren, Smyrna

FLORIDA: Drayton Arnold, Sneads; Trisha Ann Bailey, Plant City Senior; Eddie Congdon, Haines City Senior; Windy L. Fulford, North Marion; Greg Gillman, Ponce de Leon Senior; James K. Hays, North Marion; Debra A. Jackson, Lafayette Senior; Erin L. Johnson,



A smile is worth a thousand words. American FFA Degree recipient Adin Easter, (left), and advisor Allen Skoog of the Riverside FFA Chapter in Chattaroy, Wash., beam with excitement from all of the hard work that finally paid off.

Plant City Senior; R. Jason Keen, Lake Wales Senior; Gwendolyn G. Layfield, Ponce de Leon Senior; Thomas R. Parker, Clermont; Mark Peterson, South Sumter Senior; Paul L. Raymond, Bartow Senior; Herman R. Rhoton, Bartow Senior; Rich Watson, Trenton Senior; Benjamin M. Yawn, North Marion; Stephen M. Yoder Jr., Altha

GEORGIA: Lynn Barber, Clinch; Robert S. Cantrell, Gilmer County; Joy Carter, Lowndes County; David L. Chadwick, Gilmer County; Matthew H. Chastain, Gilmer County; Jennifer G. Farmer, Oglethorpe County; Kimberly K. Farmer, Oglethorpe County; Sharon R. Gandy, Thomas County; Robert P. Hunnicutt, Colquitt County; Billy Steven Jones, Gilmer County; Gregory Wilson Ledford, Gilmer County; Brian K. Lord, Madison County; Edwin Davis Lovern Jr., Oconee County; Steven A. Meeks, Tift County; Keith L. Mitcham, Newton County; Scott Morgan, Coffee; Courtney H. Terhune, Peach County; Ande Thompson, Perry; Kelly D. Thompson, Tift County; J. Todd F. Tucker, Colquitt County; Cale Watkins, Stephens County; Mary Ruth Webb, Morgan County; Heath Williams, Winder-Barrow

IDAHO: David Bean, Burley; Brandi Bott, Minico; Brian N. Bowers, Parma; Marc Brackett, Filer; Keith N. Evans, Blackfoot; Brock Fife, Minico; Dwayne M. Fisher, Parma; Stephanie R. Harris, Burley; Justin Jenkins, Kuna; Cameron Mahler, New Plymouth; Justin Patten, Kuna; Matthew Quesnell, Twin Falls; Renae Ritchie, Madison; Monica J. Roland, Payette; Jennifer Schumann, American Falls; Joe Stewart, Kuna; Laurie Stewart, Minico; John D. Tesnohlidok, Fruitland

ILLINOIS: Sherry L. Arnold, Clinton; James Ryan Barbee, North Clay; Kim Bauer, Cissna Park; Kimberly A. Best, Clinton; Gary L. Brandt, Waterloo; Tim Brechbiel, Roseville; Thomas I. Burenga III, Litchfield; Michael Clark, Sycamore;

Christopher A. Clemons, A-C Central; Kevin M. Donnan, A-C Central; Jason M. Dunseth, Northwestern; Corey Dwayne Flournoy, Chicago High School for Ag. Sciences; Scott Freebairn, Serena; Carolyn S. Gehrke, DeKalb; Brandon Gerard, Pittsfield; Jeffrey S. Gregory, Alexis; Bradford W. Howe, Iroquois West; Dave Johnson, Brimfield; Chad J. Kalaher, Litchfield; Sarah L. Kuipers, Iroquois West; Eric A. Kunzeman, Griggsville-Perry; Jared A. Lafferty, Spoon River Valley; Brian J. Leitschuh, Litchfield; Joe D. Lind, Sycamore; David M. Mouser, Normal Community; Brian E. Myers, Pittsfield; Curtis E. Oldfield, Farmington; Daniel K. Packenham, Sycamore; Jay Ramsey, Greenville; Jody D. Rheinecker, Pinckneyville; Jason W. Robb, South Central; Aaron R. Rosengren, Serena; Bryce Rupert, Litchfield; Dennis Schaal, South Central; Kathy Schaufelberger, Greenville; Leslie Seelow, Sullivan; Craig C. Sims, Liberty; Christina M. Stipher, Sycamore; Melissa E. Strader, Bushnell-Prairie City; Brian J. Timmann, DeKalb; John J. Whalen, Woodland; Bradley F. Wolter, Red Bud

INDIANA: Matthew Bluhm, Adams Central; Max E. Bollenbacher, South Adams; Brian C. Bowker, Huntington North; Michael Brewer, Carroll @ Flora; D. Joe Caffee, South Adams; Amy Calloway, North Miami; Lori Ann Cyr, Benton Central; Eric Everett, Carroll @ Flora; David Gehring, Batesville; Jason E. Getz, Tri-County; Mathew R. Getz, Tri-County; Kristyne L. Greives, Rossville; Chris L. Hawbaker, South Adams; Ingrid M. Hively, Central Noble; Melissa K. Horton, Tri-County; Gregory S. Humburg, Clinton Central; Brian E. Johnson, Rushville; Kenna Killion, Clay City; Mark A. Kimmel, South Adams; Brad Kohlhausen, Rensselaer; Stacey L. Longyear, East Noble; Brenda L. Manges, Bremen; Karri Jo Marsh, Central Noble; Suzy Martin, Clinton Prairie; Joshua J. Mathew, Tri-County; Lanny Mitchell, Western Boone; Reed



Mohr, Woodlan; Augie Newkirk, Mooresville; Matthew P. Niemann, Triton Central; Paul Nobbe, Batesville; Matthew L. Palmer, Central Noble; David L. Reeves, Southmont; Dwain M. Rule, Clinton Central; Leonard L. Schrock, Woodlan; Shelly K. Schuh, Tri-County; Coby D. Smith, Clinton Prairie; Mathew T. Smith, North Harrison; Shane Storey, North Newton; Kevin R. Summers, Woodlan; Jason A. Weaver, South Adams; Benjamin Webster, Clinton Central; Amy J. Weddle, Franklin; Noble Wesco, Huntington North; Robert J. Zupancic, Indian Creek

IOWA: Doug Adams, Humboldt; Clifford D. Bowie, West Branch; Beau Brecht, Marengo; Thomas C. Brockmann, North Scott; Jason J. Carolan, Charles City; Philip Davis, Oelwein; Cory DeJong, Montezuma; Douglas W. Den Adel, Pleasantville; Suzi Elmer, Mount Ayr; Aaron D. Epley, Waverly-Shell Rock; Brian R. Feldpausch, DeWitt Central; Rodney J. Frascht, Charles City; Jason T. Gates, La Porte-Dysart; Rebecca L. Goodhue, Indianola; Lori C. Grovert, Vinton; Shawn Hanf, Alburnett; Travis D. Hicks, Prairie Valley; Alan R. Horak, Anamosa; Jeremy J. Jansen, Sioux Center; Brent E. Johnson, Manson-Northwest Webster; Kasey G. Kash, Northeast Community; Michael Kent, Dexfield; Lori L. Kleitsch, Wapsie Valley; Jason R. Kurt, Cascade; Shaun E. Lambertsen, Anamosa; Christopher D. Lauer, North Fayette; Dan Lorch, Harris-Lake Park; David S. Moline, Manson-Northwest Webster; Timothy R. O'Brien, Stuart Menlo; Jason Ploen, Walnut; Justin L. Roberts, Prairie Valley; Randy L. Roeder, Northeast Community; Jeremy J. Sauter, Manson-Northwest Webster; Nick R. Schaefer, Marengo; Trent L. Smith, Humboldt; Codi Ellen L. Strand, Alburnett; Steve C. Swanson, North Linn; Dave A. Wempen, Algona; Scott D. Wiley, Vinton; Jim R. Williams, Vinton; Erin S. Wilson, Creston; Mitchell D. Zumbach, North Linn

KANSAS: Aaron D. Abeldt, Chapman; Marty Albrecht, Moundridge; Kevin W. DeDonder, Lebo; Brian Fast, Buhler; Susan K. Gillett, Mankato; Janet L. Griesel, West Elk; Mark L. Helwig, Riverton; Tammy D. Hoobler, Wamego; James Jirak, Centre; Brock L. Kerr, Iola; Larry Meyer, Sabetha; Torrey Morford, Oberlin; Jennafer Neufeld, Inman; Casey W. Niemann, Atchison County; Brandon Siemens, Buhler; Jacqueline L. Springer-Wagner, Neodesha; John D. Wertzberger, Wabaunsee; Jerrod A. Westfahl, Haven

KENTUCKY: C. Eric Ballard, Caldwell County; Craig Berry, Todd Central; Chris Browning, Trimble County; David S. Caldwell, Fulton County; Michael C. Camenisch, Lincoln County; Sean C. Conley, Bourbon; Bryan D. Ebelhar, Apollo; Charlie Edgington, Garrard County; James C. Edlin, Central Hardin; Chad T. Ferguson, Knox Central; Neal C. Floyd, Jessamine County; John W. Grimes, Garrard County; James C. Holman, Butler County; Scott

Howell, Breckinridge County; Bradley S. Kirby, Greenwood; Corey L. Konow, Franklin-Simpson; Daniel S. Mallory, Bourbon County; William A. McIntosh, Scott County; Roger D. Miller, Garrard County; Michael J. Moss, Apollo; Jodie P'Pool, Trigg County; Danny I. Pittman Jr., Calloway County; Thomas D. Tucker, Greenwood; Shane Wiseman, Clark County; Earl Wright, Breckinridge County; Derrick Young, Warren East

LOUISIANA: Christopher W. Ezernack, Ebarb; Matt Fannin, Weston; Kelly N. Jones, Denham Springs; Benjamin T. Langlins, Erath; Brett D. LeJeune, Midland; Tait J. Martin, South Lafourche

MAINE: Aaron M. Buzza, Presque Isle; Christa Leigh-Erin Currier, Presque Isle; Troy D. McCrum, Presque Isle; Scott A. Pangburn, Presque Isle

MARYLAND: Seth P. Burrier, Frederick; Robert O. Dinsmore, Brunswick; Calvin Ott, Flintstone; Jeremy W. Peterson, Walkersville

MASSACHUSETTS: Keith M. Faris, Bristol; Kimberly J. Goncalves, Bristol

MICHIGAN: Robert R. Becklin, Ravenna; Kara J. Bouchard, Coopersville; Sandra Lee Campbell, Alcona; Chris Chamberlain, Webberville; Floyd Chamberlain, Webberville; Catherine A. Courtade, Coopersville; Adam T. Good, Marshall; John L. Gould, Lenawee Vo-Tech; David S. Hildenbrand, Lowell; Scott C. Hilton, Caledonia; Justin C. Johnson, Branch Area Careers Center; Timothy D. Kiesling, Perry-Morrice; Ryan M. Kuhl, USA; Todd Landis, Homer; Matt March, Beal City; Jason M. Martin, Ithaca; Connie L. Padilla, Cedar Springs; Wendy Pline, Ovid-Elsie; Scott Puvalowski, Uby; John A. Schiel, Manchester; Charla J. Smith, Alma; Tim Smith, Caledonia; John P. Tomasek Jr., Byron; Jason C. Torrey,

Branch Area Careers Center

MINNESOTA: David J. Baer, Lewiston-Altura; Kristen Boyum, Rushford/Peterson; Adam Brase, Alexandria; Heidi Brogan, St. Charles; Chad Bruns, Herman-Norcross; Nathaniel D. Diedrich, Alexandria; Otto Doehling III, Kenyon-Wanamingo; Robert C. Erickson, Benson; Cory Fischer, Sleepy Eye; Becky Glisczinski, Belle Plaine; Lyle Goetz Jr., Waconia; Scott Haala, Sleepy Eye; Reuben Herfindahl, Benson; Chris Hill, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Tim Hillukka, Menahga; Bill Hoen, Waconia; Chad M. Hoffbeck, Cedar Mountain; Randy J. Kasel, Southland; Erica Klassen, Benson; Thomas W. Kleven, Cook; Michelle Lammers, Southland; Troy H. Lange, Spring Valley; Chris Larson, Sleepy Eye; Christopher L. Lentz, LeRoy-Ostrander; Steven Lichty, Stewartville; Curtis A. Luitjens, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; O'Neil Lund, Greenbush/Middle River; Denise May, New Prague; Paul McCarvel, Sioux Valley-Round Lake-Brewster; Kyle J. Merkel, Spring Valley; Scott Morrison, Belle Plaine; Mark Soleta, Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield; Jill L. Stauffenecker, Foley; Troy Stauffenecker, Greenbush; Trevor R. Steeke, Perham; Kristine Thomas, Rushford-Peterson; Matt Thoreson, Kenyon-Wanamingo; Kevin C. Uthke, Hayfield; Steve A. Yoch, Leroy-Ostrander

MISSISSIPPI: Jason Ballard, Lawrence County; Steve Davis, Lawrence County; Marc Payne, Nettleton

MISSOURI: Allen Atkins, Northwest Technical; Greg Bahrenburg, Cole Camp; Jennifer Barnes, Mountain Grove; Jason Baxter, Aurora; Candi M. Bertsch, Salisbury; Suzanne M. Biglieni, Republic; Gregory R. Black, Richland; Bruce D. Blakemore, Walnut Grove; Terry D. Blankenship,

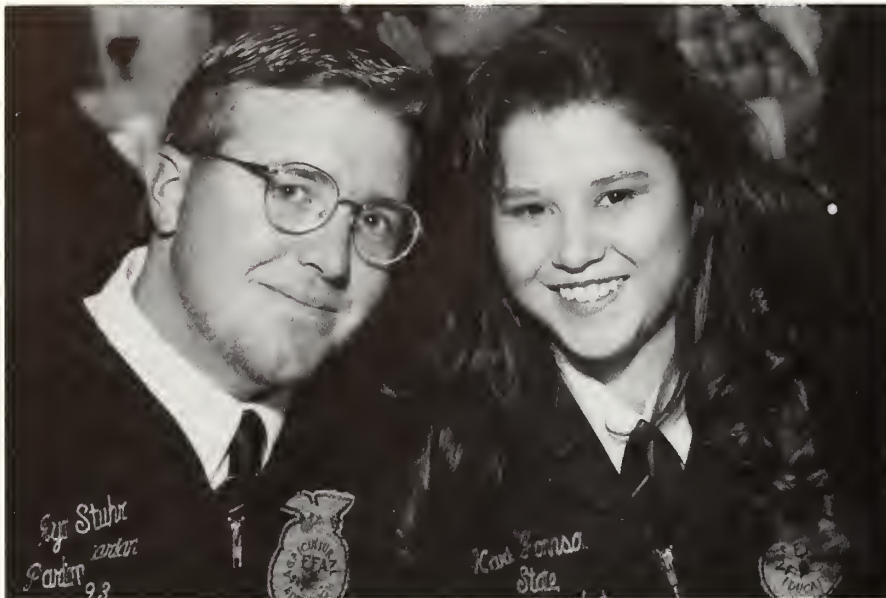
(Continued on Page 24)



Anyone can see that family and the FFA are two important aspects of Larry Hoagland's life. Hoagland from the Buckeye JVS, Ohio, FFA Chapter brought his wife, Jennifer, and two-year-old son, Keith, along to the 67th National FFA Convention.



American FFA Degrees *(Continued from page 23)*



When it came time to be given FFA's highest honor, American FFA Degree recipients like Ryan Stuhr (left) and Kari Johnson (right) of Arizona's Antelope FFA Chapter were surrounded by family and friends.

Eldon; Deanna J. Blevins, Crane; Kris Bocking, Chamois-Morrison; Pauley Bradley, Trenton; Christina M. Brasher, Stockton; Travis S. Bredensteiner, Tarkio; Robin K. Britt, Salisbury; Gretchen D. Bruffett, Jasper; Barton L. Burke, East Newton; Kenlee R. Calvin, Mount Vernon; Randy Campbell, North Harrison; Wesley P. Carter, Norborne; Eric Chandler, Butler; Walden E. Chevalier Jr., Malta Bend; Matthew T. Clark, Gilman City; Casey Coon, Savannah; Tim Cotter, Bakersfield; Tiffany Cowger, Savannah; Brandon Craig, North Harrison; Eric C. Davis, Putnam County; Kelly Davis, Rock Port; Mark T. Dingman, Liberal; Jeremy Dodds, Carrollton; Adam P. Dohrman, Sweet Springs; Angie Doing, Fair Grove; Mark A. Drehle, Norborne; Rebecca K. Driskill, Skyline; Christopher D. Dryer, Buffalo; Damen Eggleston, Memphis; Ryan J. Elliott, Brunswick; James T. Enloe, Eldon; Brandon Fahrmeier, Wellington-Napoleon; Chris Fender, Memphis; Chadd M. Flehmer, Pierce City; Teresa R. Foland, Worth County; Edward W. Foley II, Gallatin; Jill D. Gates, Centralia; Corin Gerlach, Jamestown; Kelly W. Gordy, Clark County; Russell D. Grace, Lebanon; Dawn F. Griesbaum, Palmyra; Doug Gross, Missouri; Jason Gudde, Holden; Jeremy Hall, Clark County; Ralph B. Harris, Cabool; Brian Hausman, Savannah; D. Landon Hawkins, Hardin-Central; Robert W. Haynes, Eldon; Danny Heath, Smithville; Emily M. Heath, East Prairie; Jed T. Heilig, East Newton; Nicole L. Henley, Eldon; Edward J. Hitt, Aurora; Shawn M. Homan, Smithville; Jason Hosman, Ash Grove; Bethany C. Howard, Clark County R-1; Jason Huffman, Versailles; Craig Hunt, Worth County; Trent O. Hurley, Charleston Danforth; Chris

Jones, North Harrison; Rustin G. Jumps, Mound City; Jeffery T. Kirby, Bolivar; Philip A. Kleiboeker, Pierce City; Jeff Klein, Farmington; Matthew R. Korman, Hermann; Valerie Leamer, Polo; J. Bradley Ledbetter, Richland; Amy Light, Thayer; Darrin K. Lillemann, Lafayette County C-1 Higginsville; Jeffrey Littleton, Keytesville; Michael Madewell, Aurora; Hoss D. Matthews, Norborne; Patrick McKee, Liberal; Steven Meyer, Brunswick; Craig W. Meyers, Palmyra; David Mohr, Memphis; Robert L. Monroe, Memphis; Daren Neidholdt, Keytesville; James M. Neth, Eldon; Ron F. Oelrichs, Cole Camp; Daniel M. Oligschlaeger, Wellsville; Shawn M. Phillips, Memphis; Nathan J. Plumb, North Shelby; Betsy Poisal, Archie; Craig Rehmer, Hermann; Daniel Reynolds, Gainesville; Brad A. Rhoads, Lebanon; William M. Richardson, Brunswick; Chris Riddle, Windsor; Amy M. Roberts, Trenton; Brian S. Robinson, Putnam County; Jamie Robinson, Memphis; Donald E. Rovenstine, Fair Play; Nicole E. Rugen, Missouri; Nathanael J. Russell, Thayer; Jarred A. Sayre, Milan; Ryan W. Schmidt, Hermann; Chris Schoenthal, Jamestown; Wayne Sergeant, Bolivar; Charyti L. Sibbit, Trenton; Ryan L. Sims, Sweet Springs; Terry Slayton, Doniphan; Matt Smith, Forsyth; John R. Stundebek, Salisbury; John Swaters, Lakeland; Kerry L. Terhune, Gilman City; Mark Thies, Glasgow; Matthew J. Thies, Glasgow; Scott Trammell, Rich Hill; Misty Trout, Licking; Steven G. Unnerstall, Union; Jeremy J. Valentine, Putnam County; Lucas J. Veale, Maysville; DeEtta L. Viets, Sweet Springs; James N. Vincent, Crane; Bobbie Watson, Cabool; Jason L. Wilsie, Lafayette County-Higginsville; James A. Wilson, Doniphan;

Mike Wojtczuk, Fredericktown; Beth Wolf, Chillicothe; Lori A. Womack, Clark County R-1; Leah L. Wommack, Troy; Brian Yarbrow, Twin Rivers

MONTANA: Shawn D. Fladager, Peerless; Jeremy L. Fritz, Flathead; Shelly E. Grindheim, Denton; Heidi L. Hougen, Melstone; Norman R. Johnson, Deer Lodge; Ryan W. Jones, Miles City; Kenneth R. Lee, Judith Gap; Daryl L. Mitchell, Chinook; Darin D. Oelkers, Culbertson; Rachelle Schaff, Stillwater Valley; Jason J. Swanz, Judith Gap; Michael J. Vanek, Shields Valley; Tammy L. Yost, Joliet

NEBRASKA: Kenneth Anderson II, Ravenna; Kevin L. Anderson, West Point; Matthew R. Arndt, Hampton; Heath Arterburn, Blue Hill; Jerry J. Auel, Norfolk; Stacey E. Barger, Wauneta; Mitch Becker, St Edward; Barry Benson, Newman Grove; Bill Brezina, Schuyler; Gary L. Buller, Henderson; Jeff A. Chana, St Edward; Kelly A. Chapman, North Bend; Wendi H. Coker, Scottsbluff; Mindy J. Conroy, Spencer-Naper; Becket Cool, Aurora; Warren Coulter, Ravenna; Eric Dam, Logan View; Seth Derner, Wheeler Central; Mark B. Dick, Hampton; Patrick S. Donahue, Central; Ki Fanning, Imperial; Bill Ference, Loup City; Leslie L. Glinnsman, Loup City; Kara R. Greenwood, Logan View; Jason A. Grotelueschen, Lakeview; Philip Hauptman, Nebraska City; Suzanne M. Heckman, Diller; Gregory L. Hervet, Ravenna; Coleen R. Hixon, Chappell; Tracy J. Hoffman, Fairbury; Jennifer L. Hongsermeier, Ravenna; Jeff Hostert, Butte; Becki R. Jantzen, Tri County; Charlie Janzen, Hampton; Alisha Jensen, Holdrege; Jennifer L. Johnson, Genoa; John Kalkowski, Rock County; Michael R. Karr, Blue Hill; Brent A. Karstens, Prague; Mark Kimbrough, Geneva; Kent D. Kirchhoff, Superior; Kevin Kment, Norfolk; Susan Knabe, Conestoga; Jeremy R. Knuth, Northwest; Kurt Knutson, Cambridge; Jennifer L. Kottman, Scribner-Snyder; Todd D. Kral, Blue Hill; Jake Kucera, Ravenna; Rick Kusek, Loup City; Jason Ladman, Henderson; John Laska, St Edward; Mark Lawver, Prague; Nikki Lechtenberg, Butte; Shane A. Lechtenberg, Butte; Jeanne M. Liewer, Butte; Brent E. Lottman, Diller; Sandra D. Mellor, Butte; Jeremy Mueller, Lakeview; Steven R. Nelson, Newman Grove; Craig A. Nickels, Hampton; Lonnie Nickels, Hampton; Aaron Niemann, St Edward; Thomas Osmond, Sandhills; Renee M. Plueger, Allen; Sonya L. Plueger, Allen; Janna S. Quaring, Ravenna; Craig Quiring, Henderson; Dana C. Rasmussen, Ravenna; Justin Rasmussen, Hampton; Chad R. Rebbe, Logan View; Jonathan Reetz, Henderson; Mark D. Reininger, Leigh; Christopher L. Reiser, Butte; Bryan Rentschler, West Holt; Chad Sander, Lakeview; Grant E. Schaneman, Scottsbluff; Tricia Schochenmaier, Spencer-Naper; Cory Schulze, Hampton; Justin J. Sindt, Franklin; Cary T. Skibinski, Loup City; Richard L. Small, Fullerton; Debra F. Smith, St Edward; Ryan D. Soukup, Northwest; Lynn M.



Starr, Fairbury; Brian K. Steffensmeier, Logan View; Jennifer M. Stehlik, Pawnee City; Dennis J. Sullivan, Fullerton; Christopher A. Swartzendruber, Shickley; Adam L. Switzer, Loup County; Chad E. Sybrant, Rock County; Lisa K. Ternus, Genoa; Melanie Tyser, Leigh; Kevin C. Uhing, Logan View; Jonathan Ulmer, Sutton; Scott W. Utecht, Superior; Brad Utemark, Scribner-Snyder; Ginger L. Vacek, Ravenna; Kory J. Vering, Howells-Clarkson; Pamela L. Weber, Schuyler; David Wegner, Scribner-Snyder; Justin J. Wells, Elba; Steven L. Wendt, Leigh; Ryan Winter, Sutton; Brandon Wollberg, Scribner-Snyder; Roy E. Wood, Palmrya; Michael C. Yelken, Franklin

NEVADA: Joe Laxague, Carson Valley; Owen K. Reed, Ruby Mountain

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Meredith Cari Davis, Fall Mountain; Alice M. Moore, Coe-Brown Academy

NEW JERSEY: David Bond, Hunterdon Central; Theresa M. Cooper, Hunterdon Central; Dawn N. Doidge, Allentown; Travis M. Eachus, Cumberland Regional; Ronald D. Emley Jr., Allentown; Walter P. Katona, Northern Burlington County; Tiffany M. Roberson, Northern Burlington County; Anthony Russo, Hunterdon Central; George Stillwell, Allentown; Jay E. Tilton, Freehold; Nicole B. Wright, Allentown

NEW MEXICO: Leslie J. Bouvet, Hatch; Tamara M. Davis, Melrose; Lane A. Widner, Estancia; Loralee Woods, Grady

NEW YORK: Julie R. Berry, South Jefferson; Eric Groat, Walton; Douglas L. Haggerty, Indian River; Eunice J. Mang, Fort Plain; Robin C. McLean, Tri-Valley; Brett Roberts, Remsen; Jennifer L. Seavey, Madrid-Waddington; David Snyder, Hamilton; Lloyd H. Vaill Jr., Pine Plains

NORTH CAROLINA: Tracey L. Barker, Bartlett Yancey; Walter H. Barrier, Mount Pleasant; Daniel S. Beard, South Iredell; Laura A. Britt, West Montgomery; David F. Correll, West Rowan; Michael S. Cox, Starmount; Jack A. Davis, South Lenoir; Donny Epps, West Montgomery; Randall Foster, South Rowan; Amy D. Guard, Currituck; Robert D. Harris, Northeastern; Travis W. Hodge, Chase; Patrick L. Howard, South Lenoir; Scotty Humble, Eastern Randolph; Stacey R. Jones, Southern Wayne; Edward M. King, West Craven; Ryan Scott King, Princeton; Julie Klass, North Lenoir; Everette D. Little, Piedmont; Jeff C. Marler, Madison; Matthew D. McConnell, South Iredell;

Joseph B. Noble, South Lenoir; Kennie Owens, Camden; Chad A. Phillips, Eastern Randolph; Timothy A. Purser, Piedmont; Ben F. Twiddy III, Creswell; Trevor D. Vandemark, Southern Nash Senior; James K. West, North Lenoir

NORTH DAKOTA: Brent Bachmeier, Carrington; Eugene Birkliid, Lisbon; Kevin Bonness, Des Lacs-Burlington; Nadine Cornell, Williston; Donnie Feiring, Tioga; Mike W. Fenske, Wahpeton; JoDee Free, Harvey; Melinda D. Goodman, Willow City; Michael L. Johnson, Lisbon; Heather Kippen, Bottineau;

Wayne; Matthew T. Boehm, Hardin Northern; Drew Boerger, Fairbanks; Kristina M. Boyer, Ashland; Kerry L. Browne, Hillsdale; Melissa L. Carpenter, Big Walnut; Matt Clinger, Cardington-Lincoln; James Cress, Madison Plains; Matt Davis, Madison Plains; Scott Dawson, Harrison; Doug Dealey, Wayne Trace; Juhl Douglas, Fairbanks; Mark W. Dowden, West Liberty-Salem; Joe A. Downing, Madison Plains; Jon Dunkelberger, Talawanda; Daniel Egbert, Talawanda; Eric Facemyer, Alexander; Stephen Fields III, Talawanda; Sheryl L.

