



FFA Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER

FALL - 1978

FFA AND EDUCATION

Does learning take place outside the four walls of a classroom?

A committee of the National Association of Secondary School Principals apparently doesn't think so.

For many years, vocational agriculture and Future Farmers of America activities, including participation by high school students in the annual national convention held at Kansas City, were included on a national list of contests and activities approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

It is regrettable that the nine-member committee of the principals chose to exclude Vo-Ag and FFA activities at Kansas City on their approved list for 1978.

By doing so they are really saying that such activities must be held on non-school time because such events have little or no educational value. Anyone who has ever participated in these events would take strong exception to that position.

What is even more regrettable is the failure to recognize the basic importance of agriculture and what the FFA convention contributes to the individual's education.

Unfortunately, there are many who do not realize that the farmers of this land are in the forefront as producers of food—our best and most effective weapon to fight hunger and to maintain the international balance of payments.

The objective of the FFA Alumni Association is to "support vocational agriculture." The national FFA Alumni Council has advised friends of FFA of the action taken by the principals' association.

The training of 500,000 youths nationally through Vo-Ag and FFA programs is a basic educational experience.

The national FFA Convention in Kansas City, which attracts 20,000 young men and women each year, is an important part of that educational effort. To diminish this effort in any way would be a step backward.

I have every confidence that our local principals will carefully evaluate the pros and cons of attendance at the National FFA Convention and will give full recognition to the importance this convention will add to the training of young men and women for agricultural and agriculturally-related occupations.



ARTHUR R. KURTZ

Nat'l FFA Alumni Pres.

Kurtz is deputy sec., Wisc. Dept. of Agriculture. Born and reared on a farm in Sauk County, he was a vo-ag instructor before joining the dept. in the early '50s.

ALUMNI CONVENTION

The National FFA Alumni Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, November 8 and 9, in the H. Roe Bartle Center in Kansas City, Missouri. An excellent program has been planned, and we are expecting a large, enthusiastic crowd to be in attendance for this meeting.

The FFA Alumni meeting will be coordinated with the Anniversary National FFA Convention. All FFA Alumni members are encouraged and invited to attend as many of the FFA Convention activities as possible. The FFA Convention starts on Tuesday and adjourns Friday night.

Many activities are being planned for the FFA Alumni meeting this year. Special recognition of past National FFA Officers, the 1978 American Farmers, the Outstanding Alumni Affiliates, the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award winners, and the Legion of Merit Award winners will be some of the highlights during the two Alumni Convention sessions. During the Thursday morning session, Mr. Jon Greenhousen, a past National FFA Public Speaking winner, the former assistant to the Governor of Farm Credit, and presently the Vice-President of Denver Bank for Cooperatives, will be the featured speaker.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

FFA Alumni Convention is held in Room 209—H. Roe Bartle Center	
Wed. Nov. 8—FIRST SESSION	Thurs. Nov 9—SECOND SESSION
9:00 AM—Introduction of Nat'l FFA Alumni Council	9:00-11:00 AM—Presentation of Outstanding Achievement Awards
Seating of Delegates	Special Recognition of 1978 American Farmers
Annual Alumni Report	Featured Speaker—Mr. Jon Greenhousen
Presentation of Legion of Merit Awards	Presentation of Outstanding Affiliate Awards
Presentation of Outstanding Affiliate Awards	Committee Reports
10:45—12:00—Working Alumni Committee Meetings	Business Session
1:00-2:00 PM—FFA Leadership Workshop for FFA members, sponsored by FFA Alumni	Announcement of New Council Members
1:30-2:30 PM—Special Briefing Meeting for all Alumni members	1:00-2:00 PM—FFA Leadership Workshop
3:00-4:00 PM—FFA Leadership Workshop	Fri. Nov. 10
	7:00-8:45 AM—Past National FFA Officers' Breakfast
	9:00-10:00 AM—Governmental Affairs Workshop (Rm 209) for teachers, teacher educators, state staff, and Alumni

EXECUTIVE SPONSOR PROGRAM

The FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC. provides opportunity for business, industry, organizations and INDIVIDUALS to support the incentive award programs for more than a half million deserving FFA members in some 8,000 high schools across the nation.

You, as an individual, can have a definite role in providing opportunity for these young men and women of FFA as you invest a personal \$100 in the FFA Foundation and become one of the elite EXECUTIVE SPONSORS.

HELP CELEBRATE THE FFA Anniversary by mailing your check to: FFA FOUNDATION SPONSORING COMMITTEE, P. O. Box 5117, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

FFA ALUMNI SUPPORTING . . .



OFFICIAL BALLOT

NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL

In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the National FFA Alumni Association, members of the FFA Alumni Council shall be elected by mail vote of the membership. The Council member for the member-at-large will be elected in 1978 for a three-year term. The candidates named on the Official Ballot were selected by a Nominating Committee.

