

NEW VISIONS

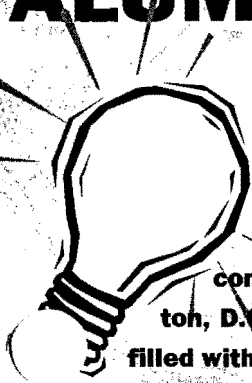


THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, Issue 3
June/July 1997

ALUMNI CONFERENCE OFFERS LEADERS

Ideas and Resources



The National FFA Alumni Association will host a summer conference for state leaders again this year near Washington, D.C., July 21-27. Billed as "exceptionally outstanding and filled with new and useful information," the program will again be sponsored by Philip Morris USA, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Attendees Will Have Time for Sharing

Based on comments from last year's participants, the program has more unstructured free time for attendees to share comments with each other and tour the nation's capital.

"This conference is about networking with other state leaders," says Linda Story, conference director. "We hope they will have more time this year to exchange ideas to strengthen programs locally and nationally."

Conference Provides Value

This is the 11th year Philip Morris USA has sponsored the leaders conference. One alumnus representative from each state will receive six nights free lodging (double occupancy) and a greatly reduced registration

fee. Each participant is asked to send his or her registration fee as soon as possible. A \$100 fee will need to be paid for any registration postmarked after May 31. Registration includes bus tours, six breakfasts, four lunches, three dinners and a special dinner event, but not incidentals or optional activities. All participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the conference.

Registration for others including spouses and other alumni representatives will be \$245 plus \$285 for lodging after May 31. If spouses wish to visit the Washington, D.C. area, but not register for the conference, they will need to pay \$285 for six nights of lodging at the Key Bridge Marriott, where the conference will be held.

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7 Member Joins Alumni to Bond With Future Step-daughter

COMING UP IN Sept./Oct.



Your next issue of *New Visions* will arrive in September. Along with regular news, expect articles and feature stories on the following:

Use Your People Skills to Build Local Success

1997 Convention Preview

Creating Partnerships With State Education Leaders

We need your help in collecting successful ideas and activities that support FFA members. Send your suggestions and ideas to *New Visions*, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309. Or e-mail: ncra@alumni.org

NEW VISIONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
 Volume 2, Issue 2 June/July 1997

National FFA Alumni Mission

The National FFA Alumni Association secures the promise of FFA and agricultural education by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

FFA Alumni *New Visions* is prepared and published bimonthly by the National FFA Alumni Association as an affiliate of the Future Farmers of America in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

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

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Shirley Carte
 National FFA Alumni Association President

ROUND TABLE

WILL YOU LABOR IN THE FIELD?

*Fields aren't planted,
 Gates hang open, livestock roaming free,
 Tractors in the barn,
 Trucks in the shed,
 Mom's appliance packing,
 Daddy's taking the sheep beds,
 What's going on around here?
 Oh, how do I get around?
 AGRICULTURE'S DEAD!!!!
 No more farmers, someone said,
 DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?*

I do not. I believe in the future of agriculture. I believe in the future of agricultural education, the FFA and the FFA Alumni.

We are changing and growing stronger each and every day. We are alive, well and here to stay. We need to educate the people of the world so they truly understand agriculture...the "big picture." We are not only production agriculturist (farmers), but we are agribusiness, agriscience, agricultural research, agricultural sales and service and most important...agriculture educators.

The FFA builds leaders for tomorrow. FFA alumni supports the FFA members across this great nation. The National FFA Alumni Association has made many positive changes in the past two years and these will

prepare our organization for the 21st Century.

Out most valuable crop is America's young people.

The fields are ripe unto harvest and we need to be ready for that harvest. We need laborers. We need to increase the ways we assist local FFA chapters and alumni affiliates. These needs are being addressed the National Council and we want you to join with us by asking yourself, "What can I do to make a difference?" Help our organization grow, get involved. ☐

Cherish yesterday...dream tomorrow...live today!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



HELP OTHER TEACHERS SEE VALUE OF AG ED

Jay Householder understands both sides when it comes to building support for agricultural education among non-agriculture educators. He has been involved on the agriculture side with his brothers since his school days at New Lexington High School, Ohio, and has served as National FFA Alumni Association President (1984-85). On the other side, he has taught the non-agriculture subject of social studies at his alma mater since college graduation 24 years ago.