Finfrock, Tecumseh; Jennifer J. France, Bowling Green; Todd Geisbuhler, Eastwood; Del Hardy, Fairfield Union; Matthew A. Hartman, Cory-Rawson; Bryan Hazelbaker, Ohio Valley; Lori A. Herrmann, Talawanda; Aaron D. Hill, Marysville; Larry Hoagland, Buckeye; Christy S. Hoewischer, Fairbanks; Jaimes Hoewischer, Fairbanks; Lannette Iles, Ridgedale; Kevin Isler, River Valley; John F. Juhasz, Edon; Todd Kendle, Buckeye; Eric Kinsey, Indian Valley; Chris Knecht, Ross; Gregory J. Lee, Marysville; Thomas J. Lyden, Benjamin Logan; Vincent Lyons, Cardington-Lincoln; J. David Martin, Westfall; Donald McCarty, Ohio Valley Vocational; Trent McFarland, Lucas; Darby McLaughlin, Northwestern-Wayne; Richard Mead, Kenton; Dan Meyer, Fairbanks; Bill Montoya, Bellevue; Sean P. Nolan, Western Reserve; James D. Ogden II, Mowrystown; Ronald L. Osterholt, St. Henry; Kevin D. Osterloh, Ansonia; Douglas Poling, Ada; Mechelle L. Pothast, Versailles; Lucas Rausch, Fairbanks; Brett A. Rogers, Western Brown; Gregory J. Rowe, Bellevue; Mark A. Ruppright, Hardin Northern; Tiffany N. Sarver, A. B. Graham; Lee R. Schroeder, Leipsic; James A.

Shertzer, Bowling Green; Michael P. Smith, St. Marys; Tadd J. Smith, Edison; Christopher Snavelly, Bellevue; Shawn Sprowl, Indian Valley; Jon Studebaker, Tecumseh; Scott Swaldo, Buckeye; Randy J. Tegtmeier, Northwestern-Wayne; Monte Thompson, Utica; Randy Trapp, Marysville; David Vollmer, Talawanda; Rodney Wagner, Fairfield Union; David Williams, New Riegel; Anna Williamson, Madison Plains; Brian J. Winner, Versailles; Bryan J. Zimmerman, Sentinel; Kyle Zimmerman, Licking Valley
OKLAHOMA: Ryan Arrington, Sweetwater; Brandon Ashpaugh, Laverne; Jamie Baker, Adair; Jade Barby, Laverne; Travis W. Beams, Kingfisher; Joseph A. Beisel, Fargo; Joel Birdwell, Fletcher; Jackie B. Blackburn, Sayre; Clint D. Brannon, Frederick; Jason Bridges,



Tino Banda of the Orosi, Calif., FFA Chapter was awarded his American FFA Degree Friday afternoon.

Ross Laframboise, Towner-Schultz; Ryan Miller, Wahpeton; Aaron Moos, Beulah; John Myers, Lisbon; Mark J. Nelson, Powers Lake; Sam Ongstad, Harvey; Randy Oppen, Rugby; Kyle J. Pausch, Wahpeton; Luke Rasmussen, Lisbon; Matt Reinke, Lisbon; Robert Richardson, Watford City; Clint Saylor, Wishek; Trent Schneider, Hebron; Corey Skovholt, Wahpeton; Ryan T. Stockdill, Garrison; Christopher Sundberg, Divide County; Mark Torno, Bottineau; Mark Vachal, Tioga; Kathryn M. Volk, Rugby; Shane W. Walker, Willow City
OHIO: Kyle Althaus, Kenton; Jason Anderson, Lakeland; Mark A. Baden, Bowling Green; Charidy M. Beamer, Upper Sandusky; Donald Beauman, Madison Plains; Deborah Belleville, Otsego; Ivan Belleville, Otsego; Doug Benham, Miami East; Timothy A. Billman, Northwestern-

(Continued on Page 26)



American FFA Degrees *(Continued from page 25)*

Fletcher; Jennifer D. Bullard, Elmore City; Tammie L. Butler, Carnegie; Kurt Campbell, Timberlake; Bradley W. Cantrell, Collinsville; Chance Cell, Ringwood; Amy E. Chastain, Wetumka; Kyle Church, Sentinel; Dusty Cole, Sharon-Mutual; Donald R. Colpitt, Collinsville; Laura C. Colpitt, Collinsville; Malinda A. Compton, Mooreland; Adam Cordes, Clinton; Kevin L. Dodson, Pryor; Eric Duncan, Laverne; Jerry W. Dunn, Canute; Angie Edwards, Fairview; Lance G. Embree, Medford; Damon C. Fesmire, Timberlake; Cody File, Butler; Sarah Fogleman, Locust Grove; Jared L. Fuser, Afton; Alex L. Gibson, Hardesty; Kendra K. Gleason, Thomas; Cody J. Gray, Pawnee; Johnthan Hall, Sharon-Mutual; Bart Harper, Calera; Brad J. Hayes, Frederick; Stephanie Hayton, Billings; Matthew W. Henderson, Perry; Brad Holsted, Carnegie; Randy Irwin, Hartshorne; Jay Jenlink, Timberlake; Brian Wade Johnson, Mountain View-Gotebo; Christopher D. Jones, Calera; Chad D. Kissing, Burlington; Traci LaFever, Mountain View-Gotebo; Toby Lowry, Adair; Tricia G. Luckie, Boise City; Trevor L. Mason, Ringwood; Rachel Massey, Snyder; Denver McCullough, Grandfield; Tim McCullough, Wilburton; Shane Morgan, Burlington; Chad Morris, Rock Creek; Jeff Nemecek, Checotah; Micah J. Nightengale, Fairview; Obie Pigeon, Kansas; Matthew A. Ralls, Idabel; Kassie Robertson, Indianahoma; Carl Scheihing, Guthrie; Russell G. Schickedanz, Fargo; Sean Siess, Guthrie; Ryan D. Sites, Mountain View-Gotebo; Clinton J. Smith, Collinsville; Gary Smith, Weatherford; Ryan M. Smith, Coweta; Josh Snider, Laverne; Brandon C. Spears, Hartshorne; John D. Stewart, Cushing; Megan Stewart, Buffalo; Jay A. Storm, Kingfisher; Roy Taylor, Caney; Clint Thomas, Temple; Ray Thralls, Billings; Monte E. Tucker, Sweetwater; Brandon W. Upton, Wewoka; Clarence C. Vernon III, Morrison; Angie K. Voth, Fairview; Brian Lee Vowell, Thomas; Landon Waugh, Buffalo; Jody C. Whisenhunt, Checotah; Wade O. Witt, Lomega; Cullen D. Worthington, Chattanooga; Seleta M. Wyckoff, Frontier

OREGON: Melinda J. Becker, Union; Brian Christiansen, Cascade; Shawna Denney, Baker; Jennifer L. Eichenauer, Woodburn; Wendy Elam, Cascade; Shawn David Greenfield, Condon; James M. Kirkham, Willamina; Jennifer S. Lantz, Redmond; Kelly J. Lettenmaier, North Marion; Ted Netter, North Marion; Joe Palmer, Ontario; Allen Plas, Silverton; Casey Jo Price, Adrian; Lee Ricker, Union; Jennifer K. Roemer, Silverton

PENNSYLVANIA: Melissa McDonald Campbell, Chestnut Ridge; Hoyt Berdine, West Greene; Douglas S. Boop, Mifflinburg; Brian S. Bowery, Clearfield; Amy M. Byers, Greenwood; Garth E. Campbell, Upper Dauphin; David B. Clark, Mohawk; Edward D. Clark, Mohawk; Karen L.

Dull, Manheim; Shawn W. Eberly, Grassland; Linda D. Hall, State College Little Lions; Aaron W. Harpster, Tyrone; Dale E. Heagy, Northern Lebanon; David L. Helman, Blue Ridge; Joel A. Hertzler, West Perry; Jayne N. Hess, Conewago-New Oxford; Robert L. Hodge, Mohawk; Patricia L. Huber, Solanco; Rhick Johnson, Cowanesque; Mark Kornman, Linesville; Chad M. Lebo, Halifax Area; Timothy Lehman, Cumberland Valley; Richard A. Martin, Chambersburg; Francine Martz, Line Mountain-Mahantango; Amy Jo Miller, Conewago-New Oxford; Ammon K. Peiffer Jr., Cedar Crest; Betsy J. Pownall, Solanco; Christopher A. Reichard, Blue Ridge; Jason W. Reifsnnyder, Grassland; John P. Risser, Cedar Crest; Tracey A. Sauder, West Perry; Cheryl L. Sollenberger, Williamsburg; Jason M. Sonnen, Eastern Lebanon County; Scott Robert Stone, Williamsburg; Robin S. Thomas, Troy; J. Darren Watts, Blue Ridge; Joseph W. Whiteford II, Bellwood-Antis

PUERTO RICO: Jose A. Vazquez-Velez, Judith A. Vivas

RHODE ISLAND: Leslie Cline, Chariho

SOUTH CAROLINA: Wendall O'Keith Bruner, Hunter-Kinard-Tyler; Anthony P. Graves, Britton's Neck; Edward S. Reason, Britton's Neck

SOUTH DAKOTA: Ginger Airheart, Sturgis; Laura Alderson, West Central; Kristi A. Auch, Menno; Bonnie L. Boy, West Central; Brian W. Bramstedt, Harrisburg; Sandra E. Braun, Harrisburg; Patricia L. Bultsma, Platte; Scott L. Cammack, Sturgis; Jason Eisenmenger, Harrisburg; Dana Fagerhaug, Wessington Springs; D. J. Gaikowski, Waubay; Jeral Gross, Bridgewater; Chad Hawley, Harrisburg; Jason Hofer, Bridgewater; Jerrad Hoffman, Bowdle; Shane Jibben, Lennox Sundstrom; Jason F. Johnke, Centerville; Karmen Leber, Parker; Tim Matthaei, McCook Central; Scott G. Nusz, Menno; Marty Olson, Wessington Springs; Dick A. Rol, Harrisburg; Brian Terry Rook, Clear Lake; Jeff Scheel, Wessington Springs; Travis Schock, McCook Central; Clint Sombke, Groton; Chad E. Voss, Groton; Rhonda C. Woehl, Menno

TENNESSEE: John Baskette, Morristown; Art Bawcum, Riverside; Chris W. Beard, Santa Fe; Joel Bernard, East Robertson; John Alexander Birdwell, Gallatin; Clint E. Carnal, Humboldt; Bobby Chumley, Powell Valley; Brad Cook, Humboldt; Sidney Fannon, Morristown West; Joseph Fuller, Humboldt; Jon Graves, Riverside; Donald Steven Hutson, Volunteer; Ronald Lambert, Powell Valley; Kenneth Lee, Bradley Central; Mitchell J. Lowe, Cumberland County; Justin Mason, McMinn County; Eric Maupin, Dyer County; Benny J. McDonald, Mt. Juliet; William F. McLean, Dyer County; James A. Mills,

South Greene; Staci L. Neas, South Greene; Michael A. Ottinger, South Greene; Randal K. Page, Beech; Steve Pettigrew, Riverside; John B. Porter, Halls; David Read, East Robertson; Patrick M. Rogers, Lincoln County; Jay Rymer, Polk; Brian W. Stooksbury, Clinton; David Townsend, Lexington; Chad D. Wampler, West Greene; Joe Heath Welch, Dyersburg; Michael E. Wilkerson, Dyer County; Chuck Yokley, Spring Hill

TEXAS: Steve Alba, Cotulla; Billy Jack Allen Jr., Sulphur Springs; Scott Bishop, Thorndale; Chadd Bostel, Pleasanton; Edward A. Bredemeyer Jr., Winters; David Carnes, Pleasanton; Kenneth Clay Carr, Sudan; Candis Lynn Carraway, Livingston; Jana Denise Casada, Farmersville; Wesley H. Colwell, Hardin; Kile Cowan, Perryton; Lesa Cox, Quitman; James D. Cross, Belton; Joshua Bob David, Chester; Robert M. Eshee Jr., Huffman; Hector Louis Ferrel, Wharton; Timothy Fournier, Pleasanton; David Fritz, Hutto; Allen Blayn Hahn, Cuero; Patrick Hall, Pleasanton; Elizabeth A. Hamilton, Grapevine; Heather Harp, Barbers Hill; Jana B. Hart, Greenville; David Hartman, Pleasanton; Joe Herrmann, Banquete; Daniel L. Hill, Salado; Doreen Hoeinghaus, Weimar; Brandon Jendrusch, Falls City; Michael Johnson, Pleasanton; Bobby G. King, Franklin; Jason Klawinsky, New Waverly; Richard Kretzer, Caldwell; T. R. Lansford III, Tilden; Tim Lapham, Sealy; Kendra Liggett, Bellevue; Laura K. Locke, Wharton; Laurie E. Masterson, Guthrie; Jody McBee, Pleasanton; Matt McCarty, Cotton Center; Brady Miller, Booker; Heather J. Moore, Kingwood; John H. Morgan, Pearland; Steve Mosley, Madisonville; James Newman, Pleasanton; Julie L. Ommert, Bryan; Scot Pollok, Falls City; Jason Powell, Pleasanton; Bradley D. Price, Valley; Stephanie A. Purswell, Tarkington; Kim Ramey, Pleasanton; Laney Reding, Madisonville; Dee Regenbrecht, Katy; Stephanie Riley, Pleasanton; Robert Rutherford, Pleasanton; Jason R. Sagebiel, Aledo; Kris Schertz, Denton; Rae L. Schneider, Comfort; Clifford W. Slott, New Waverly; Sharlet G. Slough, Gruver; Darrell Smith, El Campo; Matt Snell, Sands; Tommy R. Snook Jr., Livingston; Michael Spenrath, Comfort; Amanda Steadham, Barbers Hill; Kenneth C. Stimmel, Mexia; Ronnie Stock, Weimar; Charles N. Thomas, Mabank; Erik T. Van Dorn, Hardin; John C. VanDevender, Livingston; Cody Wagoner, Pearland; Timothy J. Walker, Bowie; Monica Weiser, Harrold; Clay Williamson, Iowa Park; Michael L. Wood, Cotton Center; Kristin L. Woods, Bryan; Brad Wooster, Perryton; Jodie H. Word, Gladewater; Neely Young, Katy

UTAH: Kelly J. Bennett, Clearfield; Brian R. Carlson, Clearfield; Tricia G. Carlson, Wasatch; Connie Coombs, Manila; Clayton L. Davis, Payson; John W. Diamond IV, Clearfield; Cole Ercanbrack, Payson; Joshua C. Evans, Pleasant Grove; Chet A. Fitzgerald, Box Elder; Mark D.





Trent Schneider (left) of Hebron, N.D., and Mark Nelson of Powers Lake, N.D., dine at the American FFA Degree Luncheon Friday.

Haskell, Payson; Colby Holmes, Wasatch; Howard Houston, Roosevelt; Lane W. Jensen, Bear River; Burke D. Phillips, Springville; Tige Rhoades, Clearfield; Mariah D. Sagers, Tooele; Rachel Sagers, Tooele; DeAnn Smith, Pleasant Grove; Nathan A. Thomsen, Spanish Fork

VERMONT: Cristy de Boer, Vergennes; Justin M. Poulin, Central Vermont

VIRGINIA: John Bowman, Turner Ashby; Walter R. Bracy Jr., Lakeland; Becky Brizendine, Essex; David W. Caricofe, Buffalo Gap; Brian Carpenter, Spotswood; Ryan A. Clouse, James Wood; Tammy E. Cole, Grayson County; Kathy S. Cook, Central; Smith D. Cooley, James Wood; Timothy S. Hahn, James Wood; Mark D. Hawkins, Broadway; James J. Hedge Jr., Pulaski County; Timothy D. Hopson, Turner Ashby; Charles G. Johnson, Nelson Senior; Theresa L. Kidd, Amelia County Senior; Karen A. Kirby, Lee Davis; Scottie R. Kiser, Richlands; Adam C. Lowe, Floyd County; Phillip L. McCroskey Jr., John S. Battle; Mitzi G. McDougle, Lee Davis; Jason S. Milburn, James Wood; Cindy Palmer, Pulaski County; James D. Puckett Jr., William Campbell; Scott Bradley Pugh, James Wood; Robert Ray, Northumberland Sr; Michael R. Ryan, Stonewall Jackson; Brett S. Seal, Spotswood; Darrell I. Short, Page County; Jill Simmons, Fort Defiance; Victor W. Simmons, Park View Senior; David S. Smith, Spotswood; Shannon C. Tignor, Caroline; James T. Walters, Stonewall Jackson; John L. Welsh Jr., Spotswood; A. J. Williams, James Wood

WASHINGTON: Cody L. Appleford, Asotin; Adin R. Easter, Riverside; Brian Fagerness, Rochester; Christian C. Giles, Finley; Amanda Gould, Castle Rock; Brian Greedy, Eastmont; Daniel M. Greene, Granite Falls; Holly J. Gutzwiller, Wenatchee; Jill Hawley, Othello Pioneers; Kevin Kaiser, Othello Pioneers; Stacy

A. Kniveton, Connell; Ryan Kenneth Kregger, Touchet; Nels Lagerlund, Burlington-Edison; Loren J. Lentz, Deer Park; Lance Linderman, Othello Pioneers; Christopher D. McCullough, Chelan; Travis Meacham, Pomeroy; Erik L. Metcalf, Winlock; R. Scott Moore, Kahlolus;

Tony Paine, Clarkston; Aaron Parker, Winlock; Daniel P. Pearson, Elma; Scott Picker, Prosser; Robert K. Shindler, Rosalia; Reed Wiswall, Connell; Jarod J. Wollweber, Reardan

WEST VIRGINIA: Carl D. Baker, Mason County Vo Tech Center; Amanda Carihfield, Ripley; J. R. Carihfield, Ripley; Joseph G. Gruber II, Jefferson; Jason Hartley, Ripley; Ernest Leggett, Doddridge; Craig S. Linton, Hedgesville; Tracy Pursley, Ripley; Melinda Workman, Greenbrier East

WISCONSIN: Darren L. Alsum, Randolph; Carrie L. Arnhoelter, Howards Grove; Kimberly J. Badtke, Laconia; Eric A. Baranczyk, Pulaski; Heath R. Barker, Monroe; Joel A. Bartel, Manawa; Lance E. Bauer, Spencer; Kory Bautch, Independence; Kristi Bellmann, Cuba City; Corey L. Beyreis, Spencer; Christopher D. Booth, Cuba City; Daniel E. Borkowski, Randolph; Douglas A. Borth, Spring Valley; Lenny Bowe, Bloomer; Joy Breitzman, Bonduel; Ryan Brock, Gillett; Chris Brown, Hillsboro; Kim Brunmeier, Valders; Neil Buchholz, Cochrane-Fountain City; Cameron L. Burgess II, Bloomer; Glenn J. Burgy, Monticello; Robert Busser, Pecatonica; Vicky L. Christopherson, Elk Mound; Annie Ciolkosz, Bloomer; William J. Ciolkosz, Thorp; Brent A. Clements, De Soto; Arin Crooks, Brodhead; Stacy Crull, Evansville; Craig Eric Daniels, Montello; Chad A. Dehnke, Fall Creek; Kelly J. Douglas, Darlington; Tim Douglas, Darlington; Brian D. Elmhurst, Granton; Rodney V. Elmhurst, Granton; Theodore L. Eslinger, Stanley-Boyd; Wendy Esselman, Loyal; Jamie A.

Evans, Darlington; Cybil L. Fisher, Green Bay East; Sue A. Fleming, Milton; Matthew T. Forst, Marshfield; Darla Fossum, Independence; Tom Green, Freedom; Paul Grulke, Beaver Dam; Chad Hahn, Berlin; Chad L. Halverson, Mondovi; Ronald L. Hampton, Cassville; Aaron L. Hinz, Laconia; Kimberly K. Houser, Eau Claire; William D. Jennings, Rio; Jason L. Johnson, Shullsburg; Jamie Judd, Reedsburg; Heather Kitching, Cochrane-Fountain City; John G. Koltes, DeForest; Timothy E. Krueger, Shawano; Brenda L. Kulas, Amherst; Thomas C. La Gesse Jr., Bloomer; Casey M. Langan, Edgerton; Christopher C. Lattin, Darlington; Brady Laufenberg, Lincoln-Alma Center; Jamie Leifker, Cuba City; MaryEllen Lerum, DeForest; Jeffrey S. Lien, Alma Center Lincoln; Kevin M. Lindow, Marshfield; Tammy J. Lindsay, Mondovi; Jason E. Luttrupp, Berlin; Lyle G. Lutz, Amherst; Toby Madsen, Denmark; Paul R. McDowell, Montello; Patrick J. Meylor, Darlington; Teri A. Micke, Thorp; David Moos, Bloomer; Ward W. Much, Marion; Shaun Mullikin, Shullsburg; Craig Nehring, Bloomer; Joshua F. Nett, Weyauwega-Fremont; Tammy Ney, Denmark; Jason E. Nilssen, Clear Lake; Bridgett L. Nottestad, Westby; Martin J. Nowak, Denmark; Thomas P. Oelke, Randolph; Eric Olson, Shell Lake; Kathryn S. Parish, Iowa-Grant; David Paulson, Bloomer; Corbet W. Peterson, Fennimore; Kevin Phillips, Pecatonica; Kari L. Pickart, New Holstein; James H. Piechowski, Waupaca; Doug Raymakers, Pulaski; Jeff Reischel, Bloomer; Jared M. Reuter, Darlington; Thomas P. Riley, Waupaca; Gary Roidt, Montello; Daniel A. Rosen, Clear Lake; Don Schlies, Denmark; Aaron C. Schraufnagel, Mayville; Gina R. Schultz, Black Hawk; Anthony H. Seebecker, Mauston; Jeremy Shepherd, Shullsburg; Jesse Singerhouse, Menomonie; Scot Stashek, Stevens Point; Grant E. Staszak, Bonduel; Brian R. Staudinger, Valders; Craig R. Stephany, New Holstein; David W. Strebe, Manawa; Ricky Suchla, Independence; Jason Swenson, Pecatonica; Julie Teasdale, Shullsburg; Jim E. Thoreson, Black Hawk; Jason P. Timm, Weyauwega-Fremont; Cathy J. Tomasek, Augusta; Jason B. Ubersox, Shullsburg; Amy S. Uher, Stevens Point; Stacy Uher, Stevens Point; Rebecca D. Walker, Bloomer; Ryan R. Weigel, Platteville; Roger L. Weissmann, Columbus; Corey T. Welch, Randolph; Peter Winch, Fennimore; David J. Winkers II, Fennimore; Jeffrey Wittek, Thorp; Jody Wittgreve, Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah; Michael J. Woodworth, Shullsburg; Jennifer Young, DeForest; Chris M. Zeman, Bloomer; Thomas J. Zweifelhofer, Bloomer

WYOMING: Kyle Ann Compton, John B. Kendrick; John M. Hill, Torrington Trailblazer; Ken Krakow, Albin; Kodilyn Krakow, Albin; Shelly Miller, Paintrock; Braden Petsch, Albin; John J. Skalsky, Powell/Shoshone; L. Tim Tysdal, Newcastle Saddle & Sirlain; Greg R. Vetter, Burns; Jodie Vierk, Burns; Mystie Yeik, Southeast



National FFA Talent

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

Singing, strumming and strutting their way into the hearts of their audiences, members of the National FFA Talent Program took center stage everywhere they went during the convention.

Forty-eight members representing 47 FFA chapters in 29 states executed approximately 250 acts all over Kansas City, including performances on the Arena Stage, the Finals Stage, the new Bartle Stage, and a stage at the Career Show. The highlight of the talent program was Thursday evening's Talent Revue on the Arena Stage, where 15 acts appeared. "Our goal is to get as many acts as possible to perform on the main stage," said Bill Williams, assistant director of the talent program.

"We think all our acts are unique, because our performers are unique individuals," said Williams. In addition to the customary singing and dancing acts, the program featured a group of Hawaiian dancers and the Fort Morgan, Colo., "horses," members who performed their routine in horse costumes.

New to the talent program were collaborations with the National FFA Band on Friday night, including a rendition of "A Whole New World," from the Disney movie, *Aladdin*.

Prospective participants in the talent ensemble apply via audio or videotape "auditions." The members of this year's troupe were selected from approximately 70 auditions.

Leading this team of talented individuals for the ninth consecutive year was Gary Maricle, principal of the East Agribusiness High School in Kansas City. The talent program associate director was Rob Enbody of Toledo, Wash., a former talent participant himself. Williams and Scott Stewart, both of Kansas City, served as assistant directors for their third and first conventions, respectively.



Fifteen acts from the National FFA Talent Program were the highlight of Thursday evening's Talent Revue in the main arena.

ALABAMA: Ben Dewberry, Eufaula; Frannie Gilmore, Eufaula; Lee Harrison, Eufaula; Chris Mitchell, Eufaula; JanReqa Pugh, Eufaula; Jason Self, Eufaula; Heith Vickery, Eufaula; Jackso Wallacw, Eufaula; Joe Whaley, Eufaula
ARKANSAS: John Davis, Stuttgart; Jennifer Glover, Guy-Perkins; Sarah Waits, Green County Tech II

COLORADO: Mike Florian, Fort Morgan; James Finch, Fort Morgan; Jay Iungerich, Fort Morgan; Nate Midcap, Fort Morgan; Tommy Yearous, Fort Morgan

DELAWARE: Gary D. Layfield Jr., Sussex Central

FLORIDA: Candice Pearson, Walnut Hill

HAWAII: Amber Alderdyce, Lahainaluna; Leinani Malina, Kauai; Gail Noheaku-ualoa Kahalewai, Lahainaluna

ILLINOIS: Carol Joan Brint, Sycamore; Scott Sowinski, Chicago High School for Ag. Sciences

INDIANA: Aaron Cline, Clinton Central; Matt Evans, Clinton Central; Melissa Evans, Clinton Central; Nicole Gray, Clinton Central; Ellen Spray, Clinton Central; Kayle Thompson, Clinton Central; Dude Watkins, North Newton

IOWA: Matthew Thie, Mediapolis

KANSAS: Kelley Bethell, Ottawa

MICHIGAN: Jolie Bailey, Sand Creek

MINNESOTA: Brian K. Christianson, Austin; Andrea Morse, Anoka

MISSOURI: Korissa Cox, Eagleville; Margaret Anne Davis, Carrollton; Mandy Gray, Galena; Mendy Greenwood, Carthage; Candy LaMay Gregg, Gilman City; Rachel Lynn Harmison, Gilman City; Christy Harrington, Galena; Angela Livingston, Plattsburg; Krissie McKnight, Galena; Nicole Ann Melton, Dadeville; Donna Sue Seneker, Mt. Vernon

MONTANA: Chris Bengochea, Culbertson

NEBRASKA: Reggie Shaw, Lexington; Jesse Sitz, Burwell

NEVADA: Enoch Dahl, Wells

NORTH DAKOTA: Amy Diane Huff, Kenmare

OHIO: Abby Elizabeth Henry, Versailles

OKLAHOMA: Jeff Diltz, Altus; Jarod Frederick, Owasso; Dave Gaylord, Oologah; Karmen Hall, Wagoner; Skye Varner, Bristow; Chad Wiginton, Altus

PENNSYLVANIA: Timothy Lehman, Cumberland Valley

TEXAS: Brian Lee Babin, Mary Carroll; Ross Boswell, Mary Carroll; Thomas S. Kirkpatrick, Mary Carroll; Jeffrey Lyall Pitt, Mary Carroll; Robert Weeks, Eastland

UTAH: Aliza Brown, North Summit

VIRGINIA: Cara E. Talbert, Pulaski County

WASHINGTON: Andrew E. Reeves, Eastmont



National FFA Band



The rousing, energetic music provided by the National FFA Band was the result of long practices and teamwork. Trombonists Darrick Riggs, Marysville, Ohio; Rob Cole, Wilton, Iowa; and Geoff Schultz, Tulare, Calif., show their talents during one of many performances.

