



FFA Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER

WINTER -- 1979

1979 FFA ALUMNI OFFICERS

Mr. Odell Miller was elected as President of the National FFA Alumni Association for 1979. Mr. Odell Miller is an assistant professor, Ohio State University. He is a former FFA member, vo-ag teacher, and past officer of the NVATA. He has served as Executive Secretary of the Ohio FFA Alumni Association. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two sons and are active members of the Raymond United Methodist Church, Raymond, Ohio.

Mr. Floyd Doering of Madison, Wisconsin, will serve as President-elect this year. He is State Director of Agriculture Education and State FFA Advisor for Wisconsin.

ALUMNI COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Mrs. Phyllis J. Sokolosky of Owasso, Oklahoma, was elected to the member-at-large position on the National FFA Alumni Council. She is an Honorary State and American Farmer, lifetime Alumni member, and helped organize the second and presently the largest Alumni life member affiliate. She is the mother of the present Oklahoma State FFA President. Another son served as National FFA Vice President last year.

THE FFA ALUMNI IS A SUPPORT ARM

Rob Hovis, 1977-78 National FFA Vice President from Ohio, included the following remarks in his final report to the FFA Board of Directors. The following is directly quoted from the FFA Board Minutes.

The FFA Alumni is rapidly developing as an effective support arm for both the student organization and vocational education in agriculture which is exactly as it should be. A few years ago I was not convinced that the alumni would succeed or that there was any real purpose for it. This past year, however, I have witnessed so many impressive examples of excellent support activities which fill a real need, that my opinion has reversed. A great many of the examples to which I refer have been at the local level where thousands of dollars in scholarships are being provided by the alumni for further education in agriculture, where teachers are being aided in many ways by helpful alumni, and where school boards and administrators are being informed and in some cases pressured by alumni who are interested in the productivity of their local program. It also gives us an opportunity to keep a significant block of citizens knowledgeable with regard to vocational education issues through newsletters and general activities at various levels—a "special interest group" with vocational agriculture and FFA as their special interest. We've never had that before.

NATIONAL FFA LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

The National FFA Alumni sponsored five Leadership Workshops during the National FFA Convention. Over 21,000 FFA members and advisors participated in at least one of the free workshops.

ALUMNI LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP



The first FFA Alumni Legislative Workshop held during the FFA Alumni Convention was very educational. The panel participants pictured above (r to l) are Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture, Doyle Conner; West Virginia's Commissioner of Agriculture, Gus Douglass; U. S. Congressman Wes Watkins from Oklahoma; and Fred McClure, staff member of Senator Towers from Texas. The panelists are all former State or National FFA Officers.

DID YOU KNOW?

The following groups were recognized at the national meeting for their accomplishments in membership growth:

Most 1978 active members:	Wisconsin 2,878
Most total Life Members:	Wisconsin 217
	Oklahoma 215
Most increase in active membership:	Wisconsin 522
Highest percentage increase:	
	Arkansas 23 to 84 (365%)
	Iowa 107 to 283 (265%)
Largest affiliate:	Ozark, Missouri 261
Largest life affiliate:	Owasso, Oklahoma 56

YOUR CHANCE TO HELP

It will only take a minute and it is free! Please help the FFA Foundation by requesting a dozen or so FFA Memorial Brochures for your local funeral home. If you would rather, give us the name of your local funeral home and we will mail them direct.

The memorial gift will support the FFA and our future agriculture industry. Please send requests for memorial brochures to: FFA Foundation, P. O. Box 5117, Madison, WI 53705. Please include either your complete address or the address of your funeral home.

1978 HIGHEST AWARDS PRESENTED

Lawrence Augenstein, Rep. Paul Findley, and Jay Benham were presented the 1978 FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award at the National FFA Alumni Convention. This award is the highest given by the FFA Alumni Association.

Lawrence Augenstein enrolled in vocational agriculture in 1925 at Ashley, Ohio, High School. He was elected National Vice President of the FFA and was selected as one of the ten American Farmers of the FFA in 1928. He has attended thirty-four national conventions and has been a continuous supporter of vocational agriculture-FFA for fifty years.