Value Creates Understanding

"In the American economy, interest in a product is determined by the buyer's perception of its value," Householder explains. "If non-agriculture educators see agricultural education as a worthwhile product, they will buy it."

With this advice, he suggests that alumni position the

local program as a part of the "school and community educational program." Here are some key steps to increasing value:

Step #1: Initiate some lines of communication with non-agriculture teachers. Develop a mutual respect and understanding for what they are attempting to accomplish in their classrooms.

Step #2: Show especially science, mathematics, English and social studies educators how their curriculums are "put to practical use in the local program through class work, competitions and intracurricular

activities," Householder says.

Step #3: Establish, with the help of the agriculture teacher, clear goals and activities to benefit agricultural education and FFA. Position agriculture teachers as part of the school faculty.

"Many times ag ed is seen as outside the school, especially if it is in another building," Householder adds. "Be involved in school-related activities such as sports or music ensembles to broaden other people's perception of you."

Ways to Show Value

Householder says alumni have a critical role to play in keeping local programs visible, especially as administrators and faculty members change or leave the area. They can invite non-agriculture teachers to attend alumni functions with them and in

time ask them to join. "They [teachers] need to see what is going on in the local program," he adds.

Invite non-agriculture teachers to these events to build understanding of agricultural education's purpose:

- competitive events, especially parliamentary procedure competitions (or invite them to serve as judges if possible)
- local parent-member banquet
- agriculture facility tour

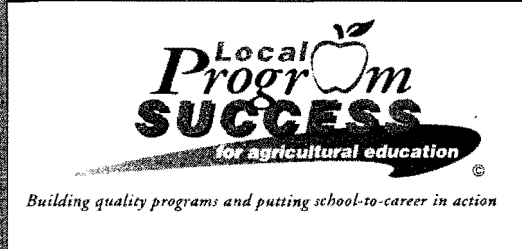
"We have the greatest product possible—our young men and women who develop their skills in agriculture education. We need to communicate this to others."

**—Jay Householder,
social studies teacher**

NEWS you can USE



Local Program Success Builds Quality Agriculture Programs



BEST PRACTICE #1: Hold an alumni rally and invite key community leaders as guests.

Ideas to help local agriculture teachers build relationships with partners, including alumni, are a key emphasis of a new publication called *A Guide To Local Program Success*. Alumni members can review the guide with local teachers and adopt the easy-to-use steps to develop solid partnerships that build quality programs and meet students' needs.

A Guide To Local Program Success provides ideas like the one above that teachers and alumni can use immediately to improve their local programs. The guide was introduced to state agricultural education leaders and select teachers who will train others during state teacher workshops this summer and throughout the year.

The guide is the first resource to come out of Local Program Success, a national initiative to build quality agricultural education programs. At its core are tools and strategies developed by teachers and other agricultural education professionals to help strengthen local programs. Local Program Success continues to grow, providing teachers and local partners with model approaches and proven practices that can successfully impact students' lives.

Ask your state agricultural education staff about Local Program Success workshops in your state or contact the National Council for Agricultural Education at (703) 360-8832.