ARIZONA: Darcy C. Johnson, Hayson

ARKANSAS: Robert M. Musgrove, Mansfield; Amanda Thomas, Simoom Springs

CALIFORNIA: Geoffrey G. Schultz, Tulare Western

COLORADO: Daniel J. Gillham, Peetz

CONNECTICUT: Elizabeth E. Sepe, Woodbury

FLORIDA: Amanda K. Bennett, South Sumter

GEORGIA: Stacey J. Kilburn, Houston County

IDAHO: Aaron V. Cook, Delco; Jannell L. Kral, Castleford; Steven G. Wells, Castleford

ILLINOIS: Jolene C. Aden, Heritage; Gregory A. Dare, Canton; Timothy M. Dedert, Unity; Randy C. Dickerman, Unity; Paula J. Meeker, Illini Central; Karla M. Nienaus, Hillsboro; Rye F. Randolph, Canton; Alyssa R. Rod, Mendota

INDIANA: Jonathon Koontz, Bremen

IOWA: Jaci M. Bennett, South Hamilton; Robert J. Cole, Wilton; Andrew J. Dial, Southern Cal; Melissa A. Dittmer, Knoxville; Wynette R. Heeren, Alcester-Hudson; Shawna M. McCall, Maple Valley; Erik C. Shogern, Valley; Amy R. Stonehocker, Lynnville-Sully; Chris R. Swensen, Valley; Amelia M. Urmie, Wilton; Tonya L. Wegner, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn; Nichol D. Witt, Rockwell-Sheffield

KANSAS: Nathan A. Craft, Goessel; Patrick A. Fleming, Goessel; Jason M. Peters, Goessel; Megan M. Schmidt, Goessel; Erica D. Schmidt, Goessel; Annaken S. Toews, Goessel

KENTUCKY: Matthew J. Skaggs, Larue County

LOUISIANA: Jaime C. Brazzell, Winnfield

MARYLAND: Janet L. Van Hoose, Linganore

MICHIGAN: Rachel M. Hansen, Alpena; Kristie R. Morlan, Alpena; Edward T. Reif, Branch Area Career Center; Jody M. Smith, Sandusky; Tiffany D. Vorhiese, Bryon

MINNESOTA: Bethany A. Cihlar, Minnewaska; Laura A. Klein, Kimball; Karen V. Neset, Ada-Borup; Miles B. Wurster, Dawson-Boyd

MISSISSIPPI: Ramey Akerman, West Jones; Christy Berry, Brookings; Allen Cochran, West Jones; Brett A. Howell, George County

MISSOURI: Misty R. Bricker, Norborne; Barbara E. Gose, Fayette; David Heaper, Higginsville; Jody L. Hubner, Mountain Grove; Harry J. Jackson, Willow Springs; Debbie L. Lager, Pattonsburg; Darren B. Lakey, Ava; Travis M. McNeal, Keytesville; Lisa M. Rice, Salisbury; Jill A. Rowland, Tipton; Travis L. Scott, Memphis; Dawn T. Sorbo, Clinton; Sarah M. Summers, Smithville

MONTANA: Seth Imlay, Clarksfork; Jeremy S. Ruff, Custer

NEBRASKA: Broke L. Blevins, Norfolk; Dallas Bundy, Ashland Greenwood; Kelly Kobchwar, Medicine Valley; Rebecca V. Seggern, Scribner-Snyder

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Kim Hannum, Pinkerton Academy

NEW JERSEY: Melissa K. Vassallo, Buena Regional

NEW MEXICO: Connie Merrell, Las Cruces

NEW YORK: Sarah E. Palmer, Greenville; Jessica L. Robinson, Letchworth

NORTH CAROLINA: Joseph M. Capps, Princeton

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company and Landmark Genetics Inc.

"It's a small world after all..."

Combined with the musical creativity of third-year bandleader Gene Englerth and assistant director Joe Lajoie, both of Webberville, Mich., the 1994 National FFA Band inspired an outpouring of feelings each time they stepped on stage.

The 120-member band, representing more than 35 states, was honored to play live instrumental background music for the first time during the sponsor recognition video.

The band, with melodies to suit any music lover, played numbers which included "Dixieland Jamboree," a selection of classic rock and a Disney medley from popular movies.

NORTH DAKOTA: Christopher F. Beehler, Stanley; Erika J. Kenmner, Leeds; Lorri H. Loh, Killdeer

OHIO: Christopher S. Baker, Crestview; Brian L. Cotterman, Upper Valley; Sarah E. Davis, Cardington; Lorine M. Harner, Hillsboro; Joseph L. Pennington, Evergreen; Darrick B. Riggs, Marysville; Kimberly J. Tessane, Carrollton

OKLAHOMA: Andrea M. Acre, Canton; Leah Campbell, Atalus; April M. Cox, Watonga; Amanda R. Hill, Wilburton; Stanton L. Ingram, Caney Valley; Sherri M. Lohmann, Alva; Jennifer C. Phillips, Minco; Charity A. Tautfest, Frontier; Mandy D. Wingham, Central High

OREGON: Lisa A. Owings, Canby

PENNSYLVANIA: Aimee J. Hauck, Central Columbia

SOUTH DAKOTA: Andrea T. Huffman, Harrisburg; Sheri L. Moeller, Brookings

TEXAS: Kelly Biasiolli, Burleson; Jeff Brown, John Marshall; Bryan Burrell, Panhandle; Julie Neusch, Panhandle; Diane Shackelford, Prospect; Audra Young, Wilson

WASHINGTON: Jonathan R. Assink, Lynden; Renee A. Martin, Walla Walla; Colin M. Peterson, Sumner

WISCONSIN: Amy L. Bollinger, Cochrane-Fountain City; Heidi L. Bordwardt, Cochrane-Fountain City; Jennifer L. Grunseth, Gilman; Alicia M. Kasper, Turtle Lake; Holly J. Pope, Waupaca; Andrea L. Yach, Weyauwega-Fremont

WYOMING: Becky C. Marlatt, Torrington; Kathy Zezas, Buffalo



National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company

The lights were dimmed and the spotlights slowly moved across the stage to illuminate the 1994 National FFA Chorus. The crowd, filled with more than 34,000 FFA members and guests, focused its attention on 113 FFA members whose harmonic voices rose above the din of the capacity-filled auditorium.

The chorus, comprised of members from 39 states, captivated the audience with show tunes and sentimental pieces including "Be the One," sung during Raquel "Rocky" Lacey's retiring address.

The chorus' 15 performances, led by conductor Roger Kelley, of Pullman, Wash., projected a steady flow of rhythm throughout the Municipal Auditorium with head accompanist Lori Weist; and instrumentalists Kelsey Hilderbrand on drums and Jim Leary on keyboard. Honey Wilson and Mark Bickelhaupt assisted the chorus as chaperones.

ALABAMA: Ben Sisco, Geraldine

ARIZONA: Brandi Dobson, Antelope

CALIFORNIA: Anjeanette Ohm, Ramona; Nicole Bertagna, Chico; Lindsay Wilmeth, Kingsburg; Robin Rainwater, Woodland; Jillian Vannucci, Woodland

CONNECTICUT: Linda Grayson, Storrs Regional

IDAHO: Seth Van Wassenhove, Melba; John Marone, Troy; Jennifer Dorsey, Vallivue

ILLINOIS: Brian Neukomm, Cissna Park; Aaron Hollewell, Eastland; Karen Riden, Northwestern

IOWA: Matt Chizek, Emmetsburg; Brian Jones, Greenfield; Amber Wade, Grinnell; Mark Stene, Lake Mills; Keri Hathaway, Muscatine; Travis Taylor, Reno Smith; Micah Weber, Rockwell-Sheffield; Jarra Schlafke, South Hamilton; Jennifer Rolf, Tarkio; Aimee Lee, West Lyon

KANSAS: Scott Peltier, Concordia; Kent Grimm, Sabetha; Andy Armbruster, South Barber KS0186; Jera Sparks, Fleming County; Stephanie Henson, Fulton County; Jason Logsdon, Meade County

LOUISIANA: Robert Milczarek, Pearl River High

MARYLAND: Roni Cline, Linganore

MICHIGAN: Kelly Aebig, Montagua

MINNESOTA: Mike Patterson, Kenyon-Wanowingo; Shelley Cunningham, Medelia; Daniel McCarvel, Sioux Valley - Round Lake - Brewster

MISSOURI: Mark Rohrbach, California; Matthew Rohrbach, California; Jim Huenefeldt, Clinton Area Vo-Tech; Nichole Lewis, North Daviess; Corey Schooler, Princeton; Brock Williams, Puxico; Ann Dotson, Salisbury; David Baker, Trenton; Bryan Johnson, Trenton; Sara Veatch, Trenton

MISSISSIPPI: Mary Black, Weir; Christy Moore, Weir

MONTANA: David Flugge, Hobson; Brad Williams, Joliet; JoDon Phillips, Judith Gap; Nicole Andres, Missoula

NORTH CAROLINA: Joshua Wade, Bartlett Yancy; Peter Foss, A.S. Gibbens

NORTH DAKOTA: Eric Hansen, Napoleon

NEBRASKA: Roy Emanuel, Aurora; Philip Erdman, Bay Ard; Jaclyn Duis, Diller; Robert Elder, Fairbury; Shannon Reiss, Wilcox; Scott Rieker, Wilcox; Chris Ebbers, Norris; Emily Mitchell, Norris; Stephani Ballagh, Prague; Jennifer Cooksley, Sandhills; Ashley Aulick, Scottsbluff; Angela Wimer, Scribner-Snyder

NEW MEXICO: Cydni Wyley, Clayton; Oliver Hill, Clovis

NEW YORK: Lela Dunbar, Belleville Henderson; Michelle Zumbach, Belleville Henderson; Andrew Sears, Falconer

OHIO: David Zellner, Mohawk

OKLAHOMA: Jacie Foressee, Eufaula; Careylyn Stuckey, Arnett; Jamie Landers, Altus; Michael Jackson, Burlington; Kiley Rieger, Burlington; Jeff James, Cave Springs; Trent Patton, Chattanooga; Micky Speed, Durant; Lisa Dills, Lexington; Adam Reese, Mt. View-Gotebo; Michael Randazzo, Savanna; Jason Waldrige, Savanna; Angela Ackley, Timberlake; David Johnson, Tishomingo; Alma Meraz, Vici; Sheila Youngblood, Walters

OREGON: Erica Miller, Crater; Courtney Hagen, Crook County; Brandon Van Atta, Ontario

SOUTH CAROLINA: Jeremy Ham, Holly Hill-Roberts; Tonya Smalls Holly Hill-Roberts

SOUTH DAKOTA: Christopher Lee, Clark; Carrie Solum, Florence

TENNESSEE: Melanie Blasingim, Riverside

TEXAS: Heather Nesmith, Frankston; Holly Howell, Kilgore; Amy Olstad, Kirbyville; L. Crawford, Lone Wolf; Jeana Roach, Rusk; Shelly Englert, Snyder

WASHINGTON: Devon DeVries, Burlington-Edison; Don McMoran, Burlington-Edison; John Gentry, Chelan; Diane Butzberger, Enumclaw; Deborah Ayer, Granger; Jaclyn Meline, Kahlotus; Miriam Marquez, Mabton; Shannon McClellan, Manson; Ralph Serranilla, Mt. View; Melissa Sines, NooksackValley; Sarah Moddrell, Pasco

WYOMING: Colin Lynn, Gillette



National Chorus member Oliver Hill, representing the Clovis, N.M., FFA Chapter entertains the crowd with a solo performance.



Courtesy Corps

FFA chapters whose members serve as Courtesy Corps volunteers are a strange and dedicated bunch, indeed. They rarely get to sit down, they are asked to guard doors, stuff envelopes, deliver messages, move boxes and a whole host of such tasks that keep the lifeblood of the convention flowing. There are few perks associated with the position, aside from wearing the gold armband, and perhaps getting to peek backstage. These members embody the "living to serve" portion of the FFA motto, and everyone attending the convention owes them a big "Thank you!"

ALABAMA: Bibb County (Centreville), Billingsley, Daphne, Geneva, Marbury, West Blocton, Wetumpka

ARIZONA: Arizona State FFA Association, Buckeye, Chandler, Coolidge, Highland

ARKANSAS: Berryville

COLORADO: Cortez, Delores

FLORIDA: Auburndale, South Lake, Williston Sr.

GEORGIA: East Laurens & West Laurens, Johnson County, Morgan County, Southeast Bulloch

ILLINOIS: Chicago High School for Ag. Sciences, Olney, Sycamore

INDIANA: Central Noble, Heritage, Indian Creek, North Harrison, North Newton, Owen Valley, Prairie Heights, Tri-County, Woodlan

IOWA: Centerville, Earlham, Holland, Little Switzerland-Waukon, St. Ansgar

KANSAS: Atchison County, Hillsboro, Marais des Cygnes Valley, Washington

KENTUCKY: Central Hardin, Fulton County, Heath, Jessamine County, Scott County, Spencer County

LOUISIANA: Bogalusa, Mt. Hermon, Pearl River High

MARYLAND: Francis Scott Key

MICHIGAN: Michigan FFA Association, Webberville

MINNESOTA: Farmington, Luverne, Stillwater

MISSOURI: Carl Junction, Couch, Licking R-VIII, Mount Vernon, Northwestern, Savannah, Schuyler R-1, Union

NEBRASKA: Leigh, Loup City, Scribner-Snyder

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Dover, Winnisquam

NORTH CAROLINA: A. C. Reynolds, Clinton, North Stanly, Tuscola, West Montgomery, Western Harnett

NORTH DAKOTA: Bottineau, Des Lacs/Burlington, Minot, Powers Lake, Willow City

OHIO: Fairbanks, South Central, West Muskingum

OKLAHOMA: Alex, Altus, Alva, Bethel, Cashion, Choctaw, Davidson, Durant, Elk City, Elmore City, Fort Gibson, Freedom, Grandfield, Guthrie, Hardesty, Holdenville, Jenks, Lone Wolf, Moore, Morrison, Okeene, Pawnee, Ryan, Sapulpa, Stillwater, Tecumseh, Thomas, Weleetka

OREGON: Perrydale

PENNSYLVANIA: Central Columbia, Dover, Greenwood, Lenape, Williamsburg

SOUTH DAKOTA: Alcester-Hudson, Arlington, Bowdle, Bridgewater, Centerville, Colman-Egan, DeSmet FFA Advisor, Doland, Geddes, Gettysburg, Groton, Harrisburg, Highmore, Hoven, Hurley, Stevens, Sturgis, Wessington Springs, West Central

TEXAS: Aledo, Allen, Aspermont, Banquete, Burleson, Cayuga, Channelview, Coahoma, Colmesneil, Comfort, Coolidge, Crowley, Dayton, Deweyville, Falls City, Farmersville, Floydada, Glen Rose, Godley, Groesbeck, Hearne, Hutto, Jacksonville, Keller, Kirbyville, Klein Forest, Latexo, Leakey, Madisonville,

Mansfield, Marlin, McKinney, Mexia, Munday, Orange Grove, Patton Springs, Plano East, Poth, Riesel, Rio Hondo, Rocksprings, Rosebud-Lott, Salado, Sealy, Snyder, Tolar, Troy, Weatherford

VIRGINIA: Dinwiddie, Fauquier, Park View Senior

WASHINGTON: Washington State Officers

WISCONSIN: Alma Center Lincoln, Auburndale, Bloomer, Chippewa Falls, Durand, Fall Creek, Green Bay East, Green Bay West, Johnson Creek, Laconia, Menomonie, Mondovi, Pittsville, Plymouth, Stanley Boyd, Stoughton, Stratford, Sun Prairie, Waupaca, Wiewauwega-Fremont



The Courtesy Corps spends most of its time serving the needs of the members and guests attending the 67th National FFA Convention.



Retiring Addresses



The Sun Also Rises

Curtis C. Childers
National FFA President
Glen Rose, Texas

Why is the president so stationed?

The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture. If we will follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation.

The sunlight from the sun above me we compare to brotherhood and cooperation in FFA. This is a sunset from my grandmother's backyard. It lights all the elements of this Somervell County scene. Here, I can see the home of my FFA chapter which reminds me to appreciate those who have helped me. I can see the farmland which reminds me of our vital American agriculture. And I see evidence of a changing world, a changing world where it is necessary to hold strong to our values. But mostly I see the sunset, the sunset that reminds me how important it is to be focused on "brotherhood" and "cooperation."

Looking back on my life, the times I am least proud of are the times when I lost focus on the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation and allowed the darkness of selfishness to surround me. That darkness is what causes me and you to neglect our commitments to people, and to forget that doing for others is what life is all about. The people I am most proud of are the people who consistently, and without fail, help others. The people who know what brotherhood really means and who take the sunlight we cherish in FFA to heart.

I learned a lot about that sunlight during a trip to Glacier National Park in Montana. The other national officers and I spent a week hiking and backpacking in the mountains. It was there that I learned what commitment means to me.

We had a plan to make our way to the top of the Triple Divide Pass. There is where the Hudson Bay Divide and the Continental Divide come together, and from one point you can see where water flows to three different oceans. We knew it was a long, uphill, eight-mile climb, and we knew the climb would be tough. But we set our minds on climbing to the top of the pass.

It was a beautiful climb. The scenery before us changed with every twist of the trail. That's no different than life, really. There is so much good and beauty around if we will only take the time to look while we walk through life. Beauty such as when your advisors help you accomplish a goal in the FFA, or when you encourage a friend that she can do whatever she sets her mind to, or when you take a genuine interest in the problems in someone's life. All that beauty was there in the mountains of Montana.

I still remember keeping my eyes focused down on the trail leading up the mountain, trying to keep one foot moving in front of the other, sometimes forgetting to think about the beauty that was all around me. Friend, you and I live in an era where the media show an ugly picture of what is happening in our world, and if we have become so focused on the ground that we don't see the beauty in where we are going, then it's time to look up and become a part of the world that helps others.

It's time to focus, not on one foot in front of the other, but on

the changing scenery around us as we take each step. It's time to focus on what other people need, not on our own selfish desires and wants. When my grandfather retired, he took off the watch he had lived by for so many years and told me he wanted to take time to "smell the roses." I believe that's something we can learn from.

As I climbed the mountain trail, I remembered other things that my grandfather taught me. He says that you and I should salute the flag, not burn it. In FFA we're proud of our roots, and we'll stand up for our country. He says that honesty is what you and I should practice, just like you and I say in our closing ceremony: "...above all, honest and fair in the game of life." But the most important thing I learned from him came from his humble example and attitude toward service.

When my grandfather was seven, he wasn't just collecting toys and playing like you and me; he was working to earn money to help the other nine members of his family. He didn't have a choice between Nike and Reebok shoes like you and me. Instead, he wore cardboard shoes that his mother made.

When he was in eighth grade, he wasn't upset because he had too much homework. Instead, he was upset that he had to quit school to work full time for his family. He was proud of his country, and he fought hard during World War II, when he was just a few years older than you.

My grandfather didn't have the opportunities you and I do, like this FFA convention, but he did have the opportunity to get hired as a pilot's mechanic. He never asked for a promotion, but the company saw something different about my granddad, and after many years of doing every job right, he became the first ever vice president of aviation of El Paso Natural Gas. What's different about my granddad is also what's special about you.

On that mountain in Montana, when I thought of these things, when I thought of his humble example, I thought of you. I thought of you working hard in your FFA chapter doing community service projects, simply because you care about the beauty around you and about building people up. I thought about you being a chapter officer, recruiting members to come to the convention or getting involved in a contest. I thought about you leading someone into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation. Just like my granddad, you can appreciate what you have and be thankful for what you've been given, and you can strive to make a better life for those you serve, even as the sun continues to set.

On the trail, I was beginning to tire, beginning to wear down. My feet were hurting and my legs were tired. I thought to myself, "I can stop now and rest. I can quit where I'm at and be glad I've come this far." I was about to give in to my body telling me I had gone far enough when I started to think about what that climb really meant to me.

In life, people commit to doing things every day, either by word or by timing, by handshake or by position. Then they forget. Friend, not everywhere in the world is like it is here in this auditorium. Many places aren't filled with the love that is in this room today. Many people have fallen to the world's tricks. I know because I've been there myself.

It's so easy to get caught up in the bureaucracy of the world and the watered-down ways of society. It's so easy to focus on the money and the game. And, worst of all, the material things and deception of the world can make you and me doubt our own faith. Our faith that God has put us here to do something great for those we serve. I tell you that staying committed to people—and not losing focus on that sunlight—is what will keep us strong.



I continued to walk, and I climbed the last half mile up that mountain hurting and in pain. As I was nearing the summit, I'll never forget thinking, "We can all stay committed to others if we hold strong to our values and keep our faith in God." I remember thinking how we are here to serve others, to lead others to the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation and away from that inner darkness we call selfishness. And I topped the mountain. My friend, the beauty on the other side was something I cannot explain. I could see so much on both sides of the mountain, and I suppose that's how life is: we work hard, stay committed to people, and we're rewarded according to our deeds.

You know what the true beauty about this sunset is? It's that in a few minutes the land will be filled with darkness. The light from this sunset will never be seen again. That darkness is symbolic of the world's tricks. That darkness is what makes you and I do things to feel accepted. It makes us tease people who are different from us. It allows us to let people sit alone at lunch because they are not in our group. Whatever darkness surrounds you can be overcome. We can overcome it because there is a promise of something great after every period of darkness in the world. It's the rising sun.

It's not just the president. You and I—all of us—are stationed by the rising sun, a symbol of a promise that there is always a new day and that we will be rewarded if we keep our focus on the sunlight of love and brotherhood. No matter how dark the world is, you can serve as a lamp, high on a mountain, to light the way for others. The fuel for the lamp is love. Love for yourself as well as for others. Love that lets you appreciate life, work hard and stay committed to people. But most of all, love that gives you and me hope. Hope that the sun doesn't just set, but that the sun also rises. Hope that as individuals, we can do for others.

The love here tonight is obvious, but what will you do when you leave? Will you stay committed to those you love? When you leave, will you focus on the sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation? I believe that you will. Good luck, my friends, and take care of the FFA. It's enough to make anyone believe the very best. I believe in you.



Put Me In, Coach

*Andrew McCrea
National FFA Secretary
Maysville, Mo.*

The first day of baseball season! It was here again. Growing up, it was a day I looked forward to almost as much as Christmas or the Fourth of July—the thrill of once again being on the baseball diamond with all my friends for a summer of games. Every week I would count the days until the next game. However, the summer season didn't always go as I had planned.

I remember the spring before my seventh-grade baseball season. One of my friends and I decided to go to baseball camp at a local college in order to be better prepared for the season ahead. I played my hardest and tried to learn to improve so that I would be even better that season. Unfortunately, I didn't realize that this camp would actually produce more, not fewer, obstacles for me to overcome in my quest for the big leagues.

It was the last day of camp and I was catching fly balls. These fly balls were the highest I had ever seen, much higher than any my coach at home could hit. I tried my hardest to

follow the path of each of the high flies in order to position myself for the catch. As I did this, though, I didn't realize that my glove, which I had had ever since I started playing in first grade, was not heavily padded. Because of the height from which it was falling, the ball would sting my left thumb more and more with each fly ball I caught. Finally, as I tried to hold back the pain I felt, I realized my hand was hurt so badly that I could not even catch a soft toss from a teammate, let alone a high fly ball.

I had to go to the doctor, and there I learned that I had a badly sprained left thumb. This may not sound like a major injury. It was just a sprain. However, it was bad enough to require the doctor to place a splint over my thumb and forearm for six weeks. The doctor told me not to try to hit a baseball, since making contact with a hard thrown ball could jar the splint and break it.

Six weeks! What would I do! Baseball season was just beginning and I would not be able to play! You can imagine that, for someone like myself who likes baseball so much, this depressed me. I didn't even want to go watch my team play since it would make me feel that much worse.

My parents did make me go cheer on my teammates the next game though. As game time neared that night, I saw our team had only eight players. My coach came to me to ask if I would be willing to just stand in the outfield so that our team would have the full nine players needed to avoid forfeiting the game. Even though I had been disappointed that my injury would not allow me to play, I was reluctant to take this opportunity. What good would it do to just stand in the outfield or at home plate and watch each pitch go by because I couldn't swing? I had already grown comfortable with my seat on the bench, and I wasn't about to go out there and make a fool of myself!

My coach, however, saw that I was using my arm as an excuse and not looking at the opportunities still available to me. Just before the game began he came to me and said, "Andrew, you may not be able to swing at a pitch but that doesn't mean you can't get on base. Why don't you try bunting the ball? This won't hurt your arm since you will not be making a full swing, and it will give you a chance to get a hit."

His words helped start a revolution in the way I was thinking. I realized that my injury shouldn't force me to give up. Instead of standing and watching the pitches go by me, I began to bunt the ball every time I came to the plate. Even though the other team knew what was coming, I became an excellent bunter and I got on base about a third of the time I batted. I was on base and scoring runs, and I still had my good right arm to throw the ball in from the outfield.

After six weeks it was time to get rid of the splint. It sure was nice to have full use of my hand again. However, I realized an important lesson, one that applies to you and me every day of our lives. Each of us runs into difficulties. We may be self-conscious, afraid of losing or embarrassing ourselves; but, if we don't get off the bench, or if we simply watch the pitches fly by, we never have a chance. God has given us obstacles for a good reason, so that we can learn new skills that will help us in life. What good would I have been to my team sitting on the bench for six weeks? None! What happened when my coach helped me realize that my injury gave me an opportunity to use other skills? I helped the team win games!

You see as we grow older, the seat on the bench begins to look pretty comfortable. No one can hurt me or make fun of me over here on the bench. But, of course, I will be of little value to my team if I do that. I remember my first year of T-ball. Our team was called the King City Bucks. We might be

(Continued on Page 34)



the only team in baseball history to be named after paper money, since "Bucks" stands not for a male deer but for dollar bills, because we were sponsored by the local bank. I remember I would always choose the number five, the number of my baseball hero for the Kansas City Royals, George Brett. When I put on that jersey I was determined to play just like him. This jersey means a lot to me to this day, because it represents my desire to play the game to the best of my ability.

T-ball is the league for the very youngest players, usually about five to seven years old. If you have ever gone to a T-ball game you have probably witnessed something I believe represents the attitude we should take towards baseball and, most importantly, life. The end of the game comes and the T-ball players rush back to the dugout. Each is ready to go bat again because they don't realize that the game has just ended. During the excitement, one of the coaches quiets them and tells them the game is over. Now knowing the game is over, the players ask one simple question, "Who won?"

They had forgotten one of the questions that seems so important to each of us, yet it was a question that didn't get asked until after the game was over and the players were in the dugout. You see, to most T-ball players, winning is something secondary when it is compared to the fun of being on the baseball diamond and playing. Don't get me wrong, each of them wanted to win, and I want you to win too, but they weren't afraid of losing, like we are many times. They are simply saying, "Put me in coach, I'm ready to play."

How many of us are afraid to lose? How many of us see obstacles like that hurt arm and decide to sit out of the game instead of begging the coach to put us in the game? Have you ever quit a contest team, or felt like it wasn't worth the time to try for a chapter office? I am sure that there are times when you may pass up an opportunity to try something new because you might come up on the losing side or risk embarrassing yourself. I know I did.

You may think that a national FFA officer isn't afraid of things. As a freshman in high school I was shy when it came to meeting or talking with someone new. This is something that I still have to deal with at times today. I wonder about my future and if my skills will be good enough for me to succeed. However, if I take the attitude that a T-ball player possesses, I shouldn't be afraid, but should instead be willing to get involved and do the best I can.

I guess I should apologize for looking at everything through the eyes of a baseball player, but I do believe the game holds many lessons for us. We all have to deal with tough times. I remember a call I received this April while I was on the road at a state convention. I learned that someone I had worked with all my life had passed away.

His name was Richard and he had worked on our farm since my birth. I remember the fun times we had together, whether it was chasing loose hogs through a corn field or laughing and telling stories as we built a fence. He was someone I looked up to as a role model because of his hard work and determination. But, amidst my sadness, I soon realized something very scary. Richard would not be at home anymore for me to ask questions such as how to complete some task. The work I had done on our farm with him all my life was now going to be put to the test. Yes, my dad would still be there for guidance, but now I had to take the lead and show someone new how the job was to be done. This was a task for which I was not sure I was ready.

The day after that funeral I went to a Royals baseball game. It was a great game although the Royals were losing 1-0 in the bottom of the ninth. With one runner on and one out, Bob Hamelin stepped to the plate for Kansas City. My hero for the Royals, George Brett, who always seemed to thrive on these clutch situations, had retired last year and everyone wondered

if anyone could replace him.

Hamelin stepped to the plate, the crowd nervous with the ninth inning drama that was unfolding. The first pitch came in, Hamelin swung, and *crack!* With the sound of the bat everyone knew the ball was hit hard. I still remember coming to my feet, watching the ball sail high into the sky and then over the outfield wall as Hamelin circled the bases with his game-winning, two-run home run. Fireworks boomed overhead as the crowd gave a long, standing ovation.

Hamelin helped win the game that day because he realized something very important. He had baseball heroes just like George Brett, and he had learned much about how to play the game by watching them. But, he also knew that he would never help his team if he didn't step up to the plate and try to make a difference. Bob Hamelin was named the American League's Rookie of the Year. It was his ability to work hard and learn from other players that made him successful in only one season. He knew that others felt the loss of George Brett, but he understood that he could make a difference, too.

After the game, I saw that Bob Hamelin's performance is much like what you and I must now do. Each of us has role models. For me, Richard was one of those role models. There comes a time, though, when we must quit sitting on the bench of life admiring those around us. We must step up to the plate and put on a jersey with a new number, one that will be recognized by others. You must begin to become a role model that others will follow. It doesn't take years of experience to help those around you. Bob Hamelin demonstrated this in only one season of baseball. But, you see, this can only happen if you're willing to step into the batter's box and try to get a hit, to try to accomplish things you have only dreamed. The baseball game of life is already underway, and others are looking to you, and the FFA, to make a difference. Sure it's scary out there, but you can do it, if you are willing to get off the bench.