Paul Findley has served as U. S. Congressman of the 20th Congressional District of Illinois for eighteen years. He presently serves as a senior member of both the Committee on Agriculture. He has emphasized and developed continuous legislation promoting the family farm, market expansion overseas, and famine prevention programs. He has supported and promoted vocational agriculture-FFA programs in his district and nationwide.

Jay Benham was a State FFA Officer and received the American Farmer Degree. He was employed as a teacher at Talawanda High School in Ohio where he was awarded the Outstanding Young Member Award for Ohio and the National Outstanding Young NVATA Teacher Award. He served as the first Administrative Secretary of the National FFA Alumni Association from 1971 to 1976.

The achievements of these distinguished men exemplify the high ideals, reflect honor upon the FFA, and provide inspiration to current FFA members.

PARENTAL ASSISTANCE IS IMPORTANT WITH SOE PROGRAMS

By Dr. David Williams, Iowa State University

Research completed at Iowa State University identifies the vital role that parents play in developing supervised occupational experience (SOE) programs for vocational agriculture students. SOE programs (referred to by some as FFA or home projects) are a part of vocational agriculture that consist of planned agricultural experiences on a farm, in an agribusiness or at other community locations for which supervision is provided by the vocational agriculture teacher. A random sample of Iowa vocational agriculture students who had earned the Chapter Farmer or State Farmer degree while enrolled in high school (1977 graduates) were asked six months after high school graduation to rate the assistance they received from their parents in developing SOE programs.

The findings disclosed that a majority of the students were involved in farming activities as their major SOE. Therefore, the nature of the parental assistance was production-agriculture oriented. The five ways students identified that parents provided the greatest assistance were: 1) providing equipment, 2) locating a place for SOE, 3) learning skills, 4) marketing agricultural products, and 5) determining interest (motivation. Other ways students perceived their parents providing assistance included: 1) producing agricultural products, 2) financing SOE projects, 3) selecting animals, 4) expanding SOE, 5) determining size of SOE, 6) developing agreements, 7) selecting supplies, 8) making decisions about SOE, 9) selecting approved practices, 10) making business arrangements, 11) setting goals, and 12) selecting crops.

Former vocational agriculture students recognized the assistance provided by their parents as they strived to gain agricultural experiences, many of whom will use the experiences to enter and advance in farming or other agricultural occupations. Parental assistance and support are essential to the development of high quality SOE programs.

1978 AFFILIATE AWARDS



Denmark, Wisconsin, FFA Alumni Affiliate President Tom Ronk is pictured receiving the 1978 Outstanding Affiliate Award from Arthur Kurtz, 1978 National FFA Alumni President. The presentation came as part of the National FFA Alumni Convention. The Denmark FFA Alumni has a total of 162 active members working in a unified effort. A total of 114 activities were planned and conducted by the Alumni members. Some activities included providing financial support for an FFA Chapter safety program, an FFA BOAC program, a Work Experience Abroad Scholarship, travel funds for FFA members, and many other supportive activities. The Alumni raised over \$8,000.00 by sponsoring an International Softball Tournament which became the primary source of income.

The New Lexington, Ohio, FFA Alumni Affiliate placed second with their outstanding list of support activities.

The national ratings were as follows:

- Gold: Denmark, Wisconsin; New Lexington, Ohio
- Silver: Ozark, Missouri; Bertha-Hewitt, Minnesota; South Rowan, North Carolina; Central Laramie County, Wyoming; Wamego, Kansas; Perry, Michigan; Catocin, Maryland; Delta, Indiana; Barren County, Kentucky; Forrest-Strawn-Wing, Illinois
- Bronze: Ysleta, Texas; Falkner, Mississippi; Anderson County, Tennessee

1979 NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL

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FFA . . . an integral part of vocational agriculture classes in 8,200 high schools in 50 states. As a powerful motivating force, a teaching tool, and as a framework for excellence, the FFA adds "seasoning" to the classroom for over 500,000 members. For over half a century, FFA has developed agriculture leaders—fifty years of shaping, molding, influencing—fifty years of building a "Future For America."

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WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The prestigious roster of Life Members continues to grow. Life members receive a special life membership card, life membership certificate, lifetime subscription to *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine, and can designate a Memorial Scholarship to be presented to an FFA member in the name of the Life Member upon his/her death. Why not join this list of over 1560 Life Members and send your one-time lifetime fee of only \$100.00.

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