CURRENT CONSTITUTION	PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS	RATIONALE FOR CHANGES
<p>Article V. EXECUTIVE BODY Section B-1. The National FFA Alumni Council shall consist of the following: Five individuals elected by the membership, as well as the National FFA Alumni president and/or vice president.</p>	<p>Article V. EXECUTIVE BODY Section B-1. The National FFA Alumni Council shall consist of the following: Five individuals elected by the membership; four regional representatives and one at-large member.</p>	<p>Article V. Section B-1. This section was modified to clearly identify the five individuals who shall make up the national council.</p>
<p>Article V. EXECUTIVE BODY Section B-8. The National FFA Alumni Council shall consist of the following: National FFA Alumni president and/or vice president, if not serving in an elected or appointed term listed above.</p>	<p>Article V. EXECUTIVE BODY Section B-8. The National FFA Alumni Council shall consist of the following: National FFA Alumni president.</p>	<p>Article V. Section B-8. This language in this section was changed only for purposes of clarity.</p>
	<p>Article V. EXECUTIVE BODY Section B-9. The National FFA Alumni Council shall consist of the following: National FFA Alumni vice president.</p>	<p>Article V. Section B-9. This section was added only for purpose of clarity.</p>
<p>Article V. EXECUTIVE BODY Section C. Terms of office of the various members of the council are as follows: five individuals elected by the membership—3 years; NASAE representative—3 years; AAAE representative—2 years; NVATA representative—3 years; national FFA representative—1 year; immediate past national FFA officer—1 year; immediate past national FFA alumni president—1 year; and national FFA Alumni president and/or vice president, if not serving in an elected or appointed term list above—1 year.</p>	<p>Article V. EXECUTIVE BODY Section C. Terms of office of the various members of the council are as follows: five individuals elected by the membership—3 years; NASAE representative—3 years; AAAE representative—2 years; NVATA representative—3 years; national FFA representative—1 year; immediate past national FFA officer—1 year; immediate past national FFA alumni president—1 year; and national FFA Alumni president and vice president.</p>	<p>Article V. Section C. The language in this section was changed only for purposes of clarity and to ensure that all documents are in line with one another.</p>
<p>Article VI. MEETINGS Section A. The National FFA Alumni Council shall meet once each year. Additional meetings may be called by the president or by majority of the council members upon petition to the executive director.</p>	<p>Article VI. MEETINGS Section A. The National FFA Alumni Council shall meet each year. Meetings may be called by the president or by majority of the council members upon petition to the executive director.</p>	<p>Article VI. Section A. This language in this section was changed only for purposes of clarity.</p>
<p>Article VII. DUES Section B. A "Life Membership" class of dues is established at \$150 as of November 1, 1993.</p>	<p>Article VII. DUES Section B. The annual and life membership dues of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be recommended by the National FFA Alumni Council and fixed by majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting.</p>	<p>Article VII. Section B. The section was modified to clearly state the annual and life dues shall be established by the delegates to the annual meeting.</p>
<p>Article VIII. AMENDMENTS Section A. Proposed amendments to the National FFA Alumni Association Constitution may be submitted by a state or local affiliate of by any active member and must be in writing and received by the executive director 90 days prior to the opening of the annual meeting. Section B. Proposed amendments shall be approved by two-thirds of the National FFA Alumni Council before being submitted for a vote by the delegates at the annual convention. The amendments shall be submitted to the membership at least 60 days prior to the opening date of the annual meeting. Affirmation by two-thirds of the delegates voting shall be necessary to adopt an amendment. Section C. Amendments to the bylaws of the National FFA Alumni Association may be made as follows: 1. Proposed amendments may be submitted by a state or local affiliate or by an active member and must be in writing and received by the executive director 90 days prior to the opening of the annual meeting. 2. Proposed amendments that have been approved by two-thirds of the National FFA Alumni Council shall be submitted to the membership at least 60 days prior to the opening date of the annual meeting. 3. Voting shall be at the annual meeting with affirmation by two-thirds of those present and voting being necessary for adoption.</p>	<p>Article VIII. AMENDMENTS Section A-1. Proposed amendments to the National FFA Alumni Association Constitution may be submitted by a state or local affiliate by any active member and must be in writing and received by the executive director 90 days prior to the opening of the annual meeting. Section A-2. Proposed amendments shall be approved by two-thirds of the National FFA Alumni Council before being submitted for a vote by the delegates at the annual convention. The amendments shall be submitted to the membership at least 60 days prior to the opening date of the annual meeting. Affirmation by two-thirds of the delegates voting shall be necessary to adopt an amendment. Section B-1. Proposed amendments to the National FFA Alumni Association Bylaws may be submitted by a state or local affiliate by any active member and must be in writing and received by the executive director 90 days prior to the opening of the annual meeting. Section B-2. Proposed amendments shall be approved by two-thirds of the National FFA Alumni Council before being submitted for a vote by the delegates at the annual convention. The amendments shall be submitted to the membership at least 60 days prior to the opening date of the annual meeting. Affirmation by two-thirds of the delegates voting shall be necessary to adopt an amendment.</p>	<p>Article VIII. Section A. This section was changed only for purpose of clarity and to ensure that all documents are in line with one another.</p>

CURRENT BYLAWS**PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS****RATIONALE FOR CHANGES**

Article II. LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE
Section A. The principal office of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be located at the National FFA Center, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Article III. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL

Section A. The five members of the National FFA Alumni Council to represent the membership shall be elected by the FFA Alumni convention delegates. The secret ballot submitted to the delegates will include two nominations selected by the national council from nominations received from FFA Alumni state associations and/or alumni members.