In Matthew 5:16 it says, "Let your light so shine among men that they might see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Each of us has to be the light that will encourage others to step up to the plate, too. Live your life so that younger members will know the path they should follow.

Last fall I had a conversation with an FFA member named Andrea. She was a member of the Kansas City East FFA Chapter. She had lived in another big city, but her family decided it was best for her to move to Kansas City and live with other relatives after gangs began to threaten her when she would not join their ranks.

We sat and talked about her new school and the FFA chapter that she had joined. After talking for awhile she made a statement I will never forget. She said, "Andrew, I belong to a gang now." Of course, I was a bit shocked since she had told me earlier that she had left another city because of gang pressure. She continued, "FFA is my gang now, and the colors I wear are blue and gold."

What a powerful statement! Andrea knows something that I hope each of you realize today. It is something that encompasses all I have shared with you. You are part of a gang, a baseball team all your own. We wear jerseys just like baseball players, only our jerseys are made of blue corduroy. We each have coaches just like a baseball club. They are your advisors, teachers, parents, friends and others who help us each day.

You see, each of us is playing the same game. The only difference is that we are surrounded by a different group of players and we play the game in different locations. You will always be a part of a team, but you must take a stand, just as Andrea did, and be proud to be a part of the FFA and be proud of the things for which FFA stands.

I don't like the term "retiring address." I feel "beginning address" is more appropriate for you and me because there is



never an end to what you and I can do with what we learn in the FFA. Sure, the baseball season ends every fall, but the players return just a few months later to start spring training and begin playing again. I want you to always look at the opportunities ahead, because each of us has many seasons yet to play. You have the teammates—your fellow members—for support. We have coaches—your advisors, family and friends—for guidance. Most importantly, we have the greatest coach, God, willing to help us if we only live on the path that He has set for us. All of these things will get you to the plate. But after arriving at the plate, what will you do?

Are you willing to run again for that chapter office? What about the hard work it will take for you to earn your chapter or state FFA degree? Maybe you are looking to make the basketball team or raise some of the mediocre grades you had last quarter. You could try a new contest team this spring, or even give your first public speech.

Now is the time to get around the obstacles that once hindered you and see that things, like a hurt hand, can be overcome. It is time to regain the enthusiasm of a T-ball player, put on the jersey and the determination it represents, and not to be afraid to get involved. It is time to see that, while each of us has role models, we must begin to become role models for others to follow. It is time to get off the bench, step up to the plate, concentrate on the goals ahead and take your best swing. It's time to Play Ball!



Hold On, The Light Will Come

Tyler Grandil
National Vice President—Western Region
Gilbert, Ariz.

As my term in office comes to a close, there are many things I would like to share with you. First, I would like you to know how much I have enjoyed serving you this year. What I really wanted to accomplish these past 12 months was to assist you with your needs and help you see how much you are worth as a person, but I am leaving having received much more than I have given.

This year I learned many things. I learned the importance of international trade on our trip to Japan. I learned that snow is possible in April (if you're in Maine). I learned that butter-milk isn't something you drink. I learned that there is a secret, non-publicized battle among all Missouri residents as to whether the pronunciation of their state is "Missour-ee" or "Missour-uh." I learned that, when in Texas, you should never doubt the fact that Billy the Kid died there—if you do, "them's fighting words." Being from Arizona, I learned that the most popular question anyone will ask about home is "Now, that's more of a dry heat isn't it?" (It's all the same when you're sweating, pal!) I learned that it is a capital offense not to eat all your chicken gumbo in Mississippi. Last, but not least, I learned that, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get."

One thing stands out in my mind that has been extremely valuable as I turn this page in my life. This year I learned to believe in myself, that even though I was scared and doubtful at times, I could do anything I set out to do. This year I learned to love. It always has been a tendency of mine to retreat into an introverted shell when things went wrong. But this year I learned that the love I have for service, service as a national FFA officer, was something I had because of you, because of something much bigger than me. This is the inspiration that

kept me going. It is the inspiration that will keep me going for many years to come.

This year I also learned that no matter how tough a situation, no matter how much it hurts, no matter how many people say it can't be done, I've still got to try with everything I have. What an opportunity lies before me today, an opportunity to share my thoughts and challenges with you members who are each a part of the greatest organization for youth in the world. You are the greatest youth in the world.

I have been a bona fide, dues-paying, card-carrying, jacket-wearing, creed-speaking member of this organization for the past seven years. I have had the opportunity to hear many people talk about winning. Winning is our national past time in the FFA. Everyone has a place in our organization and an opportunity to win. I have seen and heard more success stories, more come-from-behind victories here in the FFA than from all the motivational movies, books and TV shows put together.

No, that is not why I am here today. I want to talk to you about the times when things aren't going so great. I want to talk to you about times so tough that you think you will never get through them, the times when you are in darkness, the times when you are waiting for the light of hope to shine. When this happens the things that may prevent you from seeing the light are mental barriers. These mental barriers cause you to fear not being good enough or to fear the risks you must take. These mental barriers prevent you from trying your hardest each and every time. They prevent you from seeing the "big picture," the greater cause, or the reasons that we have for doing what we do.

When I think of fear, the first thing that comes to mind are the "NO FEAR" T-shirts. You've seen them? The shirts that I have seen are thought provoking. Some of my favorites are:

It's not that life is too short, it is that death is so long—No Fear
If we're keeping score, winning is the only thing—No Fear
If you're not living on the edge you're taking up too much space—No Fear
Second place is the first loser—No Fear
If you can't win, don't play—No Fear
He who dies with the most toys, still dies—No Fear
And of course...absolutely, positively, definitely, without a doubt, most certainly...NO FEAR, not even a little bit

So, let me set this straight: the basic message that students across the country are wearing on these shirts is that "people should have no fear." Does this mean no matter what, that we are invincible? I'm not sure if I buy that. As a matter of fact, it seems to me, most people have a great deal of fear and doubt when they come up against situations that challenge them. The shirts have started an interesting trend. They display an attitude that we must ignore fear. However, I believe that rather than ignoring fear, we need to find ways to build our courage and confidence to overcome fear. There is a big difference. The reason we have fear when we are challenged is that we know that there is risk involved.

The movie *Talent for the Game* is a story about a major league baseball scout who was on the road trying to find a new player for a major league team. After a long search he found a pitcher who had more talent than he had ever seen before. He quickly signed him and brought the boy back to Los Angeles. The owner was excited to see such a promising young athlete and was in such a tremendous hurry to turn the team around that, instead of allowing the new player to gradually make the adjustment into major league baseball, he announced the new player would be pitching the next game in front of a sold-out crowd of over 50,000 cheering fans.

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Famous Faces...National



A Veterans Day tribute by Altus, Okla., talent performer Chad Wiginton brought a tear to the eye of Vietnam veteran and motivational speaker Dave Roever. Wiginton sang a rendition of "Some Gave All" after Roever's presentation Thursday afternoon.



Magician Craig Karges entertained the Saturday morning crowd in the main arena with his impressive mental skills.



Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy made his second consecutive appearance at the national convention on Thursday afternoon, again asserting the prosperity of American agriculture.

On Friday afternoon Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture Cotton Ivy, a former FFA member, spoke proudly of the FFA and of its accomplishments. Ivy's sponsor was the Western Retail Implement and Hardware Association.



Miss America Heather Whitestone told members of her personal struggles to overcome deafness on her way to becoming the first hearing-impaired Miss America. Whitestone, who spoke Thursday morning, was sponsored by CHEVY TRUCKS.



Convention Speakers



Mary Fisher, television producer, artist and founder of the Family AIDS Network, Inc. delivered a message of community support to the assembled members and guests on Thursday afternoon.



Author and former Director of Software Product Management for Apple Computer, Inc., Guy Kawasaki, spoke to members Thursday morning.



Olympic gold medalists Florence and Al Joyner were keynote speakers at Wednesday's afternoon and evening Reflections sessions, entitled "The Human Race." The Joyners were sponsored by Firestone Ag. Tire Division and Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund, a charitable Trust of Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. celebrating 50 years support of the National FFA Foundation.

"If American athletes had a convention like FFA, no other country would ever win a gold medal," said Florence Griffith Joyner, the Olympic track champion known fondly by her fans as "FloJo." She and her husband, gold medalist Al Joyner, spoke to a packed arena twice on Wednesday. In a wise move by convention planners to ease crowding, two Reflections sessions were offered, and attendees welcomed the chance to see the Joyners talk about determination and pride in the face of adversity. Afterward, members and guests flocked to the newsroom in hopes of having FloJo sign their convention program with her long, graceful fingers and even longer fingernails on which were painted "FFA."

The Joyners were only the first of many famous faces to greet audiences assembled throughout the area between Wyandotte Street and Broadway. Some were familiar, like Vietnam veteran Dave Roeber and Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy. But many more were new, and whether you heard the astonished cheers of an audience regaled with the magic of Craig Karges, or the hushed concern present in the auditorium as Mary Fisher spoke living with HIV, it was obvious that every speaker had left an indelible impression.



The pitcher became filled with anxiety as he thought about his first start. Since he had become good friends with the scout that recruited him, he confided in him one evening before that first game. In a shaky, timid voice the young pitcher asked, "What if I'm not good enough? What if I fail?" The scout responded, "If you want something bad enough, you have to take a risk, and if you really want something, you have to be willing to risk it all." That nervous young pitcher overcame his fears instead of ignoring them. He left the mound that night with his first win.

What did the scout mean by "risk it all?" When you want something bad enough and want to do the best you can—whether it's a sport, a judging contest, an FFA office or a relationship—you have to be willing to open your heart and give it your all. That means you can't hold back for fear of failing. Once the young pitcher was able to totally commit and overcome the fear, he was ready to be his best. Once we realize that risk is not only normal, but necessary to improve ourselves, then we will be ready to be our best. Risk involves stepping outside of our comfort zone to try something new.

Each one of us is involved in activities that can produce some degree of fear within us. As a society we fear loss and we doubt our abilities. I had fear before I came on this stage. You might have experienced fear before your last game, your last test, your last judging contest, officer elections or before your last date. The fact is, having a little uncertainty is going to be a part of the rest of your life. Just like the pitcher in the movie, there will be times when the fear will almost overcome you. If you want to see the light and find the hope, you must risk it all. And to risk, you must have courage.

The fear, the doubt and the uncertainty that we feel from time to time are only symbols, a reminder that we aren't perfect and that we have a little further to go. So keep trying. When you want to find the light, you must take a stand and stare your biggest fears in the face. Have faith in your abilities and the courage to know that only the best will come to those who sincerely try.

Overcoming the fear is hard enough, but to truly be successful you must never give up.

*If you feel trapped inside a never-ending night,
If you've forgotten how it feels to feel the light,
If you are half-crazy thinking you're the only one,
Who's afraid the light will never really come,
Just hold on, hold on, the light will come.*

Trying is the next step in overcoming our mental barriers. We've all watched the movies and read the stories about men and women throughout history who were faced with great difficulties and yet still managed to succeed. The story of Thomas Edison is a great example of the tenacity needed to be the best. Edison devoted 10 years and nearly all of his money to the development of the nickel alkaline battery at a time when he was almost penniless. Through that period of time, his record and film production company was supporting his efforts to develop an electrical storage battery. Then one night the terrifying cry of "Fire!" echoed through the film plant. Spontaneous combustion had ignited some chemicals. Within moments all of the packing compounds, cellulose for records, film and other flammable goods had gone up in flames. Fire companies from eight towns arrived, but the heat was so intense and the water pressure so low that the fire hoses had no effect. Edison was 67 years old—no age to begin anew. His daughter was frantic, wondering if he was safe and if his spirit was broken. How would he handle a crisis such as this at his age? She saw him running toward her. He spoke first. He said, "Where's your mother? Go get her. Tell her to get her friends. They'll never see another fire like this as long as they live!" At five-thirty the next morning with the fire barely

under control, he called his employees together and announced, "We're rebuilding." One employee was told to lease all the machine shops in the area, another to obtain a wrecking crane from the Erie Railroad Company. Then, almost as an afterthought, Edison added, "Oh, by the way, anybody know where we can get some money?"

Certainly a disaster of this proportion would be enough to cripple many other businesses and their owners. In the efforts to succeed and be his best self, Edison knew that the words CAN'T, WON'T and GIVE UP could not have any place in his life. Of all the inventions and innovations that Edison is noted for there are thousands which never made it past the drawing board. Rather than getting hung up on the ones that wouldn't work, he applied his efforts to the ones that would.

We're wondering, "If we only want it bad enough to never tire of it and to dedicate our lives to it, will we succeed? If we try a little harder will we find the area in which we can be called the best?"

"YES!"

The definition of a champion is someone who is the best in their field. I contend that it is not that hard to be the best, it is just very difficult to find the right field. No one has ever, ever become the best by wishing, only by *doing*, and trying and trying and trying.

*There is no chance, no fate, no destiny
That can circumvent, hinder or control
The firm resolve of a determined soul.*

You must remember that obstacles in life become easier to overcome if you commit to causes greater than yourself. Instead of looking at your problems and dark days in terms of you, solve them by looking for ways that you can benefit other people.

If there is anything I feel that needs to be emphasized, it is the importance of serving our fellow human beings. I'm reminded of an American general during World War II. One day a sergeant entered the general's office for an interview and noticed that the walls were decorated with many plaques, ribbons and medals. On a prominent award there was an inscription with the following words: "I AM THIRD." The sergeant gazed at the words for quite some time attempting to understand their meaning, then he turned to the general and asked him what it meant. Out of humility, the general wouldn't explain. After the meeting, the sergeant went into the lobby and asked the secretary if she knew what it meant. She told him of an incident in World War II when the general, then a captain of a platoon, earned the award. The platoon had been under heavy enemy fire for some time and he called for a retreat. As they fled, he noticed that one of his men had been wounded and was being left behind. He quickly offered up a prayer and bolted into the onslaught of bullets. In risking his own life to save the wounded soldier, he was hit, yet managed to return to his unit where he received medical aid. The valiant captain had fought his way to victory by following the motto he had learned in his youth:

*The Lord is first,
My fellow man is second,
And I am third.*

What is your greater cause? Is it a Higher Being, your best friend, your chapter, your community or even your little brother or sister who is counting on you? If you take the focus off of your problems and put it on how you can contribute to the greater cause, it will be easier to find the light and overcome the problems, and it will enable you to become your best self.

I know that life is hard for you sometimes. I know there are



times when you feel pain. I know that sometimes you feel so frustrated that you just want to give up. The fear you might have of not being good enough must be overcome by your courage. The effort you have given, which just didn't seem good enough, must be given again. Never quit. And finally, always look for the opportunity to address the greater cause behind what you are doing.

Thank you for the experience of a lifetime. Thank you, and God Bless.

Just hold on, the light will come.



The Journey

Steven Mitchell
National Vice President—Southern Region
Pineville, Ark.

Life is not a destination; it is a journey. When I first heard this I took it to heart, because in life we cannot set out on only one particular journey going in only one direction with one goal in mind. We have to broaden our horizons and dream with an open mind. I believe we have to experience life to the fullest.

If you think of it as a journey, life is divided into many paths. These are the stages of life that take us from infancy to childhood and from our teenage years to adulthood. They are the ways we choose to go, and, because of our choices, we all experience various things, meet different people and encounter different challenges and opportunities. Six years ago, I stumbled into something called FFA. I did not originally want to be involved in FFA, but after some persuasion from my dad I set out on what would become a great adventure.

Along the way, I've met some pretty interesting people. One of those people, in fact the first one, was Gerald Cooper. He was my high school agriculture teacher, FFA advisor and friend. I'll never forget the day he took some friends and me to my first state convention at the luxurious Camp Couchdale in Hot Springs, Ark. I needed to use the restroom, so we stopped at a gas station. What I didn't know was that Mr. Cooper had been to that same spot just a week earlier and he had been locked in the same restroom that I was about to go into. In case you're wondering, they had not yet fixed the bathroom door. It did not take long for me to figure out that I was not going to get out of there without some help. So, I proceeded to knock gently upon the door. No one answered, so I began to knock a little louder until finally I was screaming, "Mr. Cooper, get me out of here!" Needless to say, he let me out, but not without first having a good laugh. This was a very important lesson for me—*when you get stuck in a situation that you cannot get out of, it's okay to yell for help.* That's one of the things I've learned about FFA advisors—they are there when you need them. Throughout my years in FFA, I've come to appreciate the help that advisors like Mr. Cooper and Mr. Jim Walling provide.

You might expect that this incident would end my desire to travel in FFA, but it did not, and I went to the national convention that fall. To me, it seemed like there were a lot of folks in Kansas City that wore blue and gold. I remember the first time I came into this auditorium six years ago. It was overwhelming. I walked out onto that ledge from that little door right up there and I sat in that section. (Hey! You're in my seat!) That's the same seat I sat in for five years at the national convention. That is also the same seat I was sitting in when I told my friends, "I will be up there someday," and I pointed to this

stage and vowed to become a national officer. A valuable lesson was learned. *When you see something you think you'd like to do, go ahead and wish for it...it might come true.* This was one of the goals I set in FFA. Through the years, I've set many goals on my journey. I've set career goals, goals to improve my speaking and goals to develop my skills. Sometimes, I set small goals to help me through a tough time or challenge.

While I have set many of these goals, the one I set right here six years ago really set off a chain reaction. When I got back home and first began to think seriously about being a national officer, it was real scary. I was afraid my goal was too big. I was scared I would fail. I wasn't sure how I'd get there. I wasn't even sure how to get started. However, the Calico Rock FFA Chapter seemed to be the perfect testing grounds. So, I began by running for chapter president. I worked all year long to be active in parliamentary procedure and the farm business management judging contest. In fact, I did everything I could think of to get elected, and on the day of the big vote I promised everyone just about everything under the sun. When the votes were counted, the person I had turned to a few months earlier while right here in this auditorium and said, "I'll be up there someday," had beaten me for chapter president. In my mind, I had failed. I had lost. What would I do now in FFA? I thought the journey was over for me.

The one thing I had done was to parade around promising and wheeling and dealing. But my attitude had made me fail. I had not thought of asking for people's votes. I had neglected the people around me. Another hard lesson learned from the road—*never forget how important the people around you really are.* I also realized my goals were too narrow. I had set only one destination for my journey. I needed to experience everything, so, when the office of chapter treasurer opened up in the fall, I ran for it. I asked people to give me a chance, and I focused on being a good chapter officer and not on a particular office. It worked. I won the election, and the next year I was elected chapter president. I was on my way and I had done it by cooperating and having a much better attitude.

For the next few years, I traveled along in FFA. There were bumps in the road and places where it got so narrow that I could barely walk along. There were huge mountains to climb and valleys to cross, but I made it through. I achieved my goal to be a national officer last year not because I was some kind of outstanding figure. I realize that I am no better than anyone else. I have just had an opportunity of a lifetime. I have been able to serve you, and I appreciate that honor so much.

Everyday this year, I woke up to a group of new friends in strange new places like Beartooth Mountain, Mont., or Carson City, Nev. As I would lay my head down at night I would think about all the zany activities of the day like coon hunting in Mich., eating down at Country's Bar-B-Que in Ala. with Jamie and Charlie, or just talking with members, like the night in Iowa when we sat around a table talking until 2 a.m. I've met some very interesting people like the "Kentucky Ray Bans." I have made friendships with folks like Darin, Tracy, Katie and Jamie that will last a lifetime. My life on the road, both this year and before, has provided many lessons and lots of tales.

Luckily, I didn't take the journey alone this year. Accompanying me through the good and the bad times have been five individuals, five people who came together to do their best for FFA. We have tried to take this particular journey with an attitude of servant leadership. It has been my pleasure to serve with a real team. Curt, Rocky, Liam, Drew and Tyler—thanks for the memories of life on the road and for helping me to grow. Each of you possesses so much that I wish I had. I'm glad we are leaving this point in our lives as six friends poised for the future.

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One of the greatest parts of my year as a national officer has been this journey. I have traveled through the sights and sounds of the greatest country on earth—the United States of America. But, I have also opened up my mind to a whole new world. Back in January during our trip to Japan, I was sitting at a train station in Hyogo prefecture. I sat there waiting for my host family to pick me up so that I could start the weekend, and so that I could get the weekend over with quicker. I was in a strange land and I was about to spend three days of my life with people that could not speak any English. Folks, I don't speak Japanese. I was scared. I wasn't sure I would like it. I wasn't sure how I would be treated. I basically wasn't sure of anything. I told myself, "it's only for three days." I reassured myself that it would not be a long stay. It wasn't. As I look back now, I fondly remember sitting across the table in a freezing house on the tatami mats made of grass looking up words in my English/Japanese dictionary. I have never laughed so much, nor communicated so well. The lesson is clear—*never rush through life, because you may find that what you're trying to rush through will be the best thing you've ever done.*

FFA members, sometimes I've rushed through life. I tried to rush my election to chapter president and lost. I tried to rush my way to be a state winning speaker and came in third. I tried to rush and when I learned to slow down, the experience was so much better. I realized, there in Japan, that nothing you ever do will be bad unless you think it will be bad. You really do determine what your journey is going to be like.

Don't believe for a second that there is only one goal in life. We all set different goals and choose different ways to reach them. Some of us want to be farmers, while others of us want to be doctors. Many in this room have set goals to graduate from high school, to be a champion baseball player, or even to pass that test coming up next week. Our goals are different because we all have different interests.

As I leave this part of my life, I realize I am not leaving FFA. Instead, I am moving on to greater opportunities and newer goals. I believe true dignity is never gained by place nor lost when honors are withdrawn. I did not become superhero Steve when elected national officer one year ago, and when I take this jacket off tomorrow the journey will not end. I have seen the world, met some of the greatest folks on earth and I have lived an incredible adventure.

I started a journey 20 years ago called life. My parents, Jim and Kathie Mitchell, set me on my way. They armed me with love, taught me right from wrong and told me I always had a place to come home to. Mom and Dad, I hope my choices in life have led me down the right path, and I thank you for everything. My sister, Sarah, is on a journey of her own. Sarah, we have taken different roads in life. I am so proud of you and I love you and I'm proud of all the decisions you have made.

My family started me on the journey of life. Mr. Cooper started me on the path of FFA, and some of the best friends in the world—the Arkansas FFA Association—helped me get to one of my destinations. Jiffy, Carol, Joseph and David—thanks for the adventure of a lifetime. My best buddy, Duell—thanks for keeping my feet on the ground when my head was in the clouds. You kept my spirits up and took the journey with me—thanks. Finally, Mr. Staggs—thank you for teaching me about myself and for proving that life really is a journey that must be experienced to its fullest. Thank you, God, for giving me these opportunities in my life.

FFA members, where are you going? Advisors, have you gone in the same direction that you started traveling? I want you all to stop right now, and think about life. *Life is a journey.* There is no ONE destination. Set out on your journey and have MANY destinations. Choose your way wisely, seek help, set goals, try new things, take time to enjoy life and remember to thank those that help you make it through.

As I stop here to think about my journey, there is only one last lesson I want to impart—you can never achieve your goals if you never get started. The little leaguer will never be a great baseball player if they never get on the field to practice. The student that does not study can't graduate from high school with a 4.0 grade average, and the FFA member that never gets up for his or her first speech can't win a national public speaking contest.

What is holding you back from getting started? My message all year has been to take part, get involved, do your best. Stop thinking things will just happen, they only happen when people make them happen.

I know what you're thinking, and I've felt it, too—getting started is the hardest part. There are obstacles in the way, something else seems more important, you might not make it, there isn't enough time—STOP! Stop making excuses! The first step is the hardest, but take the plunge, do it now, stand up, this is your time! Get on your feet and make it happen! God bless you, and thank you!



Be The One

Raquel Lacey
National Vice President—Central Region
Nokomis, Ill.

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to do a little bit of baby-sitting for some of the neighbor kids. Now, no matter how many times I baby-sit, my favorite part of the evening is always bedtime, because this is my opportunity to spend a little quiet time with the kids and enchant them with my favorite fairy tale—The Frog Prince—to begin their evening dreaming process. Here's how it goes:

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there lived a beautiful princess. One day, as she was playing with her golden ball, it fell into a deep stream and she began to cry. A few minutes later this ugly old frog pops his head up from the stream and offers to retrieve the ball for a few small favors that included eating from her plate, sleeping on her pillow and receiving a little kiss. Well, the princess quickly agreed and the frog retrieved her ball. But once the young lady got her ball back, she trotted off to the castle and never again thought about her promises to the frog. As she ate dinner that evening, the frog came hopping up to the house to remind the girl of her promises. Reluctantly—and with her father's considerable persuasion—she let the frog in and followed through on her promises by letting the frog eat from her plate and sleep on her pillow. But when it came time for the kiss, she was just a little bit reluctant. Finally, she closed her eyes, puckered up and gave him a big kiss. Then she got so disgusted that she threw him on the floor.

Now, about this time, before I even got to the best part where the frog turns into a prince, my little rug rats were sound asleep, and I gently tucked them in for the night with a slight peck on their foreheads. But, you know, I always wanted to ask them this simple question, so let me ask it of you: When was the last time *you* kissed a frog? I don't mean literally an old slimy, scummy-looking frog, or even a cute, little green frog. What I mean is, have you reached out to help someone along life's way? Have you reached out to touch someone that was in need of some love or friendship? Were you there to just care, kind of like that beautiful princess attempted to do for



that little old frog who just needed someone to show him a bit of affection? That's the same type of warmth that brings out the beauty—even in frogs—to become princes.

In our world there are many of these fairy tales in which young adults are searching for more out of life than just school or work. They are crying out for a little bit of attention, for someone to lend an ear, for someone to sincerely care, offer a warm smile, a kind look or a heartfelt compliment. I think we all sense this need in our lives at times. But sometimes it takes a little bit of effort to get beyond appearances and first impressions, especially when it's so much easier to see just the frog. People aren't always valued for the beauty they have inside because our society creates pressure for us to look thin, be tall, have lots of cash, and drive a fire-engine-red, fast vehicle—when in reality outer beauty and material possessions are nothing compared to what's really important on the inside.

Thus, the end of the tale isn't always so sweet and happy as in the frog's case. Sometimes in life no one answers the cry. Instead, we hear about gangs full of kids looking to find a place to fit in, teenagers turning to drugs and alcohol, despair claiming lives, an escalating number of school dropouts, and the many broken dreams. But these extreme examples develop from a lot of little things. Think of the classmate that no one ever talks to, or the person who's always picked on or criticized. What about the awful false rumors that are spread each day and the jealousy among different cliques?

These are just a few of the problems facing our world and facing us individually day to day. There have been times when I've gotten to a point where I thought, "Who really cares about me or you in the big picture? Who cares? Does it really matter?" But the truth is that it does matter. We are the hope, the answer. Through our hands and our hearts, God touches the hearts of the unreached, heals the wounds of the hurting and loves those who are neglected. We are God's messengers; all you need to do is listen and in your heart you'll hear the call.

As I look back at my life, I know I've drawn a lot of strength from individuals in our church family and the stories and examples our Sunday School teachers shared year after year about reaching out to touch others. Their favorite parable was told through Jesus in the book of Luke 10:30-37. It was about a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was robbed, stripped, beaten and left half-dead. By chance, a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But then a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where the man lay. When he saw the injured man, he had compassion, and he went to him and bound up his wounds. Then he paid the local innkeeper to take care of the injured man. The Samaritan was only one person, but he made a tremendous difference in someone's life.

Every time I read from the Bible I'm continually reminded of the power of one. I'm reminded of the Lord above and how He uses His power to see human needs and then to reach out and touch the world by reacting to those needs through us, just as he did with the good Samaritan. Or how He reached out to touch even me through Robert in Oklahoma who went out of his way last January to make sure Tyler and I found our way to their high school agriculture room. And then there was Dwayne, Tracy and Ma "B" who were always there to offer a warm hug during the Idaho state FFA convention, and they've continued to keep in touch and offer warm words of encouragement throughout this year.

I was also blessed with genuine friends like Carrie, John, Katy, Kim, Travis and Jodi who weren't afraid to sit down and talk about anything and everything under the sun, or to write and say "Hey, I care" or "You're in my thoughts." As I began the interviews for national office a year ago this week, I

prayed desperately, if chosen, to serve with a team that actually got along. And you know what? My prayers were answered, because I have been surrounded with five very special young men, Curtis, Andrew, Tyler, Steven and Liam, who have been supportive, great listeners and who supplied me with my R.D.A. (my "Recommended Daily Allowance") of hugs while I was away from home.

Finally, God has blessed my life with the biggest motivators in the world—my mom, dad, my brother Hunt, and my best friends, Debbie, Catherine and Corey, who have served as the backbone in my life when I thought the world was crumbling down around me. And there have been so many others like you that I've met along life's way over the past seven years.