(Vote for a candidate. Ballots improperly marked are invalid.)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE



PHYLLIS J. SOKOLOSKY—OWASSO, OKLAHOMA—Mrs. Sokolosky graduated from Southwestern State University (OK) majoring in Biology and Home Economics. She has served as chairman of the city-county library board for two years. She is a lifetime member of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Philanthropic Sorority. She serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, secretary for the Owasso Finance Corporation, and director of the local Women's Missionary Union. Mrs. Sokolosky is an Honorary FFA State Farmer; lifetime FFA Alumni member (attended four national conventions, serving as voting delegate three years); an adult counselor for state FFA Alumni camp; a member of the vocational education advisory council (three years); and helped organize the second Life affiliate, which presently has the largest life membership in the nation. She presently has one son serving as Oklahoma State President and another son serving as National Western Region Vice President of the FFA.



HAROLD D. LINEBERRY—NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—Mr. Lineberry, a past Tennessee State FFA Officer, graduated from the University of Tennessee as an agricultural education major. He taught vocational agriculture for ten years with his FFA Chapters receiving many state and national awards such as the National Gold Emblem Award five times. He has been employed by the Tennessee Education Association for the past fourteen years and presently serves as Director of Field Services. He has served as Tennessee FFA Alumni President for two years; FFA State Alumni Council for six years; and personally assisted with chartering three new FFA Alumni affiliates. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Farm and Home Safety Council and has served as his church's Music Director for six years. He served as Vice Mayor, City Recorder, and Alderman for the city of McEwen, Tennessee, for three terms.

RETURNED BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED

ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 1978

Return to:

National FFA Alumni Association
P. O. Box 15058
Alexandria, VA 22309

CENSUS - FFA

EDITORIAL

By Orvin L. Wilhite, Chief
Agriculture Division
Bureau of Census

EDITORIAL

As the twenty-first census of agriculture approaches its January beginning, the U. S. Department of Commerce's Census Bureau is ever more cognizant and appreciative of the long-term cooperation it receives from the FFA Alumni Association, the Future Farmers of America, and the vocational agriculture teachers.

The advent of the data collection period once again underscores the aid and service these vigorous groups render not only to the Census Bureau, but to agriculture itself.

In the years between censuses, the Bureau honors this reciprocating friendship by maintaining exhibits at the FFA National Conventions, distributing material and visuals which tell the census story and point up its value to the farm industry.

In preparation for the census itself, the Bureau is mailing for the fall school term a package containing instructional materials for filling out the 1978 agriculture census form. The package will go to 15,000 vo-ag teachers in 9,000 schools nationwide. It is an educational aid which has become traditional in the cooperative exchange between the agency and the FFA. A supplemental benefit which the Bureau hopes will accrue is the educational value to students and teachers in using census data from published reports in the school libraries.

This census form will be considerably less intricate and burdensome to FFA students and farm and ranch operators, the Bureau confidently predicts. It has been reduced in size from twenty-two pages to not more than five, and its questions simplified and clarified. As always, the individual farmer's report is absolutely confidential by law.

But for all that, it has lost none of its effectiveness, a quality emphasized by Harold W. Wright, President of the Indiana Farmers Union, when he said, "The Agriculture Census is needed as the basis for sound judgments in the development and preservation of the family farm pattern for agriculture," and by Donald Engellant of the Montana Grain Growers Association, who notes, "Agriculture depends more and more on the statistics provided by the census of agriculture for making decisions that vitally affect its business."

Effectiveness and value, coupled with the intense preparations by the Bureau and the service provided by the FFA members, Alumni, and vo-ag teachers, should combine to make the twenty-first agriculture census one of the greatest in the 140 years of farm census history.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The census information is vital in developing vocational agriculture education plans at local and state levels. Accurate census information is vital in justifying vocational agriculture programs of the future. We encourage the FFA Alumni to help report and tell the correct census story.



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Newsletter

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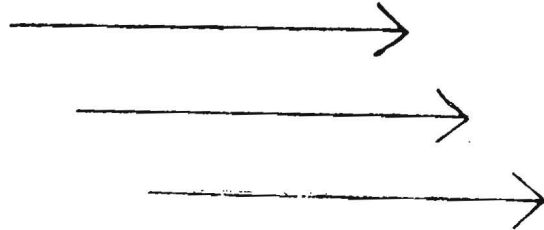
THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL FFA ALUMNI BALLOT.
PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS. VOTE
AND RETURN YOUR BALLOT BEFORE OCTOBER 31,
1978.

RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL
ELECTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE NATIONAL
FFA ALUMNI CONVENTION.

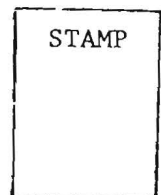
MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY FFA CONVENTION AND THE FFA ALUMNI CONVENTION
IN KANSAS CITY, NOVEMBER 8-10.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN BALLOT

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