Section B. The National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE), the American Association of Agricultural Educators (AAAE), and the National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (NVATA) shall designate their respective representatives. Each must be a member of the National FFA Alumni Association.

Section C. The current national FFA president, the immediate past national FFA president, and the immediate past FFA alumni president shall serve as members of the council by virtue of their positions.

Section D. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the National FFA Alumni Council, other than from an expired term, the vacancy shall be filled as follows for the various constitutional representatives:

1. Vacancies of council members elected by the membership will be filled by a person appointed by the National FFA Alumni Council.
2. If the NASAE representative does not complete his/her term, the NASAE will name a replacement.
3. If the NVATA representative does not complete his/her term, the NVATA will name a replacement.
4. If the AAAE representative does not complete his/her term, the AAAE will name a replacement.

Article VII. REPORTS

Section B. Chartered state associations and local affiliates shall submit annual reports to the National FFA Alumni Association headquarters, on forms provided, at the conclusion of their year.

Article II. LOCATION OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE
Section A. The principal office of the National FFA Alumni Association shall be located at the National FFA Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Article III. PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI COUNCIL

Section A. Election Procedure:

1. Four regional representatives, to represent the membership in each region, shall be elected during the national FFA Alumni convention by the convention delegates from the respective regions. The member-at-large position shall be elected by all convention delegates. These five positions are for a three-year term.
 - a. All candidates for national office shall be screened through a national nominating committee appointed by the president. The national nominating committee shall consist of five (5) representatives from the National FFA Alumni Council. The committee shall identify two (2) qualified candidates for each position. If only one (1) candidate is considered eligible for any office, the committee may select only one candidate.
 - b. Election results will be announced at the national convention.
 - c. Terms shall start with the conclusion of the national convention.
 - d. No member of the National FFA Alumni Council may serve more than one (1) three-year term on the council, with the exception of the national president, who shall serve their fourth year as past national president. A previously elected council member must wait a minimum of five years before reelection. An individual appointed to fill the vacancy of an elected representative is eligible to be elected at the next election for the position.
 2. The National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) shall designate a representative.
 3. The National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (NVATA) shall designate a representative.
 4. The American Association of Agricultural Educators (AAAE) shall designate a representative.
 5. The immediate past national FFA officer shall be designated by the past national FFA officer team prior to the end of their year in office with the representative being announced at national convention.
 6. The national FFA representative shall be selected from national FFA officer candidates interested in serving on the National FFA Alumni Council.
 7. Each individual of the National FFA Alumni Council must be a member of the National FFA Alumni Association.
- Section B.** Whenever a vacancy occurs on the National FFA Alumni Council, other than from an expired term, the vacancy shall be filled as follows for the various constitutional representatives:
1. Vacancies of council members elected by the membership will be filled by a person appointed by the National FFA Alumni Council.
 2. If the NASAE representative does not complete his/her term, the NASAE will name a replacement.
 3. If the NVATA representative does not complete his/her term, the NVATA will name a replacement.
 4. If the AAAE representative does not complete his/her term, the AAAE will name a replacement.

Article II.
Section A. The section was modified to note the relocation of the National FFA Center and the National FFA Alumni Association.

Article III.

Section A. The section was changed only for purposes of clarity and to ensure that all documents are in line with one another.

Council Recommends Dues Increases

Based on its responsibilities as outlined in the association operating policies, the National Council at Its April meeting recommended for vote by delegates:

- **A life membership dues increase from the current \$150.00 to a one-time payment of \$500.00.**
- **An annual dues increase from the current \$7.00 to a fee of \$20.00 per year.**

For more information or to provide comments, contact Shirley Carte, national FFA alumni president, 904-776-1324 or fax to 904-364-4698. In the next issue, we will examine the policy changes enacted at the April council meeting.