I'd like you to take just a moment and recall someone who has made an impact in your life. Once you have that person pictured, I'd like you to remember how they touched your life and why it was so important to you. I would probably bet that the impact they had on your life was due to something very small and priceless, not something extravagant. For example, they may have sat down with you over an ice cream cone to boost your self-confidence, or just given you a gentle pat on the back.

Now I'd like you to think for just a moment about all the people you've come in contact with during the past few days, and make a mental list of those to whom you spoke uplifting words, gave a warm hug or took the time to listen about their failures and accomplishments. Or what about the individual whose shoulder you put your arm around and said, "I care," or at whom you smiled—even though you didn't know them—as you walked through the halls of the hotel or down the streets? How simple it really is to make a positive difference in someone else's life.

My little brother Hunt has probably been my closest example of what it means to reach out and give from within yourself. Since his freshman year in high school he's played football, and, of course, he thought he was pretty cool and tough. He's always been the athletically gifted of the two of us, but I remember that, even though football wasn't quite his cup of tea, he kept trying because he absolutely loved it.

The last two football seasons I missed a majority of Hunt's games, but I've always called home to find out the results—win or lose—and asked how he played, which was minimal at that time. One evening as he shared the results, much to my surprise, Hunt acclaimed how he knew he wasn't the best player, but the coach had put him in that night to build the morale of his fellow teammates. Hunt was using a different talent than you would normally associate with football, such as running speed or number of tackles. His particular talent is in the way he offers words of encouragement to psych up his teammates.

Just as the princess who kissed the frog and the good Samaritan who helped the man who'd been robbed, my little brother's support of others reminded me of how important each one of us is and the impact just one individual can have in the lives of others. You may be that one person who can make the difference in another's life. It may even be more subtle than Hunt's gift to the Nokomis football team, like a simple wink or nod of support and encouragement across a crowded room.

It's the little things that make all the difference in the world. It doesn't have to be a big elaborate production, and you don't even have to be someone out of the ordinary with super-human powers in order to touch the lives of those around you. As a matter of fact, I sure know I'm not perfect, because I've made my fair share of mistakes. I'm just a 21-year-old young lady, an FFA member, just like you, nothing out of the ordinary.

But there is one key thing I did learn in this organization that will stay with me forever, and that is: *We don't have to be wealthy in order to give a portion of our time and talents to someone*

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else. We don't have to be in perfect health to serve others, our community, our church, our organization, or our nation. We don't need to be a genius to write an encouraging letter or card to a person who needs a little support. We certainly don't have to be Miss America, an Olympic athlete, or even a beautiful princess to brighten the lives of others by giving a cheerful smile. We don't need to be a "Very Important Person" in the eyes of the world in order to be a genuine friend. But you know what? The best kept secret to what is really effective in touching the lives of others is right in [your heart]. Use what you have to reach out and touch someone around you. BE THE ONE to make a difference.

BE THE ONE

*In a world full of broken dreams, where the truth is hard to find,
For every promise that is kept there are many left behind.
Though it seems that nobody cares, it still matters what you do;
'Cause there's a difference you can make, but the choice is up to you.*

*Will you be the one to answer to His call?
And will you stand when those around you fall?
Will you be the one to take His light into a darkened world?
Tell me, will you be the one?*

*O sometimes it is hard to know who is right and what is wrong;
And where are you supposed to stand when the battle lines are drawn?
There's a voice that keeps calling out for someone who's not afraid;
To be a beacon in the night to a world that's lost its way.*

*There are still some battles that we must fight from day to day,
Yet the Lord provides the power for me to stand and say:
Yes, I'll be the one to answer to His call, I will stand when those around
me fall,
I will be the one to take His light into a darkened world!
Will you be the one?
I will be the one.*

FFA members, each of us can be the one. Each of us can reach out to touch someone. It says in the Bible, "For many are called, but few are chosen." FFA members you have been chosen to make a difference in the lives of those around you at home, at school, in your state, nation, and even in our world. May God continue to wrap His loving arms around each of you as you go out into the world to BE THE ONE—to make a special difference in the lives of others that only you can make.



The Power of One

Liam Brody
National Vice President—Eastern Region
Greenville, N.Y.

A young man I know named Jesse used to love the song "The Rainbow Connection" when he was a little boy. He would sit cuddled with his mom and ask her to play the song over and over again. Jesse found comfort listening to the lyrics and believed that someday he would find "the rainbow connection."

Jesse's parents divorced when he was very young and he lived alone with his mother. He cared for his father a great deal and wished they could have a "normal family." Jesse dreamt of the day when the confines of poverty and embarrassment would no longer be his. After moving in and out of seven school districts, seeing his mother endure an abusive relationship, witnessing bill collectors repossess their belongings and watching his loving mother fight a tough battle with

alcohol, Jesse lost the positive attitude and dreams he once had. Jesse lost hope that the future would bring something, anything better.

As the world seemed to spin out of control, Jesse became further disenchanted and depressed. Despite their trying times one thing never changed—the hope of his mother. She told him that no matter how bad things got, never give up. She promised him that things would get better!

In order to fulfill her promise, his mother asked for her son's trust once again. She decided to move far away from their troubled lives and start anew. This, too, was hard for Jesse as he left behind what little stability he had.

The move, however tough for them both, proved positive. Jesse's hope was once again rekindled. His mother won her battle with alcohol and resolved never to drink again. They rented a nice home, and his relationship with his father and stepmother grew. In their new-found home, Jesse again had trouble fitting in. He still did not know what the future would bring, but he approached it with a better attitude.

By chance, Jesse enrolled in an agriculture class. Never before, outside of his family, had he experienced such a sense of belonging. His agriculture teacher treated him with respect. Jesse's teacher became his mentor and his friend! The teacher took him to the national FFA convention during his first year in FFA. Jesse couldn't believe all he saw and felt. Just as his mom had promised, life got better.

Over the years, with the support of many people, Jesse gave FFA his all and FFA gave its all to him. The last time Jesse visited the national convention, his saga of growth and hope continued. As he waited with great pride and anticipation for a special moment to arrive, he reflected on a quotation from Helen Keller who said, "So much has been given to me; I have no time to ponder over that which has been denied." After that moment, and following a lifetime of adversity, Jesse's name was announced as a new national FFA officer. No, not simply as Jesse, but as *Liam Jesse Brody*. You see, I know that life is not easy, I've been there. Despite life's hardships, I refuse to give up. There have been times in my life when I thought I couldn't go any further. It was then that I learned of *the power of one!*

The power of one is many things. It can be the inner strength we all possess to reach our dreams. My dream of finding "the rainbow connection" began when I was very young, and it seemed as though it might never become a reality. For so many years I followed the rainbow and it has led me here to a pot of gold—blue and gold! I believe in the power you and I possess to search deep within ourselves and to triumph over hardship.

I know I am not the only one who has faced the fear and uncertainty of life. However, it is this fear and uncertainty that builds our character. Proverbs 13:19 says "A desire to accomplish is sweet to the soul." It is that initial desire that keeps us going. It is the fuel for our fire. The desire fills us with hope, and "hope is a waking dream." Hope and desire alone, however, will not triumph, but when coupled with determination, a positive attitude and persistence, success will rain down upon us.

My friends, you can make it. Believe me. There are so many terrific things that await you. No matter how tough your situation, don't despair. Life always, always gets better. There are always others who have it worse. You have the power to find a way out. The truth is the world owes no one happiness, but it owes everyone an opportunity to be happy. A Sanskrit proverb advises us to "Look to this day, for it is life, the very life of life. In its brief course of existence is found; the bliss of growth, the splendor of action, the glory of power. For yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision, but today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope." Follow your rainbow carefully, FFA members, and take advantage of the opportuni-



ties it brings.

Without you I may never have found the strength within to follow my rainbow to be where I am today. The power of one can also be the power we have to be the one who can make a difference in someone else's life. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's Theory of Relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermo-dynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." A service-oriented attitude is something Louis Jacobsen has learned about first hand.

Louis Jacobsen, a Latter-day Saint minister, tells a story about the days when he was a little boy. Louis was the son of a Danish widow. He was small in stature and odd in appearance—easily the object of his peers' thoughtless jokes and cruelty. One morning during Sunday School, the children made fun of his patched pants and his worn-out shirt. Too proud to cry, Louis ran from his seat fleeing the class, stopping finally to rest, out of breath. He sat on a curb that ran along a street in Salt Lake City. Clear water flowed along the gutter near the curb on which Louis sat. He pulled from his pocket a piece of paper, skillfully created a paper boat and launched it on the flowing water. From his hurt, boyish heart came the determined spoken words, "I'll never go back!" Suddenly, through his tears Louis saw the reflection in the water of a well-dressed man. Louis looked up at the man and recognized George Burbidge, the Sunday School superintendent. "May I sit down with you?" asked the kind man. Louis nodded yes. There on the curb sat a good Samaritan helping one who was surely in need. Several boats were created and launched while their conversation continued. At last the man stood with the boy's hand holding tightly to his, and they returned to Sunday School. In later years, Louis presided over that same Sunday School. Throughout his long life of service, he never failed to acknowledge the one servant who helped him on the curb that bitter-sweet day. The power of one is in all of you. There are so many people in this life with no one at all. It will be those people to whom you will be the power of one. The words of the following poem reflect upon this thought:

*He stood at the crossroads all alone,
The sunlight in his face.
He had no thought for the world unknown—
He was set for a manly race.
But the roads stretched east and the roads stretched west,
And the lad knew not which road was best.
So he chose the road that led him down,
And he lost the race and the victor's crown.
He was caught at last in an angry snare
Because no one stood at the crossroads there
To show him the better road.*

*Another day at the self-same place
A boy with high hopes stood.
He, too, was set for a manly race;
He, too, was seeking the things that were good.
But one was there whom the road did know,
And that one showed him which way to go,
So he turned from the road that would lead him down
And he won the race and the victor's crown.
He walks today the highway fair
Because one stood at the crossroads there
To show him the better way.*

Always remember we pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that we can do, or any kindness that we can show, we must do it now, for we shall not pass this way again. Make your choices in life not upon that which is offered

to you, but upon that which you can offer to others. There are many people that have offered so much to my life. To those family, friends and other special people I give my sincere thanks, love and appreciation.

I believe that with hope, persistence and service we can all find the rainbow connection.

I remember back to an earlier point in the year; it was a beautiful day in February. I had the opportunity to visit a school and talk with a class. However, this was no ordinary visit. This time I found myself in the Japanese countryside, talking to an English class of Japanese students. The teacher invited me to share aspects of culture and society with the students for about an hour. Because the students knew very basic English, the teacher did quite a bit of translating.

As the students asked questions, the teacher wrote some of the words in English on the board. He wrote words such as: "slam dunk," "agriculture," "pizza" and "blonde hair." When the conversation became more complex, he began to write the words "violence," "guns," "trade" and "hatred" on the chalk board. While we talked about how things were in America, I told them that many of those words didn't have to be there. Then I circled some of the words. With one pass of the chalk I made a statement that could be understood in any language. I drew diagonal slashes through the circle and the words, and I told them it was up to us to stop such problems. I told the class that together we can make a difference! You see, the power of one is not simply the power of the individual, but the power of one family, one chapter, one nation and, ultimately, the power of one people!

I am reminded of one of Aesop's Fables. The tale is told of a family with a father and three boys. The boys were always arguing. No matter what the father said it would not sink into the boys' heads. The father wanted to provide them with an example so that they might see how their actions would eventually lead them to misfortune. So he asked one of the boys to bring him a bundle of sticks. The father told his boys to attempt to break the bundle of sticks. All three boys tried to snap the entire bundle, but none found success. The father then untied the bundle and told the sons to break the sticks one by one. The three boys now found success with ease. The father said to his sons, "If you are divided among yourselves, you will be no stronger than a single stick in that bundle. Your unity is your strength." Our unity is our strength. Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

Thank you for an amazing year full of wonder and growth. You have made a difference in my life by providing me with the opportunity to make a difference in yours. You have given me hope in the future. It is said in *The Talmud* that the "The sun will set without thy assistance." Together we have the power to create a better day for the sun to rise. Remember the power of one means so much. It is the strength within, the chance to help others and it is not only the power of the individual, but the power of one people! Search deep within to find, be and become the power of one! When your day becomes dark, hold on and do not ponder over that which has been denied but reflect on all which has been given. When you see that hope has diminished in another's life, share your power and be the one to sit on the curb and lend your heart and smile. Lastly, let your power combine to form one strong family, one great country and one united people!

Change can come from the power of many, but only when many come together to form that which is invincible, that which is the power of one!

Find it, be it, live it—The POWER OF ONE!



VIP Citations

It takes a special type of person to be elevated to the status of FFA VIP. The following 10 individuals have made career-long contributions to agricultural education and FFA, and it could be said that their blood runs national blue and corn gold. The recipients were honored Thursday afternoon before the convention audience and were presented commemorative plaques.



VIP Citations were bestowed upon a record number of individuals Thursday afternoon. Front row (from left): Henry Williams, G.W. Hamby, Jay Eudy and William Annis. Back row (from left): W. Forrest Bear, Gordon Galbraith, Paul Day and Verlin Hart. Recipients not pictured: Jim Copeman and Edgar Persons.

Dr. W. Forrest Bear of St. Paul, Minn., helped develop the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Contest 23 years ago, and has served as superintendent or assistant most years since then. He is professor emeritus in agricultural engineering and agricultural education at the University of Minnesota.

Paul M. Day of Northfield, Minn., was a classroom agriculture teacher for 16 years and the state supervisor and state FFA advisor in Minnesota for 24 years. He served terms on the National FFA Board of Directors and was superintendent of the National Livestock Judging Contest. Day was elected to offices in the NVATA at the state and regional levels.

Edgar A. Persons of St. Paul, Minn., has provided major leadership for changes in the FFA proficiency and American FFA Degree applications since 1980. He was head teacher educator in agricultural education at the University of Minnesota. Most recently he helped develop financial record keeping materials for FFA.

G. W. Hamby of Higginsville, Mo., is a retired district supervisor for agricultural education in his state. He was a supervising teacher for 33 student teachers during his career, and served as an officer for the Missouri Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association.

Dr. William H. Annis of Durham, N. H., is about to retire as head of Vocational-Technical and Adult Education at the University of New Hampshire. His 32-year career influenced the development of hundreds of teachers and extension agents.

Verlin Hart of Agra, Okla., is a retired district supervisor of agricultural education and Young Farmer Executive Secretary. He was instrumental in the operation of a national land, pasture and range contest held annually in Oklahoma City.

Gordon Galbraith of Salem, Ore., retired as state supervisor of agricultural education in June of 1994. He served on the National FFA Board of Directors and the FFA Foundation Board of Trustees.

Henry G. Williams of Bells, Tenn., retired as consultant and regional supervisor for agricultural education in Tennessee. He was particularly involved with training the state FFA officer teams.

Jay L. Eudy of Austin, Texas, is a retired director of Agricultural Science and Technology in his state where he headed a reorganization of agricultural curriculum that has served as a model for reform in 26 other states. He was a member of the National FFA Board of Directors and was president of the National Association of State Supervisors of Agricultural Education. In retirement, Eudy is donating time to the National Council for Agricultural Education as interim director.

Jim Copeman of Fairmont, W. Va., is a retired supervisor of agricultural services for Monongahela Power Company. For 50 years he helped select the state's candidates for the American FFA Degree.



National FFA Alumni



On your mark, get set, go! FFA alumni delegates from across the country rushed to Kansas City to break previously set records and compete for distinguished honors at the 23rd National FFA Alumni Convention.

The alumni association, dedicated to the future of agricultural education and FFA, not only broke records to improve their organization, but also shattered last year's alumni auction record, raising more than \$50,000 for the National FFA Scholarship Fund.



Bill Borer, Grand Rapids, Ohio, made a double contribution when he purchased the CHEVY truck at the alumni auction. Sale proceeds support FFA scholarships, and he also plans to donate the \$1,000 purchase award to the Otsego FFA Chapter in memory of a former FFA member, Brock Shank, who was recently killed in an auto accident.

AWARDS

FFA alumni gathered to salute member affiliates displaying excellence in membership growth at the Alumni Awards Luncheon in Bartle Hall. For the second consecutive year, the Wisconsin FFA Alumni was recognized for having both the most life members in a state (3,179) and the most life affiliates in a state (64). New Lexington, Ohio, received honors for the affiliate with the most life members (307), while Denmark, Wis., with 388 members, was recognized as the largest affiliate. Rhode Island and Oklahoma received distinguished awards for membership growth, 106% and 44%, respectively; and Oklahoma was recognized for the largest membership increase of 3,017.

The Blue Blazer Club honored four state FFA alumni associations for increasing membership by at least 100 members during the past year. The FFA Alumni blazer recipients for 1994 were Florida, Iowa, Oklahoma and Texas.

Twenty-six FFA Alumni affiliates received gold, silver and bronze rankings for outstanding accomplishments in supporting and serving agricultural education and FFA. This

year, LeRoy, Ill., was recognized as the Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate, boasting 86 members. Fort Atkinson, Wis., a 90-member affiliate, received runner-up honors. Other affiliates earning a gold ranking are listed as follows.

GOLD

LeRoy, Ill.
Hill City, Kan.
South Rowan, China Grove, N.C.
Clinton, Janesville, Wis.
Denmark, Wis.
Fort Atkinson, Wis.
Milton, Wis.

Every year the National FFA Alumni Association presents the Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award to three Alumni members for outstanding leadership and service to agricultural education and the agricultural industry. Ray Brown, West Bend, Iowa; Dennis Engelke, Austin, Texas; and Gerald Fredrick, Milton, Wis., received the 1994 FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award, which is the highest award presented within the organization.

BUSINESS

Keynote speaker James Knight received two standing ovations for his performances at the FFA Alumni business sessions. Knight was applauded for challenging alumni to help every student reap the benefits of FFA by "opening doors" for diverse populations. Knight later spoke to afternoon session-goers on "Building Partnerships—A Vision Beyond Tradition." Retiring President June Dean relinquished her duties to the newly elected president, Ken Natzke, of Bonduel, Wis. Elected as the 1994-95 Alumni Council vice president was Ray V. Herren, teacher educator representative from Athens, Ga. Two new council members announced during the afternoon session were Shirley Carte, southern representative; and James Shiflet, eastern representative. The meeting adjourned following the Legion of Merit presentations.

This year's alumni delegates accomplished organizational goals by setting new records during the business meetings, the awards luncheon and the auction. Alumni also showed they could accomplish their goals by creating a mission statement to promote alumni growth, recognize outstanding alumni achievements and raise money for the National FFA Scholarship Fund.

AUCTION

Emotions ran high as alumni and FFA convention participants showed their willingness to support the FFA at the ninth annual FFA Alumni Auction. Nearly 700 items went on the auction block as participants gave their highest bids to auctioneers. Amid the cajoling, Wisconsin's Yoap family, donors and bidders set record highs, raising \$50,050 for the National FFA Scholarship Fund.

Spirits soared as the auctioneer dropped his gavel and announced the proud owner of the 4-wheel drive, full-sized pickup donated by CHEVY TRUCKS. Bill Borer, Grand Rapids, Ohio, purchased the Chevrolet Alumni Pickup for \$23,200. Other items on the auction block included 500 gallons of liquid fertilizer furnished by Na-Churs Plant Food Co. sold to Robert Lindhorst of Columbus, Neb., for \$1,800, and a 20-foot Patz belt conveyer purchased by John Degen, Montague, Mich., for \$1,300.



National FFA Foundation

50-Year Sponsors

Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund, a charitable Trust of Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.
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Successful Farming/Meredith Corporation
Des Moines, Iowa

35-Year Sponsor

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Washington, Kan.
National Agri-Marketing Association
Overland Park, Kan.
Mr. John Pool
Thawville, Ill.
Mr. John S. Runnells
Bay City, Texas

For the 28th consecutive year, the National FFA Foundation set a record level of support for FFA and agricultural education programs.

At Thursday evening's session, Ron Davis, 1994 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman, announced that a total of \$5,857,000 was raised in 1994 to support projects and programs for FFA and agricultural education, a 7.5 percent increase from 1993.

Davis, president and chief executive officer of Biggs/Gilmore Communications, saw the contributions of more than 1,000 Foundation sponsors as an investment in the future.

Patrice Carter, an FFA member from the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, urged audience members to remember the importance of sponsors. "Think about it," she said. "You would not be (at the national convention) without the support of sponsors and the Foundation."

H.D. "Harry" Cleberg, president and Chief Executive Officer of Farmland Industries, Inc., was introduced as the 1995 Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman. The 1995 Foundation theme, "FFA—Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders," was also revealed at the national convention.

Since 1944, the National FFA Foundation has provided more than \$57 million to FFA members for awards, scholarships and achievement programs.

Kansas City Coalition

We also would like to recognize and thank the following businesses and associations which provide undesignated support for the 1994 National FFA Convention: United Missouri Bank, N.A.; City of Kansas City; Hallmark Corporate Foundation; Boatmen's First National Bank of Kansas City; Farmland Industries, Inc.; American Royal Association, Inc.; The H&R Block Foundation; Kansas City Power & Light Company; Kansas City Southern Industries, Inc.; Marion Merrell Dow, Inc.; Sutherland Lumber; Yellow Freight System, Inc.; Sprint Foundation; Fermenta Animal Health Company; The Kansas City Star Company; and North American Salt Company.

Additional Kansas City area sponsors providing specific project support to the convention: Lester Building Systems/a Division of Butler Manufacturing Company; Commerce Bank of Kansas City; Kansas City Life Insurance Company; Sprint/United Telephone-Midwest; Miles Inc., Agriculture Division; Butler Manufacturing Company; and Western Retail Implement and Hardware Association.



Ron Davis, 1994 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman, announced that the Foundation raised a record \$5,857,000 for FFA programs and agricultural education.



Sponsors' Board Executive Council

1994 CHAIRMAN

Ron Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer, Biggs/Gilmore Communications

1995 CHAIRMAN-ELECT

H.D. Cleberg, President and Chief Executive Officer, Farmland Industries, Inc.

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Dale A. Miller, President and Chief Executive Officer, Sandoz Agro, Inc.

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Norman A. Braksick, President, Asgrow Seed Company

James Callaway, President, Quincy Design & Manufacturing, a subsidiary of Moorman Manufacturing Company

Distinguished Service Citations

Thursday afternoon, FFA said "thank you" to three companies with a history of generous support to agricultural education and FFA. This year's commendations went to Hallmark Corporate Foundation; Merck AgVet Division, Merck and Company, Inc.; and The Scotts Company.

Hallmark Corporate Foundation of Kansas City, Mo., has been a sponsor of agricultural education and the FFA for 26 years. Over the years they have supported the national FFA convention including the chorus and the delegate operation. Currently they host a major welcome luncheon for city leaders to meet with the FFA prior to the start of the convention.

Merck AgVet Division, Merck and Company, Inc. of Rahway, N. J., has supported the organization for 26 years. They have been instrumental in providing training for state FFA officers through the National Leadership Conferences for State Officers, and also co-sponsor the Nursery Operations Proficiency Award.

The Scotts Company of Marysville, Ohio, has contributed more than \$290,000 to the National FFA Foundation over its 29 years of involvement with the FFA. The company sponsors the Turf and Landscape Management Proficiency Award.



Distinguished Service Citations were presented Thursday afternoon. Pictured left to right are John Laney, Hall Family Foundation vice president; Robert Van Schoick, director of Marketing Planning, Food Animal Products for Merck Ag Vet Division, Merck and Company; and Eugene Mayer, training manager of The Scotts Company.

June Dean, President, National FFA Alumni Association

William J. Doyle, President, PCS Sales

Paul F. Engler, Chief Executive Officer, Cactus Feeders, Inc.

A. Charles Fischer, Vice President, North America, DowElanco

Walter A. Gardiner, President and Chief Operating Officer, Imperial Schrade Corporation

Kenneth A. Gregersen, Senior Vice President, Advertising, Promotions & Public Relations (retired), Kent Feeds Inc. (liaison, The National Council for Agricultural Education)

Donald W. Hecht, Director, Sales and Marketing, Elanco Animal Health

Gene Hemphill, Manager, Industry Affairs, New Holland

E.C. Henderson Jr., Vice President, Wayne Feeds Division/Continental Grain

Walter P. Hobgood Jr., Vice President, Animal Sciences Division, The Agricultural Group of Monsanto Company

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Karen Simon, President and Chief Executive Officer, FISCO Farm and Home Stores

David Warren, President, Allflex USA, Inc.



Honorary American FFA Degrees



Del Petersen of the Santa Maria FFA Chapter, Santa Maria, Calif., received an Honorary American FFA Degree for his commitment to FFA and young people.

Government leaders, high school officials, agriculture teachers, business people, state staff, and parents contribute much to the FFA and agricultural education. During the Friday morning session, it was time to pay tribute to the commitment to young people demonstrated by these individuals. The Honorary American FFA Degree, the organization's biggest "thank you," was conferred upon the following supporters of FFA.

Each recipient was congratulated by the national officers on stage, and was presented with a honorary key and certificate.

ALABAMA: William J. Alverson Jr., Auburn University
ARKANSAS: John R. Gwaltney, Jackson; W. O. B. Phillips, Beebe; Shelly Roy, Ledyard; Leland Tollett, Springdale
CALIFORNIA: John R. Scheuber, Modesto; W. Jay Spender, Torrance
CONNECTICUT: Shelly Ray, Ledyard
DELAWARE: Robert Woods, Wilmington
GEORGIA: Charles E. Ellington Jr., Soperton; Jimmy R. Grubbs, Tifton
IDAHO: Thomas Garrard, Burley; Howard L. Johnston, Idaho Falls
ILLINOIS: Frank M. Dry, Roanoke; Mike Mouser, Normal; Richard E. Treat, Joy; Cathrine A. Westphal, Schaumburg; Molly M. Wilson, Decatur
INDIANA: Thomas Garrison, Greencastle
KANSAS: Johnny Carey, Riverton
LOUISIANA: Susan M. Fritz, Lincoln
MICHIGAN: Gene Englerth, Webberville; Jack Laurie, Lansing
MINNESOTA: Julie A. Bleyhl, St. Paul; John Gherty, Minneapolis; William E. Hoberg, Danvers; Richard L. Jones, St. Paul; James H. Molenaar, Willmar; Lyle D. Phelps, North Mankato; Erman O. Ueland, Crookston
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NEW JERSEY: Robert D. Van Schoick, Rahway; J. Henry Zanzalari, East Brunswick
NEW MEXICO: B. J. Porter, Las Cruces
NORTH DAKOTA: William Drummond, Fargo; Ben Farner, Mandan
OHIO: Tadd C. Seitz, Marysville
OKLAHOMA: Tony Kennedy, Edmond; G. T. Moody, Stillwater; Mason Mungle, Oklahoma City; Larry Watkins, Oklahoma City
OREGON: Mike Hoffman, Roseburg; Dale J. Wendt, Pendleton
PENNSYLVANIA: Earl M. Morgan, Philadelphia
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TEXAS: Rebecca L. DeShazo, Austin; Kirk C. Edney, Austin; David E. Lawver, Lubbock; Randall H. Williams, Kingsville
UTAH: Clay Christensen, Salt Lake City
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WEST VIRGINIA: Rodney M. Wallbrown, Pt. Pleasant
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WYOMING: Courtney J. Schilt, Cheyenne

AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

ALABAMA: Joe Scarborough, Tallassee; Leonard A. Smith Jr., Valley Head; John R. Whaley, Jacksonville
ARIZONA: Marven L. Busby, St. David
CALIFORNIA: Jim Andersen, Merced; Greg Beard, Fullerton; David Caetano, Tulare; Dan Kemp, Bear River; Bill King, Petaluma; Robert H. Kuntz, Gilroy; Del Petersen, Santa Maria; Sam Walker, El Capitan
FLORIDA: Patrick K. Hiser, Vero Beach; Ray Pigott, Chipley
ILLINOIS: Charles E. Cyr, Peotone; Danny Kuipers, Iroquois West; Richard T. Long, Paxton-Ruxley-Loda; Donald R. Prather, Clinton
INDIANA: Gary Mosbaugh, Southmont; Cynthia L. Raker, Carroll; Daniel L. Webb, Tri
IOWA: Dennis L. Berry, Lake View Auburn; Gary A. De Vries, West Lyon; Mike D. Earll, Sibley
KENTUCKY: James P. Bates, Warren Central; Aaron E. Beals, Paducah Tilghman
MARYLAND: Thomas C. Hawthorne, Linganore
MICHIGAN: Steven L. Beattie, St. Louis; Joseph R. Bloom, Dansville
MINNESOTA: Ronald G. Nelsen, Minnewaska; Neil H. Pearson, Willmar; Jere Rambow, Willmar Technical College
MISSOURI: Lonnie Burns, Marshall; Dennis Croy, Gallatin; Gary Hill, North Central; Craig S. Lehman, Carl Junction; Ronald Scheiderer, Salisbury
MONTANA: Thomas S. Faulkner, Judith Gap
NEBRASKA: Gary Maresh, Central City; David Tejral, Genoa
NORTH CAROLINA: Jerry L. Cox, Starmount
OHIO: Randall E. Eppley, Gibsonburg; Neil C. Swonger, Cardington Lincoln; Roland D. Zimmerman, Sentinel
OKLAHOMA: R. E. Barney, Canton; Cecil Bratton, Keota; Ronald Clampet, Madill; Fred Krasser, Chattanooga; Ray D. Sites, Mountain View-Gotebo; Danny Wedel, Carnegie; Charles W. White, Fort Supply
OREGON: Robert L. Beckner, Newberg; Ronald D. Stebbins, Newberg
PENNSYLVANIA: Larry R. Redding, Dover
TENNESSEE: Hugh E. Peery, Culleoka; Billy Vestal, Riverside
TEXAS: Charles R. Griffin, Quanah; Milton Mann, Higgins; George V. Martin, Iowa Park; Gary Rosenbusch, Glen Rose; Tommy R. Snook, Livingston; Bobby J. Wood, Adrian
VIRGINIA: Ernest C. Conner Jr., Park View; C. William Shumate II, Tunstall
WEST VIRGINIA: Alan P. Whetzel, Mineral Co. Vocational Center
WISCONSIN: Orland C. Abel, Bonduel; Jeffrey J. Ray, Waterford; Jerome Uher, Stevens Point Senior
WYOMING: Richard E. Hubbard, Sundance



Some job descriptions in the FFA are so demanding that they come with an automatic reward for those willing to fill such huge roles. Honorary American FFA Degrees are conferred on the parents of retiring national officers, the parents of the stars, and retiring members of the National FFA Boards of Directors, Trustees and Consultants.

Behind every active, successful FFA member stands a family support system. The families of the national officers and stars have made extraordinary efforts on the part of their children, allowing the members to reap the richest of FFA's rewards. The degrees conferred on these special parents recognizes not only their contribution to the organization, but the efforts put forth by FFA parents nationwide.

National FFA Boards of Directors and Trustees, as well as Consultants to those groups, give generously of their time and wisdom during their terms of service. Educators and business professionals who served the organization in such capacity were honored for their commitment to FFA.

PARENTS OF STARS IN AGRIBUSINESS AND STAR FARMERS

KENTUCKY: Anna Margaret Floyd, Nicholasville; Billy Neal Floyd, Nicholasville
MONTANA: Terry Yost, Joliet; Anthony L. Yost, Joliet
NEW YORK: Patricia Snyder, Hamilton; Howard Snyder, Hamilton; Nancy A. Vaill, Pine Plains; Lloyd H. Vaill, Pine Plains

OKLAHOMA: Sue Johnson, Gotebo; Bradley Johnson, Gotebo
SOUTH DAKOTA: MaryAnn Gross, Bridgewater; Paul S. Gross, Bridgewater
WISCONSIN: Linda Daniels, Montello; Dennis Daniels, Montello; Jeanette Judd, Reedsburg; Harly Judd, Reedsburg

PARENTS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

ARIZONA: Lu Jean B. Grandil, Gilbert; Barry M. Grandil, Gilbert
ARKANSAS: Kathie Mitchell, Pineville; Jim Mitchell, Pineville
ILLINOIS: Ruth Ann Lacey, Nokomis; Robert Lacey, Nokomis
MASSACHUSETTS: Bill Brody, Watertown; Alison Parnell, Watertown
MISSOURI: Suzanne McCrea, Maysville; M.L. McCrea, Maysville
NEW YORK: Pat Brody, Greenville
TEXAS: Linda Vineyard, Nemo

NATIONAL FFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES AND CONSULTANTS

ARIZONA: Jeanea Lambeth, Gilbert
MICHIGAN: Ron Davis, Kalamazoo
WISCONSIN: Kenneth Natzke, Bonduel



Members of the Clinton, Ill., FFA Chapter shared their pride three ways. Advisor Don Prather received the Honorary American FFA Degree, and students Kim Best (left) and Sherry Arnold earned the American FFA Degree this year.



FFA National Agricultural Career Show®

This year's National Agricultural Career Show contained several futuristic touches. A moon rock retrieved during an Apollo mission in the 1970s was available for members to examine. Visitors also walked aboard a model of space station Freedom, pondered what it might be like to live on Mars, and sat behind the control panel of a simulated space shuttle cockpit.

The cavernous depth of the newly expanded Bartle Hall was filled to capacity with convention attendees looking for a place to eat, shop, find a career, get free souvenirs or just come in from the cold. The new Bartle symbolized the continuing growth of the organization and of its annual convention, which also expanded to meet the needs of the record-setting crowd.

The brand-new Bartle Stage attraction was one innovation. Set in a corner of the building near the food court, the stage offered a combination of convention activities rolled into one presentation. In addition to televising session events from the main arena, the stage featured coverage of career development events from the Finals Stage and live on-stage events. For members who didn't feel there was enough time to see and do everything during the convention, the Bartle Stage was an excellent opportunity to get a taste of the action.



Exhibitors shared valuable career information with students at the National Agricultural Career Show in Bartle Hall.



More than 34,000 FFA members took time out from general sessions to walk around the National Agricultural Career Show in the newly expanded Bartle Hall.



Career Show Exhibitors

The 1994 Career Show offered opportunities galore for all members and advisors at the convention. Two hundred and eighty-five exhibitors and 25 states displayed materials and equipment at their booths, and discussed educational and career opportunities with students. Convention-goers flocked to the career show in droves between sessions to absorb all the information.

EXHIBITORS

Acme Boot Company
Adrian, Oregon, FFA
Agri-Covers Ltd. Aquaculture Equipment
Agricultural Communications
Alabama A&M University
Alfa Laval Agri Inc.
Allflex USA
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
Alpha Zeta
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Angus Association
American Bison Association
American Blonde d'Aquitaine Association
American Breeders Service
American Corn Growers Association
American Cyanamid
American Eco Systems
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Fisheries Society—Missouri
American Gelbvieh Association
American Hereford Association
American Horticultural Therapy Assoc.
American International Charolais Assoc.
American Morgan Horse Institute
American National Cattlewomen, Inc.
American Paint Horse Association
American Phytopathological Society
American Pinzgauer Association
American Polled Hereford Association
American Quarter Horse Association
American Sales Association
American Sheep Industry Association, Inc.
American Shorthorn Association
American Simmental Association
American Small Farm Magazine
American Tarentaise
American Veterinary Medical Association
Aquacenter, Inc.
Archer Daniels Midland Co.
Auburn University
Babson Bros. Co./SURGE
Ball Publishing
Barton County Community College
Beefmaster Breeders Universal
Bel-Rea Institute
Birchwood Genetics, Inc.
Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Bright Ideas Fundraising
Buck Knives, Inc.
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of the Census
California State University Fresno
Carolina Biological Supply Company
CARQUEST Auto Parts
Case IH
CAST
CENEX/Land O'Lakes
Cherrydale Farms

Chevrolet Motor Division—Truck
Merchandising
Chicago Board of Trade
Chicago Mercantile Exchange
Clearfield Degradable Plastic Twine Group
Clemson University
Colby Community College
Colorado State University
Community Calendars
Compliance Safety Co.
Cookbook Publishers Inc.
Cornell University
Crosby Donkey Ball, Inc., Buckeye
Donkey Ball Inc.
Crosman Airguns
CVA—Black Powder Guns
Dairy Promotion, Inc.
Delaware State University
Delaware Valley College
Delmar Publishers, Inc.
Dodge Trucks—Chrysler Corporation
DowElanco
Drake University Agricultural Law Assoc.
Drink'em Kold, Inc.
DTN (Data Transmission Network)
Equipment Manufacturers Institute
Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural
Education FCAE
FarmHouse International Fraternity
Farmland Industries
Fastlane Publications
Federal Aviation Administration
Fermenta Animal Health Company
Florida Department of Citrus
Food & Drug Administration, Center for
Veterinary Medicine
Ford Division—Ford Motor Company
Genesis School
Genetic Horizons/Cattle Breeders, Inc.
Georgia Boot, Inc.
Global Outreach, Inc.
Godfather's Pizza
Hermes Nursery
Humane Society of the U.S.
Hydroponic Society of America
Illinois State University
Inflieder
Instructional Materials Lab—University of
Missouri
Instructional Materials Service—Texas
A&M University
International Arabian Horse Association
International Boar Semen
International Brangus Breeders Assoc.
International Ostrich, Inc.
Iowa FFA Foundation, Inc.
Iowa State University
Iowa Western Livestock Judging Contest
Jeffers Vet Supply
John Deere

John Deere Credit
Johnson & Wales University
Kansas Biofuels Project
Kansas State University
Kawasaki Motors Corp., USA
Kropf Fruit Company/Christian Kropf
Gift Fruits
Langdon Barber Groves, Inc.
LC Produce Fundraisers
Long Gun Safety Holster
Lubbock Christian University
Makita U.S.A. Inc.
Mallinckrodt Veterinary Inc.
Manna Pro Corporation
Michigan State University
MidAmerica Nazarene College
Middle Tennessee State University
Miles Inc., Agricultural Division
Mississippi State University
Missouri Dept. of Conservation—Forestry
Missouri Valley College
Modesto Junior College
Monsanto Agricultural Company
Moorman Manufacturing Co.
NAPA Auto Parts
Nashville Auto-Diesel College
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders
Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National FFA Alumni Association
National Futures Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National High School Rodeo Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Postsecondary Agricultural
Student Organization
National Rifle Association of America
National Vocational Agricultural
Teachers' Association, Inc. (NVATA)
National Young Farmers Ed. Assoc.
New Mexico State University
New World Publishing
North American Elk Breeders Association
North American Limousin Foundation
North American Salt Co.
North Carolina State University
Northwest Missouri State University
Northwestern College
Ohio Agricultural Education Curriculum
Materials Service
Ohio State University
Oklahoma Curriculum & Instructional
Materials Center
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
Otis Spunkmeyer Cookies
Outdoor Life Magazine
Pasture Pals, Inc.
Peace Corps
Pecan Valley Nut Company, Inc.
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Premium Standard Farm
Prentice Hall
Progressive Farmer Magazine
Pumpkin Masters
Purdue University
Remington Arms Company, Inc.
Rhône-Poulenc Ag Co.
Rinehart, John Taxidermy Supply Co.
RJB Company
Sandoz Agro, Inc.
Santa Fe Railway
Schrade Cutlery
Seald-Sweet Growers, Inc.

Seward County Community College
Sigma Alpha Sorority
Silver State International Rodeo, Inc.
Simmon's Outdoor Corp.
Society for Range Management
Society of American Florists
Society of American Foresters
Software Synergistics Corp.
Southeast Community College—Beatrice
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Southern Minnesota Technical Colleges
Southern Semen
Stone Manufacturing & Supply Company
Stuart Hall Company
Stuppy Greenhouse Manufacturing Co.
Sunbelt Growers, Inc.
Swine Genetics International, Ltd.
T. S. Outfitters, Inc.
Tech Pubs
Texas A&M University
Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Texas Tech University
The Ertl Co., Inc.
The Lincoln Electric Company
The National Council for Agricultural
Education
Tools For America
Tri-State Breeders
Tulsa Welding School
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. EPA Office of Wetlands Oceans
and Watersheds
U.S. Marine Corps
Universal Technical Institute
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Illinois Vocational
Agriculture Service
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland, Institute of Applied
Agriculture
University of Minnesota—Crookston
University of Minnesota—St. Paul
University of Missouri—Columbia
University of Nebraska—Lincoln
University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez
University of Wisconsin—Madison
University of Wisconsin—Platteville
University of Wisconsin—River Falls
University of Wyoming
U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service
U.S. Army Recruiting Command
U.S. Coast Guard Recruiting
U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Squaw Creek
National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Navy Recruiting Command
U.S.D.A. RDA Cooperative Services
U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Service
U.S.D.A.—APHIS
U.S.D.A.—ASCS
U.S.D.A. Farmers Home Administration
U.S.D.A. Southern Regional
Research Center
V-Tecs/Curriculum Publications
Clearinghouse
Virginia Tech
Vocational Marketing Services
Winchester Ammunition, Olin/Winchester
Wix Filter Corporation
Women's Christian Temperance Union
Wyoming Technical Institute
Zebco





Thumbs up! An injury didn't stop this FFA member from attending the 67th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

Before the cheering crowds, before the motivating guest speakers, before the fun began, there was business.

Four hundred and sixty-five FFA members went face-to-face and expressed concern over such topics as diversity, career development events (contests) and junior high members during the 67th delegate business session early in the week.

Divided into 13 committees, the delegates examined proposals concerning the organization's policies and programs, and submitted their recommendations to the entire delegate body for deliberation before sending them on to the National FFA Board of Directors for consideration.

This year's sessions featured improved efforts to expedite the proceedings. Instead of having each committee report read aloud, delegates were given time to review the reports before discussion. The impact was almost immediate, as the morning session concluded in less than two hours.

New career development events (contests) proposed by the National Contest Committee included a national creed event, an FFA promotional/

recruitment video event and a national journalism event. The delegation agreed with the recommendations of the Awards and Degrees Committee to create an award to recognize outstanding collegiate chapters for their service to FFA, and to recognize outstanding FFA advisors in other fields in addition to teaching and agriscience.

Delegates also approved a proposal to develop two separate Made For Excellence conferences—one for first- and second-year students and one for third- and fourth-year students. Each conference would focus on different topics to meet the needs of members at varying grade levels.

Younger members were also considered by the Awards and Degrees Committee, which recommended the development of a new degree and an award similar to the new National Chapter Award Program designed specifically for seventh- and eighth-grade members. The proposals were touted by supporters as a means by which junior high students could be valued as part of the organization.

The Communications and Public Relations Committee advocated that the

Board of Directors consider modernizing the wording of the FFA Code of Ethics (the wording was last updated in 1952), and that the national organization's statement of belief in diversity be publicized more prominently. The committee also asked the Board of Directors to prepare a constitutional amendment that would require potential Greenhand FFA Degree candidates to memorize and recite the FFA mission statement.

The Marketing and Merchandising Committee devised several proposals to improve the FFA catalog, including a suggestion to develop contracts with well-known companies such as L.L. Bean, Eddie Bauer and Land's End to supply merchandise to FFA members.

A recommendation to charge for the student catalogs and include a rebate coupon met with some resistance by delegates who felt FFA would be "shooting itself in the foot" because circulation would decrease once students would have

to pay for the catalog. The vice-chair for the Marketing and Advertising Subcommittee justified the charge, saying that if the students used the rebate coupon, the cost would balance out.

The delegate body also endorsed a recommendation by the International Development Committee that the pre-trip orientations for international exchange program participants take place in regional locations, rather than in Washington, D.C., as a means of reducing participants' travel costs. In addition, the committee suggested that the national organization attempt to find at least one sponsor per state to provide international experience funding.

Complete details about these and other proposals are outlined in the committee reports beginning on page 56.



Official Delegates

ALABAMA: Austin Baxter, Chatom; Keith Cantley, Wetumpka; Jeremy Douglas, W. S. Neal; Elizabeth Ellis, W.S. Neal Dennis Fuqua, W. S. Neal; Randall Graham, Daleville; Ami Grantham, Ariton; Kerri Holliday, West End; Heath Hughes, G. W. Long; Tara Jernigan, McKenzie; Charlie Jones, Billingsley; Michael Manning, Billingsley; Amber Miller, Louisville; Carla Gail Moore, Billingsley; Andrew Nix, Wedowee; T. J. Odom, Citronelle; Jeremy Simpson, Centreville; Kenny Smith, McAdory; Sean Stevens, Crossville; Jason Stone, Kate Duncan Smith DAR; Troy Strickland, Gardendale; Chad Wills, Collinsville

ALASKA: Ricky Bertz, North Pole; Crystal Poindexter, Homer; Bill Sowers, Homer

ARIZONA: Dick Cardew, Dobson; Christopher Dugan, Casa Grande; Traegen Knight, Round Valley; Monica Redburn, Agua Fria; Travis Zimmerman, Deer Valley

ARKANSAS: Jeremy Bicker, Salem; Mary Bowlin, Mountainburg; Wesley Fairchild, Nettleton; John Haltom, Mount Holly; Melanie Hicks, Magnolia; Clint Johnson, Quitman; Emily Jordan, Fairview I; Skyler Mankin, Delta; Jennifer Marty, Guy-Perkins; Jody May, Stamps; Louie McLain, Palestine; Jason Robertson, Batesville

CALIFORNIA: Heather Benson, Tulare Union; Jennifer Campos, Woodland; Margarat Carlson, Biggs; Amy DeRose, Atascadero; Kristopher Diaz, Fresno-Central; Beverly Dodson, Galt; Will Edwards, Hollister-San Benito; Chad Ellsworth, Lemoore; Nick Garcia, Galt; Jennifer Gilliam, Sanger; Nicole Greci, Madera; Missy Heringer, Chico; Erin Hunt, Fullerton; Summer Ketchum, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Kevin Kunkel, Hamilton City; Susan Leahy, San Jacinto; Lidia Lopez, Biggs; Jennifer Manley, Hayfork; Betsy Martin, Petaluma; Jacques Million, Trinity; John Moffatt, Lake Isab-Kern Valley; Jody Nicewonger, Oakdale; Todd Nicewonger, Modesto-Grace Dave; Allen Pettey, Bloomington; Amber Pflager, Woodland; Drew Porter, Tomales; A.G. Posey, Galt; Dianna Ramsey, Hemet; Tiffany Rausser, Galt; Molly Rourke, Hayfork; Wes Schager, Hamilton City; Ryan Schohr, Gridley; Lisa Thurston, Ramona; Carolyn Veith, Petaluma; Julie Warne, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Kelly Warner, Ramona; Monica Williams, Madera; Brian Woolery, Hamilton City; Jennifer Young, Visalia-Golden West

COLORADO: Donna Karspeck, Hoehne; Sally Kembel, Fort Morgan; Jason R. Nichols, Flagler; Cynthia Ann Raith, Valley; Tom Smits, Wiggins

CONNECTICUT: Calvin Brodersen, Storrs Regional; Caroline Miclette, Storrs; Monty Volovski, Wamogo

DELAWARE: Mark Breeding, Lake Forest; Tera Pase, Lake Forest; Stacey Warner, Milford

FLORIDA: Sarah Dasher, Branford; Amy Davis, Winter Haven; Pamela Fuller, Plant City; Jolie Gillis, Ponce de Leon; Maggie Goodin, Taylor Senior; Rob Hatch, Dixie Senior; Scott E. Lundy, Moore Haven; Rebekah Rich, Bonifay; Susan J. Shiver, Graceville; Amy Statler, West Orange Senior; Stephanie Swindle, Plant City Senior; Megan Tanner, Dunnellon

GEORGIA: Leslie Earnest, Franklin County;

Ashley Edwards, Jackson County; Christa Galloway, Newton County; Kevin Gay, Colquitt County; Traci Gunter, North Hall; Joe Hutcheson, Treutlen County; Creasy Meeks, Coffee County; Timothy Meeks, Tift County; Shannon Moore, Harlem; Terry Morgan, Berrien County; Raleeta Thornton, Brantley County; Ralenda Thornton, Franklin County

GUAM: Gary Roundtree, Inarajan

HAWAII: Tina Alcain, Konawaena; Sydney Ann K. Popovich, Lahainaluna

IDAHO: Gus Brackett, Filer; Darin G. Mann, Parma; Jennifer Skalskyj, Bliss; Joe Stewart, Kuna; Carrie Wells, Oakley

ILLINOIS: James Anderson, Chicago High School for Ag. Sciences; Lynn Boughton, Indian Creek; Allyn Buhrow, Ashton; Brad Howe, Iroquois West; Amy Ingram, Athens; Jody McDaniel, Eldorado; Rusty Melhouse, Canton; Hannah Pope, Nauvoo/Colusa; Staci Spencer, Clinton; Rana Stripe, Galesburg; Ryan M. Tate, Northwestern (Sciota); Becky Wadlow, Jerseyville; Kim Wagner, Marissa

INDIANA: Jennifer Clute, Indiana Association; Ryan Cullen, Indiana Association; Stephen Gauck, North Decatur; Kenna Killion, Indiana Association; Pam Lortie, Indiana Association; Philip McCutchan, Mt. Vernon; Eric Shideler, Indiana

Association; Terri Tempel, Indiana Association; Ryan Watson, Indiana Association

IOWA: Karna Burzlaff, Wheatland; Dee Dennison, Knoxville; Dana Dietz, Nashua; Stephanie Haas, Harlan; Nicole Hall, Anamosa; Paul C. Hansen, Red Oak; Karen A. Hardy, Lake City; Scot Harold, Red Oak; Wes Hays, Adair; Jan James, Creston; JoAnn Malloy, Williamsburg

(Continued on page 54)



Engrossed in the business session, Jeremy Harris, Utah state sentinel, listens with interest as national officers announce procedures for conducting the delegate meeting.



Official Delegates (Continued from Page 53)

KANSAS: Rick Aberle, Sabetha; Jenny Burkdoll, Marais des Cygnes; Tamara Endecott, Louisburg; Katina Hagedorn, Hanover; Emily Harsch, Marais des Cygnes; Ross Hellwig, Labette County; Shantell Shenk, Moundridge-Hesston; Jerrod Westfahl, Haven; Jodi Young, Atchison County

KENTUCKY: Rena Beyer, Lone Oak; Matthew Coffey, Southwestern; T. Camille Creech, Wolfe County; Jennifer Duvall, Muhlenberg South; Misty Gentry, LaRue County; Sara Hardy, Western Hills; Jon Loveless, Menifee County; Chris Robey, Logan County; Lucy Southard, Ohio County; Lonnie D. Turner, Pendleton County; Stacy Vincent, Edmonson County; Chris Yandell, Caldwell County; Brian York, Boyle County

LOUISIANA: Larry Brown, Downsville; Chris Humble, Midland; Christopher McLaren, Atlanta; Richard Miller, Vidrine; Lane Simmons, Mt. Hermon; Jeff Smith, Midland; Katie Smith, Vidrine; Rebecca Summers, Rayville; Mandie Tabor, Thibodaux; Paul Watts, Dubach

MAINE: Christa Currier, Presque Isle; Gene Winslow, Presque Isle

MARYLAND: Tracy Clagett, South Carroll; Christine Daley, Walkersville; Samantha Iliff, Flinstone

MASSACHUSETTS: Rochelle Boisclair, Norfolk;

Jodyann Close, Essex; Keith Faris, Bristol

MICHIGAN: Sandra Campbell, Alcona; Lori

Chamberlain, Webberville; Luke Haywood, Hastings; Lisa Memmer, Caledonia; Wendy Pline, Ovid-Elsie; Matthew Smego, Cassopolis; Jason Thomas, Hopkins

MINNESOTA: Carl Aakre, Hawley; Hannah Aho, Menahga; Andrew A. Bakken, Albert Lea; Lori Kidrowski, Maccray-KMS; Jody Koubsky, Minnewaska Glenwood; Amanda Maudal, Battle Lake; Tracy Mickelson, Lanesboro; Arianne Oudekerk, Waseca; Heather Jo Schaufler, LeRoy-Ostrander; Jennifer Schneider, Foley

MISSISSIPPI: Jason Fellows, Northeast Jones; Danny Johnson, Carthage; Damon Ladner, Carthage; Jason Mayo, Neshoba Central; Mark Moorman, Grenada County Vo-Tech; Renda Ritter, South Panola; Derrick Simmons, South Panola

MISSOURI: Lindy Biglieni, Republic; Danelle Blakemore, Walnut Grove; Kellie Bray, Cameron; Robin Britt, Salisbury; Willie W. Harlow, Marshall; Tim Harris, Cabool; Philip Kleiboeker, Pierce City; Dawn L. Mitchell, Warrensburg; Ryan Myers, North Shelby; Rebecca Rademan, Fatima; Margaret L. Rausch, Perryville; Craig Rehmer, Hermann; Melanie Thomas, Chillicothe; Martin Truong, North Callaway; Angie Whitesell, Lockwood; Elizabeth Wilson, Doniphan

MONTANA: Tracy A. Blain, Joliet; Jim McCray, Stanford; Robert Jamie Stevenson, Hobson; Shannon Yost, Joliet

NEBRASKA: Tony Kaufman, Newman Grove; Matt Schlueter, Scribner-Snyder; Joe Skavdahl, Harrison; Kim Stuart, Nebraska City; Jared Walahoski, Ord; Angela Watts, Nelson; Brenda Williams, Broken Bow

NEVADA: Sara Dahl, Wells; Heather Mothershead, Ruby Mountain; Katie Sustacha, Ruby Mountain

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Sherry Purington, Dover; David L. Wilson, Pembroke; Sarah Ykema, Coe-Brown

NEW JERSEY: Dominique Bender, Allentown; Tammie Kenney, Hunterdon Central; James Kruize, Hunterdon Hills; William Taylor, Cumberland Regional

NEW MEXICO: Jennifer Armstrong, Artesia; Avery Culbertson, Las Cruces; Heather Gribbling, Los Lunas; Karla Hutchins, Grady; Vickie Lake, Kirtland; Jesus Trujillo, Artesia; Shannon Wiley, Clayton

NEW YORK: William Catania, Westfield; Laura J. Neckers, Clymer; Jennifer Ryan, Greenville; Ben Smith, Richardville; Jenny Smith, Madison

NORTH CAROLINA: Toni Bennett, West Carteret; Talia Blair, Piedmont; Cori Bunn, C.B. Aycock; Kristen Effle, Riverside; Matt Harris, Chase; Wesley Jones, Ledord; Sara McCann, North Iredell; Shane Norris, South Johnston; George Scott, Bartlett Yancey; Joshua W. Starling, Princeton; Raymond Starling, Midway; Jason Walls, Rosewood

NORTH DAKOTA: Derrick Dukart, Killdeer; Todd Klein, Stanley; Tam Livedalen, Towner; Jeb Reinhillier, Hazen; Jason Richter, Wahpeton; Shawna Titus, Powers Lake

OHIO: Kristi Boyer, Ashland; Micah Boysel, Benjamin Logan; Emily S. Casto, Canal Winchester; Cindy Grassbaugh, East Knox; Christy Hoewischer, Fairbanks; Eric Kaufman, Hillsdale; Tracy Kitchel, National Trail; Maria Lang, Fort Frye; Eric Richer, Wauseon; Ray Sponcil, Greenfield-McClain; Steve Weadick, Preble Shawnee; Dwayne Yoder, West Holmes

OKLAHOMA: Amber Arthur, Purcell; John Ashley, Bokoshe; Chase Garrett, Roland; Greg Gungoll, Drummond; Jason Hawkins, Empire; Kodel Heglin, Laverne; Andy Jordan, Dewey; Sarah Kelsey, Elgin; T.J. Londagin, Thomas; Frank Luke, Calera; Amber Moser, Elgin;



Puerto Rico state officers Leonel Rodriguez (left), Magdaly Santor, Julie B. Rosasura and Hector J. Sanchez applaud in approval of a fellow delegate's comments during the business session.