TURN YOUR IDEAS INTO ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Your FFA alumni affiliate brainstormed a mountain of activity ideas using the suggestions in the last issue of *New Visions*. How do you now select activities and make them succeed? Try these strategies from LeRoy, Ill., and Milton, Wis., winner and runner-up for the 1996 Outstanding Affiliate Award.

Choosing Activities

Here are some guidelines to help you select activities that match your affiliates and community's unique characteristics and resources:

FOLLOW MEMBERS' ENTHUSIASM. A consensus of support is necessary for success, since the effort of one or two people is not enough to sustain an activity. In particular, as Todd Mosier, LeRoy FFA Alumni vice president says, "Alumni must get behind a project if they are going to motivate the students."

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE.

Both LeRoy and Milton affiliates seek to create activities in

which anyone can become involved. The more people who participate, the greater the energy and accomplishment.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF.

According to advisor Bob Johnson, the Milton Alumni has built a large, committed volunteer base because they "look for challenging activities and take on large projects that other community organizations are unable to accomplish." Going that extra mile leaves members with a positive sense of achievement.

MIX PAST SUCCESSES WITH NEW VENTURES. LeRoy FFA advisor Bob Brown tries to "stick with what worked before and add new things." The affiliate benefits from both the satisfaction of long-term successes and the excitement of new projects.

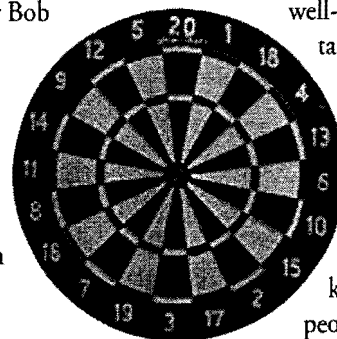
Implementing Activities

A great idea with enthusiastic support can fail without effective execution. The following list contains key components for carrying out successful activities: **DIVERSITY.** LeRoy and Milton affiliates attribute much of their success to a diverse membership that brings a variety of interests and expertise to their activities. Former

alumni director and active member Bob Agnew notes that Milton members have a good relationship with the non-agricultural business community because "we are all interested in helping students."

COOPERATION. LeRoy and Milton affiliates have found working with local residents builds community pride and support for FFA. On larger projects, Milton enlists the help of other community organizations such as the Optimists, Jaycees and athletic boosters.

TARGETING. Milton FFA Alumni are not afraid to ask for large donations, but they have a well-conceived plan and target potential donors whose interests match projects. For large or small projects, LeRoy's Bob Brown observes that "key is to get the right people in the right spot."

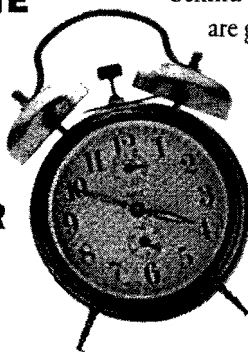


FOLLOW-THROUGH. Milton's Bob Agnew stresses that "it's important to follow through even on small projects. As people in the community see that you can get things done, they are more likely to support you."

RECOGNITION. People are more likely to stay involved if their efforts are appreciated, so Bob Brown advises groups to "give everyone as much recognition as you can." Bob Agnew adds, "Not all members contribute money, some give their time. The person who gives a few hours once a year is just as important as the one who gives thousands of dollars."

Finally, it's important to have fun! "If we didn't have a good time, we wouldn't be doing it," says Agnew. ☐

...NOT ALL MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE MONEY, SOME GIVE THEIR TIME.



HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR LIFE

Chris Roccaforte believes agricultural education and the alumni association are an effective way for parents to help their children prepare for life. "What Emily is learning will provide the building blocks for a successful adult life," he says.

"I also know the guidance given to her by teacher/advisor Leon Cummins is both structured and positive," Chris adds.

How to help FFA members:

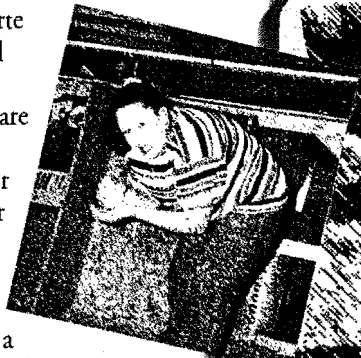
- Let them make their own decisions. Listen to their interests and encourage them to do as much planning alone, Roccaforte says. "I respected Emily's space to do something different than her older brother Nicholas."

Encourage them to work for what want. "I didn't want to push Emily," he says. "Raising chickens taught her to work for what she wants." Not an FFA member during his teen years, Roccaforte says he tried never to live vicariously through Emily's projects.

- Develop activities for them to interact with other students. "FFA Competitive events are not about winning or losing, but preparing her for the competition of life," he explains. "I wanted Emily to be involved in a positive atmosphere with other kids who have the same desires and goals."
- Find activities that you share with your children. "Since I

graduated in 1979, a lot has changed," Roccaforte says. "There weren't the pressures on us as students have today."

That's why he joined the alumni in 1996: To provide a bridge to Emily's world, the class of 2000. ☐



Roots of FFA Alumni Helps Member Bond With Future Step-daughter

When Chris Roccaforte met Lucy Gazaway in 1990, he had little in common with her children. Gun target practice was a useful in building a bond with her two sons, Nicholas and Zachary, and to fulfill a dream for her daughter, Emily.

"I didn't think I had anything in common with this 11-year old girl," he recalls. "I had to come up with something."

Common Ground Provided

Everything changed last fall when Emily enrolled in the Coffey Falls High School agricultural education program in Houston, Texas. Unlike Emily, Chris attended a private school where he played football and an agriculture program wasn't offered.

"I never pictured her as the type to take agriculture," Roccaforte admits. "I thought of it as a fun class that included showing cattle. I didn't realize it was a scheduled elective."

Chris noticed changes. Emily went to sleep and p.m. to see by 10 a.m. to go on FFA trips. "She could explain why the quality of one cut of meat was better than another. "She had to be motivated," she said.

"I was impressed by how much she was learning. Together they built a coop in the garage to house her new poultry project. Later, Roccaforte

attended the fair where Emily showed her chickens and he consoled her after she was eliminated along with some of her peers after the first round of competition.

Unseen was the transformation taking place in their relationship.

Bonds Form Naturally

Chris joined the local "booster club" of alumni affiliate early last fall. Shortly thereafter, Emily started asking him about things she saw in the *FFA New Horizons* magazine and to take her to chapter meetings. "Before she joined FFA, we had light conversations about music," he recalls.

The relationship continues to develop. Both have talked about raising hogs for this year's livestock shows. This spring, the FFA chapter elected Emily as sentinel. And, she received her Greenhand degree and scholarship award. "I used a year to see how much she has accomplished," he recalls as she received her prize at the banquet.

"I haven't felt as close as we do now," he says. "I'm really happy with her choice to enroll in agricultural education." ☐



NEW VISIONS



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National FFA Alumni Association • Future Farmers of America
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Newsletter

Alumni Conference Offers Leaders Ideas and Resources

(Continued from page 1)

Reduced airfares are available from Continental, American and USAir airlines. Be sure to specify that you would like to apply the State FFA Alumni Leadership Conference discounts to your airfare. Contact Sue Mitchell or Lucy Howlin at Omega Travel at 800-856-9221.

Attendees to Tour Area Sights

State leaders will attend workshops such as "Marketing the Alumni Idea" and "Developing a Partners' Network" to help them have an impact on the future of their respective state alumni associations. They also will tour Washington, D.C., attend a barbecue at the National FFA Center with staff and state FFA presidents, and visit the Philip Morris facility in Richmond, Va. The conference will end with a dinner/theatre event. ☐



The Illinois FFA Alumni Association presented country music singer and alumni spokesperson Ty England with an appreciation plaque before his show at the Mclean County Fair in Bloomington, Ill. Mrs. Toohill (center) of the LeRoy FFA Alumni, along with members from area affiliates, presented England (left) with the plaque and a T-shirt. ☐

CALENDAR

JULY thru NOVEMBER



July 13-16, 1997
National FFA Board of
Directors Meeting—Washington, D.C.

July 21-27, 1997
State Leaders Conference—
Washington, D.C.

September 17-21, 1997
National Alumni Council Meeting,
Indianapolis, Ind.

October 1, 1997
Scrapbook Contest Evaluation Form
Due; Legion of Merit Citations Due

November 12-14
National FFA
Convention

November 14-15
National FFA Alumni
Convention