Laura Ogg, Webbers Falls; Wendy Stafford, Rush Springs; Chris Stephens, Chickasha; Nancy Troutman, Edmond; Pokey Varner, Bristow; Clarence C. Vernon III, Morrison; Eric Wooley, Jenks; Jacob Yunker, Alva

OREGON: Ben Baxter, Bend; Erin Hansell, Hermiston; ShanRae Hook, Joseph; Stephen LaFrance, Days Creek; Neely McKay, Condon; Bekie Palmer, Central

PENNSYLVANIA: Marci Harnish, Manheim; Theresa Inhof, Owen J. Roberts; Traci Lobaugh, Biglerville; Jim McConnaughey, Derry; Tony Miller, Pequea Valley; Chad Slusser, Pequea Valley; Laurie Wildman, Cowanesque Valley; Jenny Zerby, West Snyder

PUERTO RICO: Doraima Rivera, S.U. Caguana; Leonel Rodriguez, Vocacional Barranquitas; Julie B. Rosasura, Laura Mercado; Hector J. Sanchez, Lorenzo Vizcarrondo

RHODE ISLAND: Leslie Cline, Chariho; Heather Larkin, Ponaganset

SOUTH CAROLINA: Russell J. Hawkins, Holly Hill-Roberts; John A. Helms, McBee; Stony Oswald, Wagoner-Salley; Carrie Raines, Abbeville; Chad Warren, York

SOUTH DAKOTA: Joel Kroll, Groton; Marty Michalek, Chamberlain; Dawn Nagel, Gettysburg; Susan Stoterau, Harrisburg; Lisa Wharton, Marion

TENNESSEE: Olivia Adams, Dyersburg; Mandy Benderman, Mount Pleasant; Matt Fennel, Obion Central; Clinton Lafferty, Riverside; Jeff Lewis, Johnson County; Eric Maupin, Dyer County; Thomas McCall, William Blount; Dawn Mosley, Eagleville; Staci Neas, South Greene; Randy Page, Beech; Shannan Robinson, Farragut; Mack Rogers, Lincoln

TEXAS: Kari Bennett, Texas; Joe Benningfield, Pflugerville; Dustin Bettencourt, Round Rock; Todd Boyd, Glade Water; Brian Brightwell, Dayton; Jeff Brown, John Marshall; Russell Cater, Conroe; David Chumbley, Texas; Natalie Cobb, Frisco; Amber Dailey, Hondo; Scott Elmore, Eastland; Christina Frick, Latexo; Wendy Fulton, Weatherford; Cecilia Gerngross, Wall; Crystal Gordon, Stephenville; Kurt Hinkle, Texas; Justin Hodge, Salado; Amy Holcomb, Bellevue; Derek Hutter, Barbers Hill; Shayla Jeter, Snyder; Jason Johnson, Mt. Pleasant; Mark Allen Kirk, Texas; Nathan Krueger, Karnes City; Ann Leslie, Glen Rose; Wes Mason, Woden; Cathy Maybin, Channelview; Barbie Lee McCain, Texas; Andy McCall, Cypress Creek; Sean Miller, Texas; Tommy Neyland, Centerville; Johnna Oman, Stamford; John Orfanos, McAllen Memorial; Stacy Peikert, Sealy; Shannon Pennington, Carthage; Kresse Pigg, Valley; David Reeves, Lancaster; Jeff Rhone, Rider; Jeremy Roark, Tuscosa; Cory Rosenbusch, Glen Rose; Wendy Schafer, Fairfield; Pamelyn Scott, Texas; Charles Seidensticker, Comfort; Jamie Standlee, Seminole; Dannel Thomas,

Cypress Creek; Toby Tomsu, Kress; Tonya Troxtell, Howe; Beth Tymrak, Banquete; Holly VanCleve, Carrizo Springs; Katrina Watt, Tatum; Jeremiah Williams, Texas; Shama Wise, Roosevelt; Amanda Woodrum, Fruitvale; Lyneil Zant, Chisum

UTAH: Bryan Ivan Bingham, Bear River; Jim L. Freston, Roosevelt; Jeremy J. Harris, South Summit; Kacy Knight, Wasatch; Shantell Ogden, Richfield

VERMONT: Cristy de Boer, Vergennes; Mark Foster, Middlebury

VIRGIN ISLANDS: Kieth Garcia, St. Croix Central

VIRGINIA: John Bowman, Turner Ashby; Stephanie Chick, Atlee; Tara Cupp, Turner Ashby; Scott Gunnell, Tunstall; Scottie Kiser, Richlands; Chase Lowe, Floyd; Jamie Newby, Chatham; Scott Reiter, Dinwiddie

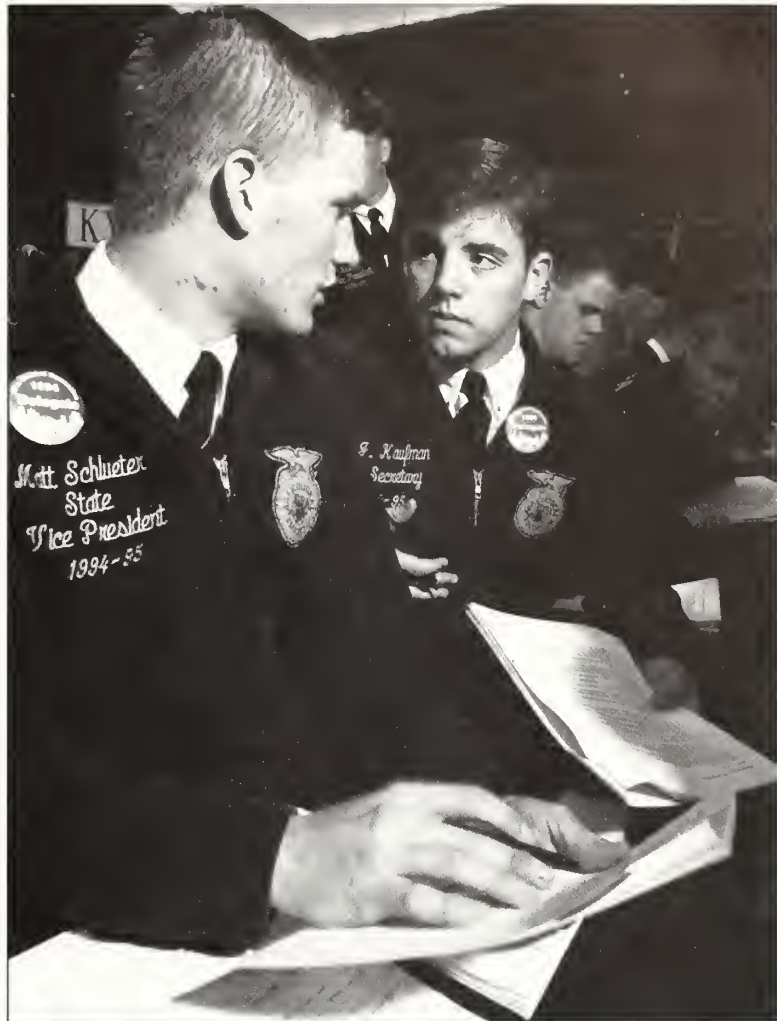
WASHINGTON: Tanya Barnhart, Ellensburg; Kari Beerbower, Elma; Jeff Ediger, Tahoma; Alicia Giles, Finley; Julie Holterman, Mt. Baker; Kyle Kimble, Pomeroy; Rachel Kjack, Walla Walla; Ben Lisenbey, Bridgeport; Hollie

Matthews, Winlock

WEST VIRGINIA: Suzie Elson, Cameron; Sean Goodwin, Green Briar East; Isaac Lewis, Mineral County; Timothy Ours, East Hardy; Melinda Workman, Green Briar East

WISCONSIN: Kara Ackermann, Argyle; Eric Baranczyk, Pulaski; Michael Bertram, New Holstein; Julie Case, Brookwood; Stacy Crull, Evansville; Kristin Hansen, Barron; Lisa Johnson, North Crawford; Jason Keith, Sun Prairie; James Piechowski, Waupaca; Brenda Pietz, Wittenberg-Birnhamwood; Doug Raymakers, Pulaski; Kim Schott, Preble; Jesse Singerhouse, Menomonie; Scott Sommerfeld, Montello; Patrick Sternitzky, Granton; Luke Wiedenfeld, Lake Mills; Jeff Wittek, Thorp

WYOMING: Eric Green, Wyoming; Jerry Hansen, New Castle; Justin Mills, Hulett; Cody Wagner, Wyoming Association



Waiting for the second delegate business session to begin, Nebraska delegates Matt Schluter (left) and Tony Kaufman discuss the upcoming committee reports.



We recommend:

Evaluation

1. Develop an evaluation form to attach to all awards and degree applications every five years, to include application format, requirements, pertinence of award or degree and additional comments.
2. Form awards and degree evaluation committee to meet every five years, consisting of members and partners.
3. Publish questionnaire in *FFA New Horizons* every five years for member evaluation of awards and degrees.
4. Conduct chapter surveys to evaluate award and degree needs for non-production agriculture students.
5. Conduct a survey of business and industry sponsors to obtain feedback about awards and degrees.

Participation

1. Create instructional programs encouraging participation in awards and degrees.
2. Update curriculum information available to agricultural education majors about awards and degrees.
3. Inform administration about awards and degrees in appropriate publications.
4. Develop a point system with awards to chapters for participation (i.e. money or equipment).
5. Produce a special *FFA New Horizons* issue focusing on all national winners.

Future Awards

1. Develop award for outstanding groups of seventh and eighth grade members, similar to the new National Chapter Award Program.
2. Develop new degree specifically for seventh and eighth grade members.
3. Recognize states and chapters with the top percentage growth of seventh and eighth grade members.
4. Create a collegiate FFA Service Recognition Award to recognize outstanding collegiate chapters for their service to the FFA.
5. Create an award recognizing FFA advisors who are outstanding in all areas of the chapter, not just teaching and agriscience.
6. Create a Cooperative Activities Award that promotes and recognizes cooperation between FFA chapters and other agricultural and non-agricultural organizations.
7. Create a Heritage Award that promotes and recognizes heritage activities in FFA chapters.

Auditing

The Auditing Committee met to review the 1994 report presented by the auditing firm of Stoy, Malone and Company. Through careful evaluation, the committee accepted the report based on the explanations of the national FFA treasurer and the representative of Stoy, Malone and Company. The Auditing Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Annual national FFA dues remain at \$3.50.
2. The National FFA Board of Directors research and review the need to raise national dues.

Awards & Degrees

8. Continue to add an international emphasis to all award areas and recognize members with outstanding involvement in and promotion of international activities.
9. Allow each state to submit a banner focusing on the national theme to be displayed at national convention to publicize each individual state.

Information

1. Advertise awards and degrees at the career show and in *FFA New Horizons* with information request cards available.
2. Recommend all current and new FFA materials be available in Spanish.
3. Create a condensed handbook (hard copy/computer disc) explaining awards and degrees.
4. Develop promotional videos of proficiencies that are divided into related categories and include winners' testimonials.
5. Use satellite technology to inform members of awards and degrees.
6. Provide information and applications to interested members at state leadership conferences.

Respectfully submitted:

Jason Johnson, TX (Chair)
Paul Watts, LA (Vice Chair)
Christopher McLaren, LA
Tracy Kitchel, OH
Scott Reiter, VA
Becky Wadlow, IL
Beverly Godson, CA
Dee Dennison, IA
Lori Chamberlain, IA
Ryan M. Tate, IL
Sherry J. Purington, NH
Charlie Jones, AL
Beth Tymrak, TX
Christa Galloway, GA
Julie B. Rosas, PR
Luara Ogg, OK
Wendy G. Chavers, TX
Skyler Mankin, AR
Traci Lobaugh, PA
Dianna Ramsey, CA
Carrie Wells, ID
R. Jason Walls, NC
Jon Loveless, KY

Shantell Ogden, UT
Barbie McCain, TX
Damon Ladner, MI
Luke Haywood, MI
Angie Whitesell, MO
Austin Baxter, AL
Chase Garrett, OK
Dawn Mosley, TN
Jeff Rhone, TX
Jolie Gillis, FL
Melinda Workman, WV
Jason Keith, WI
Jenny Smith, NY
Lidia Lopez, CA
Tamara Endecott, KS
Arianne Oudekerk, MN
Brian Woolery, CA
Ricky Beitz, AK
Robin K. Britt, MS
John Halton, AR
Tam Livedalen, ND
Justin Hodge, TX
Rachel Kjack, WA

Respectfully submitted:

John Helms, SC (Chair)
Joshua Starling, NC (Vice Chair)
Clarence C. Vernon III, OK
Susan Shriver, FL
William Catania, NY

Emily Castro, OH
Bekie Palmer, OR
Clint Johnson, AR
Marci Harnish, PA
Paul Watts, LA



Communications & Public Relations



Overjoyed by his achievements, the 1994 American Star Farmer Brian Johnson of Gotebo, Okla., FFA Chapter stopped for an interview with Orion Samuelson, WGN farm director. Media coverage spread convention news across the country.

We recommend:

Organizational Awareness

1. That a list of opportunities available to FFA members be included in all student FFA publications.
2. The "New Member Packets" being pilot-tested in certain states be made available to all chapter advisors as a master which can be reproduced locally and given to all new members.
3. *FFA New Horizons* develop a special column to highlight opportunities and benefits of the organization available to new members.
4. An idea booklet be created and supplied to chapter advisors and alumni leaders which outlines ways for the two organizations to cooperate and develop activities together.
5. An idea and opportunities booklet be created and distributed to all collegiate FFA chapters.

Image

1. The Board of Directors convene a special committee to update the wording in an effort to contemporize the FFA Code of Ethics and that the updated version be forwarded to the National FFA Delegate Body for approval.
2. A new poster promoting this revised Code of Ethics be produced and distributed to all chapters.
3. That media images created by the National FFA Organization be developed in such a way as to promote the science and business of agriculture.
4. A section be published annually in *FFA New Horizons* and *Making a Difference* which focuses on community service ideas.
5. A form be published in *Making a Difference* which illustrates a sample letter which can be mailed to potential sponsors requesting financial support for the local FFA chapter.

Diversity

1. The National FFA Organization's statement of belief in diversity be publicized more prominently.
2. That publications which seek to promote the concept of diversity among FFA members (i.e. ethnicity, physically challenged, gender) use photographs and video footage which are shot in a candid fashion.
3. That articles be published in *FFA New Horizons* which promote positive role models demonstrating a diversity of backgrounds and opportunities.
4. Surveys be conducted among local FFA members to

determine what activities would generate interest among non-active FFA members at all levels.

Public Awareness

1. That the delegate body request the National FFA Board of Directors to prepare a constitutional amendment to send to the delegates of the 68th National FFA Convention as follows: add the requirement that members must memorize and recite the FFA Mission Statement in order to earn the Greenhand FFA Degree.
2. Chapter officers be notified (i.e. through an advertisement in *FFA New Horizons*) in advance when public relations materials are going to be distributed to local chapters.
3. A questionnaire be mailed to chapter advisors to determine the interest in an incentive program in public awareness.
4. That a packet be developed for chapters containing posters, newspaper ads, pamphlets, a video, and a feedback report directed toward the general public and focusing on agricultural literacy and the basic beliefs of the FFA.
5. That current materials be examined and supplemented to create a packet as specified in #4 above.
6. That existing public relations resources and publications be promoted and that chapters receive information on current and future resources.
7. An incentive program be implemented which recognizes chapters for excellence in public awareness through targeting the general public and key partner audiences.
8. A computer diskette be created containing sample press releases, letterheads, newspaper ads, and other graphic resources which would assist local chapters in increasing the frequency and quality of media communications in their communities. These materials should also be available in printed form and be made available through Distribution Services.

Respectfully submitted:

Organizational Awareness

Christa Currier, ME (Chair)
Lucy Southard, KY
Jim McConnaughey, PA
Amy Holcomb, TX
Craig Rehmert, MO

Image

Jennifer Clute, IN (Chair)
Jeb Reinhill, ND (Vice Chair)
Richard Miller, LA
Maria Lang, OH
Jennifer Young, CA

Diversity

Isaac Lewis, WV (Chair)
Derrick Simmons, MS (Vice Chair)
Katina Hagedorn, KS
Brenda Pietz, WI
David Chumbley, TX
Jennifer Manley, CA
Ben Lisenbey, WA

Public Awareness

Sarah Ykema, NH (Chair)
Dana Dietz, IA
Sean Goodwin, WV
Dominique Bender, NJ
Eric Wooley, OK
Will Edwards, CA
Clint Johnson, AR

James Anderson, IL
Derrick Dukart, ND
Keith Garcia, VI
Tiffany Rausser, CA
Bill Sowers, AK

Jennifer Marty, AR
Kim Wagner, IL
Elizabeth Wilson, MO
Joel Kroll, SD

Michael Manning, AL
Heather Schauler, MN
Toni Bennett, NC
Chris Stephens, OK
Holly VanCleve, TX
Ralenda Thornton, GA

Keith Cantley, AL
Lisa Memmer, MI
Staci Neas, TN
Maggie Goodin, FL
Jeremy Roark, TX
Andy McCall, TX



Contests

We recommend:

Career Development Event (Contest) Content

1. The national events guidelines be made more specific to eliminate controversy arising from individual interpretation of each contest. The exact rules and content of events should be specified in such guidelines.
2. The content for the proposed middle school events be similar to that of high school contests, while remaining at the average educational level applicable to the ninth grade student or below.

New Contests

1. A national journalism event be developed. Participants would cover a speech given during a timed press conference, and write an article under deadline. Awards would be based on content, accuracy of information, grammar and format.
2. A national event involving agricultural industry problem-solving and presentation, modeled after the extemporaneous public speaking event. Teams would draw a topic from the areas of food science and technology, international issues, trade and the environment. Students would use resource materials, and preparation time to solve the given problem. The team would then present the group's solution.
3. A national agricultural publication event be developed. Teams would create a two-page magazine/promotional layout concerning agricultural issues, containing photos, well-written articles, artwork or graphics, and an FFA sponsor ad. Finished layouts would be sent to a panel of judges; the winning layout would be featured in *FFA New Horizons*.
4. An FFA promotional/recruitment video event be developed for chapters.
5. That Spanish be incorporated into national events where it is necessary and feasible, in order to meet the growing needs of a diversified organization.
6. A National Creed event be developed, to include a creed recitation, a two-to-four minute prepared interpretation with manuscript, and a questioning period. Participants would be judged on a pool basis, with the national winner reciting the creed at the national FFA convention.



The Contests Committee paid close attention to their duties, but probably not as closely as this flower judging contestant examining a budding branch.

Promotional Information

1. The development of a promotional and informational video concerning National Career Development Events, to be made available through FFA Ventures.
2. A poster be developed to promote all the National Career Development Events in conjunction with the use of Bulletin #4. This poster should use actual event pictures and direct advisors to use Bulletin #4. Publish a reduced-size version of the poster in *FFA New Horizons*. Continue informing members about new events.
3. The state officers be provided with more information about Career Development Events at their National Leadership Conference for State Officers. They should also be given a copy of Bulletin #4. Any new events should be explained to the state officers.
4. Improvement of the table of contents, headings and index in Bulletin #4. The index should be based on career areas and list pages where Career Development Events apply.
5. An annual update made to Bulletin #4 be mailed out from the national level and then again from the state level, including each state's updated rules.
6. More publicity of events targeting younger members. Publish winners of National Career Development Events in *FFA New Horizons*.

Evaluation of Events

1. Participants to continue to evaluate each event using a scantron sheet format. The evaluation will consist of exactly 10 questions which pertain specifically to the event in which the member participated. The evaluation will also contain a section for any additional comments, and the entire form is to be completed before the participant leaves the contest area.
2. Event judges evaluate the event which they judged by a written form, to be mailed to them along with a thank you card immediately following the event.
3. Evaluation results from the previous year be made available to the Contest Committee for reference the next year.

Respectfully submitted:

Travis Zimmerman, AZ (Chair)
 Emily Casto, OH (Vice Chair)
 Kellie Bray, MO
 Heather Benson, CA
 Hector Sanchez, PR
 Jeremy Douglas, AL
 Wendy Pline, MI
 Jason Miihlbach, WV
 Rob Hatch, FL
 Cory Rosenbusch, TX
 Jody May, AR
 Lane Simmons, LA
 Eric Richer, OH
 Ryan Cullen, IN
 Nancy Troutman, OK
 Lynn Boughton, IL
 Dick Cardew, AZ
 Talia Bliar, NC
 Lonnie Turner, KY
 Daniel Houghton, TX
 Doug Raymakers, WI
 Tim Harris, MO
 Lisa Thurston, CA

Stacy Crull, WI
 Scott Lundy, FL
 Terri Tempel, IN
 David Wilson, NH
 Tracy Claggett, MD
 Stephanie Haas, IA
 Tammie Kenney, NJ
 Randy Page, TN
 Greg Gungoll, OK
 Chad Ellsworth, CA
 Donna Karspeck, CO
 Jim McCray, MT
 Susan Stoterau, SD
 Emily Harsch, KS
 Besty Martin, CA
 Todd Klien, ND
 Amber Miller, AL
 Natalie Cobb, TX
 Tony Miller, PA
 Tracie Gunter, GA
 Katrine Watt, TX
 Tara Cupp, VA



International Development

We recommend:

Global Agricultural Experiences

1. That the pre-trip orientations for international exchange program participants be conducted at regional locations rather than in the Washington, D.C., area to reduce participant travel cost.
2. Exchange programs be developed for agricultural education instructors with less than five years' experience and college seniors majoring in agricultural education.
3. That additional international programs include the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) countries.
4. That more workshops be presented to FFA members and chapters by foreign agriculture instructors visiting the United States.
5. To continue to develop exchange programs for FFA advisors.

Domestic International Experiences

1. A directory of individuals, schools, and/or organizations located outside the United States interested in corresponding with FFA chapters be developed. (i.e. For Pen Pals, video media exchange, etc.)
2. A directory of chapters wishing to participate in an interstate exchange be developed.
3. An international experience segment be integrated into existing leadership programs. (i.e. Made For Excellence, Washington Leadership Conference, etc.)
4. A resource list of people with international experiences be made available and distributed upon request.
5. A program within each state be developed involving international agricultural experiences at all educational levels.
6. An awards program for students participating in interstate exchanges be explored.

Funding

1. The National FFA Organization pursue at least one sponsor per state to provide international experience funding. Monies not awarded to students within the sponsor's state should be used as scholarships to support applicants in other states.
2. That international experience programs be financed on a cost-share basis between the National FFA Organization and the participant. Multi-level funding at the national, regional, state and/or local levels should be explored and promoted by the National FFA Organization.
3. More staff time be focused on the solicitation and securing of additional sponsors for increased funding of international programs.
4. The National FFA Organization continue using all possible means to obtain funding and sponsorships to assist FFA members in having an international experience.
5. The National FFA Organization continue to research ways to reduce cost for international programs.

Promotion

1. The National FFA Organization continue to promote international programs through articles in each issue of *FFA New Horizons*, including a request for information card; by developing promotional videos, brochures and applications; and by responding to letters and phone

requests for international experience program information.

2. Workshops be given at National Leadership Conferences for State FFA Officers (NLCSOs) about international exchange programs.

Respectfully submitted:

Dwayne Yoder, OH (Chair)
 Susan J. Shiver, FL (Vice Chair)
 Louie McLain, AR
 Nick Garcia, CA
 John Moffatt, CA
 Sally Kembel, CO
 Joe Hutcheson, GA
 Paul Hansen, IA
 Stephen Gauck, IN
 Stacy Vincent, KY
 Christine Daley, MD
 Willie Harlow, MO
 Jason Fellows, MS
 Cori Bunn, NC
 Jennifer Armstrong, NM
 Jason Hawkins, OK
 Chad Slusser, PA
 Lisa Wharton, SD
 Amber Dailey, TX
 Tommy Neyland, TX
 Jeremiah Williams, TX
 Kari Beerbower, WA
 Timothy Ours, WV

Elizabeth Ellis, AL
 Sean Stevens, AL
 Christopher Dugan, AZ
 Jacques Million, CA
 Molly Rourke, CA
 Rebekah Rich, FL
 Nicole Hall, IA
 Brad Howe, IL
 Jerrod Westfahl, KS
 Jeff Smith, LA
 Jason Thomas, MI
 Philip Kleiboeker, MO
 Shannon Yost, MT
 Jason Richter, ND
 Ray Sponcil, OH
 Pokey Varner, OK
 Heather Larkin, RI
 Shannan Robinson, TN
 Derek Hutter, TX
 Pamelyn Scott, TX
 Jeremy J. Harris, UT
 Kim Schott, WI



"I spent my 18th birthday in Russia," began Patrice Carter, a member of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences FFA Chapter, during her address to the convention assembly Thursday night at the sponsors' recognition. Carter participated in a Russian/Moldovan exchange program this summer, which was sponsored as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Carter urged members to consider participating in international programs, and reminded the audience of the importance of FFA sponsors.



Leadership & Personal Development

We recommend:

Opportunities and Awareness

1. MFE programs be divided into two different conferences to meet the needs of FFA members who are at different stages in the personal development process.
 - a. Develop a conference for first- and second-year students to include goal setting, participation, and becoming aware of FFA opportunities.*
 - b. Develop a conference for juniors and seniors to include career development and scholarship opportunities.*

*The division of conferences will require two MFE staffs. Some activities should be conducted with all MFE participants.
2. Articles be published in each *FFA New Horizons*, including MFE dates and a brief article describing the conference. Provide chapters with guidelines for developing radio and public service announcements promoting MFE.
3. Preparing a state officer and state staff packet with a brief description of state conferences and contact persons from each association for further information. Also included in this packet could be potential ideas and a "How To" kit for establishing career shows.
4. Providing information for state associations in regard to conducting workshops for school board members and administrators at state conferences.
5. The national FFA staff conduct one-day seminars to present career opportunities for high school graduates.



Newly elected Kansas Congressman Sam Brownback, a former national FFA officer, paid a visit to the national convention to meet with members.

The material for the seminars shall be at the discretion of the staff and specific colleges.

Advanced Development

1. Develop a chapter officer handbook to include information on handling situations officers may encounter, such as problems with advisors, fellow officers, and time management. The handbook could also include tips for speeches, workshops, parliamentary procedure and etiquette.
2. The Student and Teacher Services Teams develop workshop materials for students and advisors during state conferences. The content of these workshops shall include scholarships, traveling opportunities, leadership camps, awards and degrees, etc.
3. Encourage states to develop surveys for evaluating state officers, staff, and the quality of activities.
4. Include a page in the *Official FFA Manual* and officer handbook listing "hot line numbers" and addresses that provide information for handling social problems and crisis situations.

Member Outreach

1. Consider initiating a mentor program within chapters, pairing older and experienced members with incoming members. Recognition could be provided at all levels of participation, e.g. National Chapter Awards, volunteerism, and state degrees.
2. Each state provide a Chapter Officer Leadership Training conference. Conferences should emphasize specific duties of chapter officers, in addition to the importance of the programmatic committee roles.
3. Providing first-year members with an information packet to welcome them as FFA members and make them aware of opportunities in the FFA.**
 - a. The packet may include: *FFA New Horizons*, contest opportunities and descriptions, member testimonials, conference information, and career pamphlets.

** The National FFA Organization may develop a standard packet, states may include additional details for their specific associations.

Conferences — Improvement and Evaluation

1. Limit National Leadership Conferences for State Officers to state officers only. In addition, more evenly distribute the number of participants at each of the 10 NLCSOs. The ideal number of officers would be 35-45.
2. National FFA use the results of longitudinal studies and surveys to develop a promotional packet.
 - a. Conduct longitudinal studies of selected FFA members, tracking their progress through high school.
 - b. Establish a survey for American FFA Degree recipients to evaluate what activities within the FFA had the greatest impact in preparing them for success.
3. Include articles in *FFA New Horizons* pertaining to career development activities; as well as specific needs in the job market.

(Continued on page 61)



(Continued from page 60)

4. Offer longer Made For Excellence conferences which start Friday evening and conclude Sunday afternoon.
5. Develop program content for the Washington Leadership Conferences and Made For Excellence conferences so it may alternate annually. Some potential content areas for MFE are teamwork, personal development, goal setting, and participation/involvement.
6. During WLC, offer workshops for speaking, writing and other communication areas. Ensure that each day participants have a scheduled activity outside conference headquarters.
7. Include a wrap-up survey with open-ended questions to capture participants' thoughts and creative ideas at both MFE and WLC.

Respectfully submitted:

Scot Harold, IA (Chair)
John A. Helms, SC (Vice Chair)
Danny Johnson, MS
Kristen Effle, NC

Andrew Nix, AL
Creasy Meeks, GA
Jodi Youong, KS
Jesse Singerhouse, WI

Jacob Yunker, OK
Shama Wise, TX
Karla Hutchins, NM
Jason Robertson, AR
Rebecca Summers, LA
Olivia Adams, TN
Johnna Oman, TX
Wendy Stafford, OK
Amy Ingram, IL
Dawn L. Mitchell, MO
Laurie Wildman, PA
Shayla Jeter, TX
Tracy Blain, MT
Dennis Fuqua, AL
Hannah Aho, MN
Mac Rogers, TN
Amy Statler, FL
Charles Seidensticker, TX
Jason Nicols, CO

Scott Elmore, TX
Jody Nicewonger, CA
Rochelle Boisclair, MA
Tom Smits, CO
Matt Schlueter, NE
Kenna Killion, IN
Tanya Barnhart, WA
Cristy de Boer, VT
Chris Yandell, KY
Shawna Titus, ND
Monica Redburn, AZ
Wes Schager, CA
Terry Morgan, GA
Karen Hardy, IA
Avery Culbertson, NM
Kara Ackermann, WI
Kodel Heglin, OK
Jennifer Gilliam, CA
Eric Green, WY



FFA members sign up for a chance to win T-shirts and Washington Leadership Conference scholarships at one of the many exhibits at the National Agricultural Career Show in Bartle Hall.



Marketing & Merchandising

We recommend:

Product Evaluations

1. Putting clasps on charms to allow easier attachment to chains.
2. Updating catalog pictures using current FFA members, e.g. national officers, award winners and state officers.
3. Adding variety and colors to clothing lines.
4. Moving motivational apparel and gift items to the front of the catalog.
5. Creating a wider variety of Montana Silversmith Buckles. In addition, create a gold or silver version of the mural buckle.
6. Continuing the sale of chapter and state officer rings.
7. Raising the quality of the ink pens.

Marketing and Advertising

1. Making chapter catalogs more accessible to students.
2. Charging for student catalogs and giving a rebate upon first order for the price of the catalog.
3. Developing a promotional video featuring Ventures products for the state associations to use at FFA activities.
4. Sending sales fliers to state associations to be included in newsletters to students and advisors.
5. Contacting name brands to sponsor FFA by allowing us to use their products and include the FFA name/logo on the products.

Product Development

1. Producing FFA merchandise, such as T-shirts, in Spanish and other languages spoken by FFA members.
2. Correlating all new items in the catalog with current trends and fashions, including colors, styles and patterns.
3. Making official dress for all FFA members available through the catalog.
4. Contracting with well-known companies (L.L. Bean, Eddie Bauer, Land's End, Shepler's, Miller Stockman, etc.) to supply high-quality and name-brand merchandise to FFA members at a competitive price.

5. Ventures should research the popularity of products and styles by observing popular catalogs mentioned above.
6. The Ventures team to consider the following new products for sale in the Ventures catalog: Long sleeved T-shirts, show equipment, motivational products, mural design, theme and slogan T-shirts.

Catalog and Distribution

1. Modernizing the Ventures catalog through improvements in overall appearance in layout, cover and photos.
2. Making catalogs available to members through conventions, conferences, *FFA New Horizons*, as well as through their chapters.
3. Saving space by discontinuing unpopular items.
4. Ensuring a consistent high-quality product at the lowest possible price.
5. Highlighting catalog in *FFA New Horizons*.

Respectfully submitted:

Bob Stevenson, MT (Chair)
C.C. Vernon, OK (Vice Chair)
Jeremy Bicker, AR
Stephanie Swindle, FL
Andrew Bakken, MN
Andy Jordan, OK
Jamie Standlee, TX
Ross Hellwig, KS
Todd Nicewonger, CA
Rena Beyer, KY
Matt Harris, NC
Christina Frick, TX
Scott Sommerfeld, WI
Cindy Raith, CO
Ryan Schohr, CA
Brian York, KY
Kristi Boyer, OH
Mark Allen Kirk, TX
Mark Foster, VT
Nicole Greci, CA
Pam Lortie, IN

Cody Wagner, WY
Randall Graham, AL
Missy Heringer, CA
Wes Hays, IA
Heather Gribbling, NM
Kari Bennett, TX
Eric Baranczyk, WI
T. J. Odam, AL
Timothy Meeks, GA
Jason Mayo, MS
Ben Baxter, OR
Amanda Woodrum, TX
Carrie Raines, SC
Jodyann Close, MA
Jody McDaniel, IL
Ryan Myers, MO
Doraima Rivera, PR
Scott Gunnell, VA
Raleeta Thornton, GA
Caroline Miclette, CT
Mandie Tabor, LA
Joe Skavdahl, NE
Steve Weadick, OH
John Orfanos, TX



A member participating in the National Marketing Plan Activity diligently puts the finishing touches on a sign for the presentation. FFA members gain experience developing a promotion plan for an agricultural product, supply or service. A three-member team present a report to a panel of judges followed by a question and answer period.



Membership Development

We recommend:

Incentives and Benefits Subcommittee

Advisors

1. Encourage *FFA New Horizons* to continue and expand the advisor essay contest.
2. Write supportive letters of commendation from national and state staff to school administrators and school board members providing encouragement, recognition and congratulations for national chapter awards. We recommend they be signed by the national advisor.
3. Develop supportive letters to thank administrators for allowing the agricultural instructors to participate in any activity that creates growth for students and all agricultural education programs.

Students

1. Recognize states that have achieved their highest membership levels at the national FFA convention.
2. Develop a handbook designed specifically for first-year members detailing the opportunities that are available to them or have a special section in the student handbook for such a purpose.

Community

1. Continue to implement PALS programs in local chapters.
2. Develop a software and/or paper packet of media releases pertaining to all national FFA team and individual events for every chapter resource file.

Educational Enhancement Subcommittee

Agricultural Instructors

1. The National FFA provide refresher courses for agricultural educators.
2. Constructive evaluations of agriculture instructors be given by students and administrators.

Guidance Counselors

1. Develop informational pamphlet about opportunities in agricultural education.
2. Provide information to local chapters on ways to get guidance counselors involved locally.

Administration and Faculty

1. Provide a question and answer booklet to aid administrators in establishing new chapters and programs.
2. Encourage chapter presentations to school boards and local administrators promoting local, state and national activities by incorporating their ideas into the national officer training program.

Students

1. Suggest that the National Council for Agricultural Education contact colleges and universities regarding possibilities of earning college credit through the high school agricultural education programs.

Evolution Subcommittee

Diversity

1. Incorporate physically challenged members and personal growth into FFA promotional advertisements.
2. Have the National FFA Foundation fund a one- to two-year survey of students of various ethnic origins to better understand what activities and items interest those students and incorporate the information into FFA programs.

Attitude and Character

1. The National FFA Organization continue to encourage

positive role models (i.e., parents, administrators, advisors, counselors) in agricultural education.

2. Encourage a positive attitude toward business and sponsors.

Pride and Leadership

1. Suggest to sponsors to incorporate FFA into their advertising.
2. Recommend to advisors that they follow the constitutional requirements for the Greenhand Degree and to involve the students in additional leadership activities, as expressed in the Greenhand Handbook to be developed.

Recruitment Subcommittee

Junior High

1. Seek alternatives for Project Growth such as sponsors and video production with famous past FFA members.
2. Encourage chapter and state officer visits by state and national officer tours; invite junior high members to state conventions and leadership workshops.

Urban Students in Agricultural Programs

1. Emphasize agriculture-related benefits: scholarships, science and technology, veterinary animal proficiency, new proficiency awards, alternative sources of income for earning state and national degrees. Accomplish this by training state officers at NLCsOs and sending information booklets, and by setting up agricultural booths at state and county fairs, malls and agricultural trade shows.

Guidance Counselors/Administration

1. Create a video and informational packet to send to chapter officers. Encourage chapter officers to talk to counselors and administrators.
2. Invite counselors and administrators to state and national conventions.



NVATA's owl mascot strolled the aisles at the Career Show encouraging students to consider a career in agricultural education.

(Continued on page 64)



Committee Reports

(Continued from page 63)

Post-High School Students

1. Promote awareness of opportunities for post-graduate members: scholarships, American FFA Degree, Ambassador program, state and national officer opportunities. Accomplish this via a personal letter sent to chapters from the national organization addressed to seniors, highlighting opportunities and asking them to help out judging teams and serve as resources.

Non-Members in High School

1. School-wide assemblies.
2. Encourage and promote leadership camps.
3. Promote FFA by using poster set-ups in halls and classrooms, hosting an FFA day and chapter dress-up days.

Respectfully submitted:

Incentives and Benefits Subcommittee

Erin Hansell, OR (Chair)
Jan James, IA
Vickie Lake, NM
Megan Tanner, FL
Joe Benningfield, TX
Jeff Brown, TX

Ami Grantham, AL
Lori Kidrowski, MN
Michael Bertram, WI
Sarah Kelsey, OK
Erin Hunt, CA

Educational Enhancement Subcommittee

Marty Michalek, SD (Chair)
James Kruize, NJ (Vice Chair)
Larry Brown, LA
Leonel Rodriguez, PR
John Bowman, VA
Rebecca Rademan, MO

Mary Bowlin, AR
Rusty Melhouse, IL
Carolyn Veith, CA
Micah Boysel, OH
Nathan Krueger, TX

Evolution Subcommittee

Carl Aakre, MN (Chair)
Shannon Moore, GA
Mark Moorman, MS
ShanRae Hook, OR
Lyneil Zant, TX
Patrick Sternitzky, WI

Jeremy Simpson, AL
Matthew Coffey, KY
Wesley Jones, NC
Wendy Fulton, TX
Allen Pettey, CA

Recruitment Subcommittee

Sydney Popovich, HI (Chair)
Calvin Brodersen, CT (Vice Chair)
Jeff Ediger, WA
Philip McCutchan, IN
Jennifer Campos, CA
Gene Winslow, ME

Kim Stuart, NE
Matt Fennel, TN
Tera Pase, DE
Amber Arthur, OK
Stacy Peikert, TX
Gary Roundtree, GU



Realizing the importance of computer-based technology in today's agricultural industry, an FFA advisor and his student discuss the advantages of using computerized farm spreadsheets and databases.



National FFA Convention



Click! FFA members captured memories of the 67th National Convention as keepsakes to cherish for a lifetime.

We recommend:

Facilities and Transportation

1. Obtain satellite parking lot for use during the national FFA convention with shuttle services running as frequently as possible between the lot and the convention center.
2. Move American FFA Degree ceremony to the Saturday convention general session to allow for greater attendance of the recipients and their families.
3. Invite more businesses to provide tours during the national convention and give each tour sponsor increased publicity prior to convention.
4. Hang banners from ceiling to top of bleachers around Bartle stage area to block lights and noise from food court area.
5. Turn the speakers in the Bartle stage area to improve the sound quality.
6. Relocate the photo area in Bartle Hall to a less valuable space and expand Bartle stage seating.
7. Use multiple screens, hung at different angles, to allow more seating space and better screen viewing.

Awareness

1. Reinstate the publication of the *FFA Times* and distribute it to all attendees of the national FFA convention to keep people up to date on convention activities and highlights.
2. Recognize parents in an informal reception highlighting activities and offer a parental guide to the convention.
3. Aggressively seek an invitation to appear on national news broadcasts.
4. Identify National FFA Foundation sponsors who exhibit in the career show by using the sponsor category on their booths so that the members can recognize and thank them for their support.
5. Develop an informational letter, sent directly to guidance counselors, about the size and scope of the National FFA Convention and the impact that it provides on students.

Core Activities

1. Return the National Convention Committee report presentation to Saturday.
2. Use the massing of the flags at the beginning of sessions to allow flag bearers to participate in sessions.
3. Continue slide show and laser light show during sessions and expand the shows, if budget allows.

4. The National Proficiency slide show be revised.
5. Schedule higher profile speakers at Bartle stage.
6. Expand the Courtesy Corps application to allow members the opportunity to be assigned to an area of their interest.
7. Develop more information booths dispersed throughout convention area, possibly staffed by Courtesy Corps.
8. Place more trash cans throughout the convention center especially in the Food Court.
9. Encourage national FFA convention participants to adhere to the Official FFA Code of Ethics and Rules of Conduct while attending the convention, and ask the chapter advisors to monitor member dress and behavior.
10. Include a perforated evaluation/comment page in the convention program.
11. Provide more recognition to band, chorus and talent before, during and after the convention.
12. Designate exit and entry doors for delegate, band and chorus only during sessions.
13. Continue ticketing, security and turnstiles for general sessions as necessary.
14. Enforce delegate attendance at sessions.

Support Activities

1. Provide a student resources center similar to the advisors' center to all FFA members, to present information on student, chapter and community development activities and programs.
2. Develop a career show booth to display the SAEs of the American Star Farmer and American Star in Agribusiness finalists to educate FFA members about the stars' projects.
3. Allow a non-refundable, optional preregistration to be available for chapters, possibly at a discount rate.
4. Hold a dance for delegates Monday or Tuesday night before the convention and require a small fee to offset expenses as necessary.

Respectfully submitted:

Matthew Smego, MI (Chair)

Facilities and Transportation

Angela Watts, NE (Chair)
Stephanie Chick, VA (Vice Chair)
Jared Walahoski, NE
Clinton Lafferty, TN
Alicia Giles, WA
Sarah Dasher, FL
Eric Shideler, IN
John Ashley, OK
Shannon Pennington, TX
Margaret Carlson, CA
Samantha Iliff, MD

Awareness

Ben Smith, NY (Chair)
Bekie Palmer, OR (Vice Chair)
Hannah Pope, IL
Margaret Rausch, MO
Cindy Grassbaugh, OH
Leslie Cline, RI
Chase Lowe, VA
Ann Leslie, TX
Julie Warne, CA
Wesley Fairchild, AR

Core Activities

Monty Volovski, CT (Chair)
Dawn Hagel, SD (Vice Chair)
Kerri Holliday, AL
JoAnn Malloy, IA
Jody Koubsky, MN
Shannon Wiley, NM
Doug Raymakers, WI
T.J. Londagin, OK
Todd Boyd, TX
Dannell Thomas, TX
Summer Ketchum, CA
Doug Raymakers, WI

Support Activities

Gus Brackett, ID (Chair)
Misty Gentry, KY (Vice Chair)
Kenny Smith, AL
Tina Alcain, HI
T. Camille Creech, KY
Renda Ritter, MS
Sara McCann, NC
Stephen LaFrance, OR
Bryan Ivan Bingham, UT
Luke Wiedenfeld, WI
Cecilia Gerngross, TX
Amber Pflager, CA



Nominating

We, the Nominating Committee, 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 67th National Convention to serve as national officers for the year 1994-95.

President—**Corey Flournoy**, Illinois

Secretary—**Travis Hagen**, California

Vice President
Central Region—**Jennafer Neufeld**, Kansas

Vice President
Eastern Region—**Lee Schroeder**, Ohio

Vice President
Southern Region—**Trisha Bailey**, Florida

Vice President
Western Region—**Greg Vetter**, Wyoming

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:

Kevin Gay, GA (Chair)
Shantell Shenk, KS
Crystal Poindexter, AK
Carla Moore, AL
William Taylor, NJ
James Piechowski, WI
Jesus Trujillo, NM
Jeff Lewis, TN
Scottie Kiser, VA
Nancy Trivette, NJ (Consultant)
Dr. Jerry Peters, IN (Consultant)
Robert Crawley, AR (Consultant)



The Carthage, Mo., FFA Chapter emerged victorious in this year's national parliamentary procedure contest. Team members, left to right, are Carrie Sullivan, Joe Batosh, Terri Osborn, advisor Edward Stevens, Matt Denney, Lora Honey and Brent Young.



Partner Development

We recommend:

Communities and Parents

1. Local chapters provide *FFA New Horizons* to local businesses and public libraries.
2. One day during National FFA Week be designated as "Community Involvement Day."
3. A brochure be distributed to local community leaders to inform them of the availability of FFA members to provide service for the community.
4. The National FFA Organization send memos to the parents of juniors and seniors on scholarship availability.
5. Chapters to emphasize specific aspects of the community each day of National FFA Week.
6. The National FFA Organization provide posters of recognition to chapters for them to distribute to supporters of the FFA.

Public Officials

1. States start an internship program to select members in leadership positions or contest winners with good leadership skills to visit with state legislators. The internship is for educational purposes and discussion of the FFA programs.
2. The video, *Investing In Our Future*, be distributed to state staff and recommend they give to zone or district offices or advisors for presentations.
3. Develop a teaching/instructional packet to accompany video.
4. Recommend that the video be used on the state level.
5. States have BOAC certificates signed by their governors.

School Administration

1. Formulate a national FFA packet for local chapters to be orally presented to school administration.
2. An appreciation day be held during National FFA Week for all school administrators.
3. Selected local school administrators be invited to view the national FFA delegate process.

4. A poster be developed and distributed to local school administration outlining the national scholarships available to FFA members.

Business and Industry

1. Publish articles in *FFA New Horizons* about sponsors and how they have specifically helped members.
2. Proficiency winners to volunteer to serve as ambassadors for certain companies.
3. Special incentives and recognition for Career Show participants.
4. Provide special tours and participation for prospective sponsors during the National FFA Convention and Washington Leadership Conference.

Respectfully submitted:

Chris Robey, KY (Chair)
 Joshua W. Starling, NC (Vice Chair)
 Jenny Zerby, PA
 Mark Breeding, DE
 Kelly Warner, CA
 Wes Mason, TX
 Russell J. Hawkins, SC
 Jamie Newby, VA
 Christy Hoewischer, OH
 Melanie Thomas, MO
 Staci Spencer, IL
 Melanie Hicks, AR
 Traegen Knight, AZ
 Crystal Gordon, TX
 Jeff Wittek, WI
 Neely McKay, OR
 Lindy Biglieni, MO
 Troy Strickland, AL
 Darin G. Mann, ID
 Toby Tomsu, TX
 Frank Luke, OK
 Kristin Hanson, WI
 Amanda Maudal, MN

Leslie Earnest, GA
 Heath Hughes, AL
 Jason Stone, AL
 Amy DeRose, CA
 Krisse Pigg, TX
 Ryan Watson, IN
 Amy Davis, FL
 Julie Holterman, WA
 Eric Maupin, TN
 Brenda Williams, NE
 Keith Faris, MA
 Sara Dahl, NV
 Drew Porter, CA
 Jennifer Skalskyj, ID
 Kacy Knight, UT
 Shane Norris, NC
 Jennifer Duvall, KY
 Mandy Benderman, TN
 Kevin Kunkel, CA
 Brian Brightwell, TX
 Laura J. Neckers, NY
 Rick Aberle, KS



A member from Minnesota examines a vintage John Deere tractor displayed at the Ageless Iron exhibit near the National Agricultural Career Show. The exhibit was sponsored by Successful Farming/Meredith Corporation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc., commemorating 50 years of support for FFA and agricultural education.



Program of Activities

We recommend:

1. In order to assist the National FFA Board of Directors and staff in devoting resources to recommendations brought forth by delegate committees, the chairs prioritize recommendations from their committees.
2. The national FFA staff in cooperation with the Program of Activities Committee revise the current standing committees for presentation to the 1995 January National FFA Board meeting.
3. Descriptions and purposes be created for each committee area.

Respectfully submitted:

Jason Johnson, TX (Chair)
Scot Harold, IA (Vice Chair)
Dwayne Yoder, OH
Robert Stevenson, MT
Matthew Smego, MI

Tony Kaufman, NE
Andy McCall, TX
Allan Buhrow, IL
Travis Zimmerman, AZ
Chris Robey, Ky



Weldon and Peggy Johnson of Gotebo, Okla., gave their grandson, Brian Johnson, his first lamb. On Thursday, the proud grandparents joined Johnson in celebration of his being named American Star Farmer.



It's important for advisors to develop a strong bond with their students. Richard Kohlhaugen, Rensselaer, Ind., FFA Chapter advisor enjoys working with his students, which include his children Kyle (left), Brad, Kara and Kenl.



Student Publications

We recommend:

Student Handbook and Manual

1. The manual be more carefully proofread to avoid duplication.
2. The Student Handbook be divided into sections based on progressive development, starting with first-year FFA members and continuing throughout their FFA careers, including an expanded section on leadership.
3. To remove or condense unnecessary repetition between the Handbook and the *Official FFA Manual* (e.g., officer responsibility)
4. A section on personal development be added to the revised Handbook that included teen issues (e.g., sexual responsibility, substance abuse)
5. That the current section on sexual responsibility on page 25 of the Student Handbook be condensed and revised on a factual basis rather than a moral basis.

Membership Involvement in FFA New Horizons

1. That FFA *New Horizons* insert a state schedule of activities or events into the magazine.
2. That a perforated reply card be inserted into the magazine for jokes to be submitted.
3. That an award be given for the winning joke.
4. That a page or cut-out be inserted so that a member may inquire for further information about the national activity of their choice.

Content of FFA New Horizons

1. That the magazine include a one-page overview of deadlines for the magazine, national information, and also for any articles and other deadlines.
2. That the magazine include state profiles informing members about the interesting and different viewpoints from various states.
3. That the teen issues include poems or interesting facts from polls or a column from different chapters on issues rather than lengthy, persuasive articles. Also, correspond topics such as AIDS with AIDS Awareness Week.
4. That the magazine include icebreaker and workshop ideas, as well as an FFA-based horoscope page.
5. That the magazine include "Where are they now?" articles focusing on agriculture careers, jobs that are not thought of as agriculture-related, and past FFA members.
6. That one issue in FFA *New Horizons* focus on Greenhands.
7. That various articles in FFA *New Horizons* be written and translated into Spanish.
8. That the cover of FFA *New Horizons* be based on states or regions rather than individuals.
9. That more information be included about national officer duties.

Advertising in FFA New Horizons

1. That FFA Ventures use cooperative advertising dollars, in which their suppliers help fund their ads in FFA *New Horizons*. Also, that FFA Ventures continue to advertise in FFA *New Horizons*.
2. That advertisers in FFA *New Horizons* be given a discount to advertise at the National Agricultural Career Show.

Respectfully submitted:

Allyn Buhrow, IL (Chair)
 Marci Harnish, PA (Vice Chair)
 Raymond Starling, NC
 Tracy Mickelson, MN
 Emily Jordan, AR
 Rena Stripe, IL
 Chris Humble, LA
 Martin Truong, MO
 Eric Kaufman, OH
 Stony Oswald, SC
 Cathy Maybin, TX
 Monica Williams, CA
 Tara Jernigan, AL
 Ashley Edwards, GA
 Jennifer Schneider, MN
 Lisa Johnson, WI
 Jennifer Ryan, NY
 Amber Moser, OK
 Russell Cater, TX
 Tonya Troxtell, TX
 Heather Mothershead, NV
 Kyle Kimble, WA

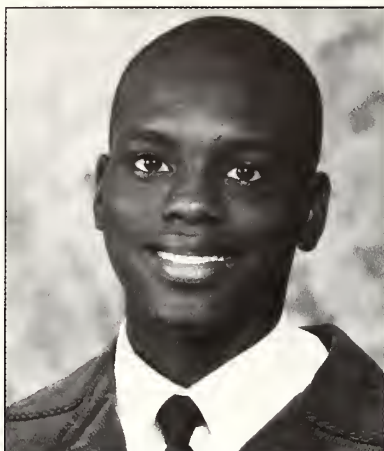
Susan Leahy, CA
 Jenny Burkdoll, KS
 Jim L. Freston, UT
 Chad Wills, AL
 Sara Hardy, KY
 Danelle Blakemore, MO
 George Scott, NC
 Theresa Inhof, PA
 Joe Stewart, ID
 Kurt Hinkle, TX
 A.G. Posey, CA
 Jerry Hanson, WY
 Karna Burzlaff, IA
 Sandra Campbell, MI
 Thomas McCall, TN
 Katie Sustacha, NV
 Pamela Fuller, FL
 David Reeves, TX
 Kristopher Diaz, CA
 Stacey Warner, DE
 Katie Smith, LA



Words cannot express the feelings of Steven Smith, Cobleskill, N.Y., FFA Chapter after being named the national dairy production proficiency winner.



1994-95 National FFA Officers



Corey Flournoy — President
Chicago, Illinois

Age: 20

Chapter: Chicago High School of
Agricultural Sciences FFA Chapter

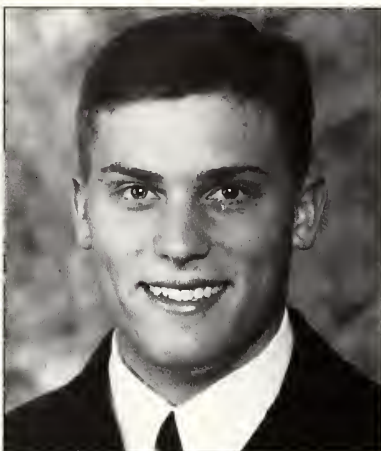
Enterprise: agricultural placement

FFA State Office: Illinois Association Vice
President

FFA Awards: first place chairperson in the
state parliamentary procedure contest

College/Major: University of Illinois,
sophomore, agricultural economics

Career Goal: agricultural marketing



Travis Hagen — Secretary
Chico, California

Age: 20

Chapter: Chico FFA Chapter

Enterprise: sheep and placement in agricultural
production

FFA State Office: California Association
Treasurer

FFA Awards: state finalist in both Agricultural
Sales and Service proficiency and state
Star in Agribusiness award

College/Major: California Polytechnic
University, sophomore, agriculture science

Career Goal: high school agriculture teacher



**Jennafer Neufeld — Central Region
Vice President**
Inman, Kansas

Age: 19

Chapter: Inman FFA Chapter

Enterprise: beef production

FFA State Office: Kansas Association
Secretary

FFA Awards: finalist in state prepared public
speaking contest

College/Major: Kansas State University,
sophomore, agricultural economics

Career Goal: agricultural lobbyist/legislator



**Lee Schroeder — Eastern Region
Vice President**
Leipsic, Ohio

Age: 19

Chapter: Leipsic FFA Chapter

Enterprise: diversified livestock and placement
in agribusiness

FFA State Office: Ohio Association President

FFA Awards: parliamentary procedure and
public speaking

College/Major: The Ohio State University,
freshman, agricultural education

Career Goal: high school agriculture teacher



**Trisha Bailey — Southern Region
Vice President**
Dover, Florida

Age: 20

Chapter: Plant City Senior FFA Chapter

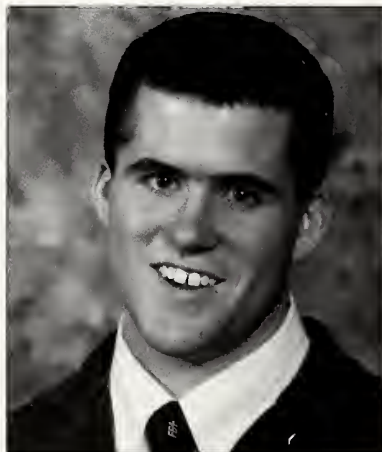
Enterprise: specialty crop production and
ornamental horticulture

FFA State Office: Florida Association Vice
President

FFA Awards: national forestry and ornamental
horticulture contests

College/Major: University of Florida,
sophomore, agricultural communications and
sports physiology

Career Goal: broadcasting or sports medicine



**Greg Vetter — Western Region
Vice President**
Carpenter, Wyoming

Age: 19

Chapter: Burns FFA Chapter

Enterprise: diversified livestock

FFA State Office: Wyoming Association
President

FFA Awards: state winning farm business
management team and state proficiency winner
in diversified livestock

College/Major: Laramie County Community
College, sophomore, agricultural business

Career Goal: law or agricultural business



Agricultural Education Comes to the City



In the greenhouse, students engage in a myriad of activities ranging from potting, planting and propagating to fertilizing and watering.



In the horticulture classroom students observe and learn about the rooting system of various plants.

The Agricultural Education Initiative Program being implemented at East Magnet High School in Kansas City, Mo., is the first of its kind. The program targeting inner-city, at-risk students will lay the foundation and serve as a model for future agricultural education programs in major metropolitan cities.

The program is designed to develop career interests, enhance academic and educational achievement, develop leadership skills and prepare at-risk students for employment in real jobs. The mission of the program is to produce students who can get and sustain high-skill, high-wage jobs by providing them with the competencies required for entry into the agribusiness industry with a specific focus on the horticulture career field.

A unique feature of the program is that it is being delivered via six teachers who will work collaboratively to achieve the goals of the program. The six-teacher team includes four core academic teachers representing mathematics, English, social studies and science, who will address basic skills needed of students which are required for a lifetime of learning. The horticulture teacher will provide instruction and experiential activities for the industry skills specifically demanded by the horticultural field. The final member of the instructional team is the employability training teacher who will implement the WAVE (Work, Achievement, Values, Education) curriculum. The WAVE curriculum is a dropout prevention and recovery program designed to enhance academic and employability skills, enabling students to make a seamless transition from school to work.

The Agricultural Education Initiative Program is a year-round educational venture with students participating in activities ranging from PALS to internships and job placement during the summer months.

The major goals of the three-year initiative are to improve academic achievement, improve attendance and punctuality, produce students who possess employment skills that are aligned with the needs of business, to raise students' self-image and to increase the graduate rate of at-risk students involved in the program. The program will target students beginning at grade 10 and continuing through grade 12.

The William T. Kemper Foundation with Commerce Bank of Kansas City as Trustee, have underwritten the FFA's Urban Agriculture Education Initiative because we feel the FFA organization's unique set of skills could be extended to address the challenges impacting vocational choices available to America's urban youth. This joint project between the FFA and our local urban youth district is a bold experiment, which we hope will yield long-term success here and be replicated in many other communities.



Commerce Bank
MEMBER FDIC

William T. Kemper Foundation
Commerce Bank, Trustee

Commerce Bank and W.T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank, Trustee are proud to support FFA.



FFA Mission

*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 67th National FFA Convention *Proceedings* is a publication of the National FFA Organization and is sponsored by Commerce Bank of Kansas City as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.



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