

# NEW VISIONS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, Issue 2  
April/May 1997



## OPRYLAND USA

### Offers Vacation Options for Members!

In a continued effort to enhance membership benefits, the National FFA Alumni Association has negotiated three vacation packages with Opryland USA. These are a part of the "Weekend in the Country" series (more details below) and offer members a chance to see the sights and sounds of Opryland USA located in Nashville, Tenn.

A portion of all proceeds go to benefit National FFA Alumni Association support programs. Here's how it works: For reservations or more information, call toll free 888-222-OPRY (6779) and refer to the special FFA Alumni code associated with each option below.

### OPTION #1

3-night "Weekend in the Country" Package:

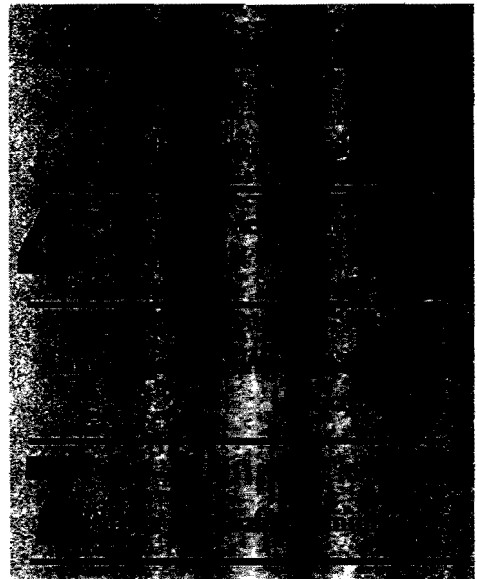
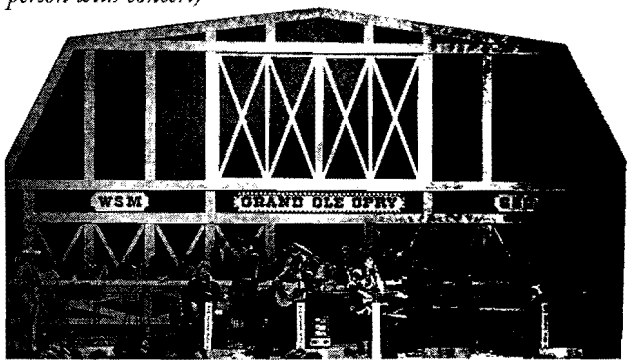
Available to FFA Alumni members June 12-14, 1997 - Code: FSA 1

(Attraction only price \$104.95 per person with concert)

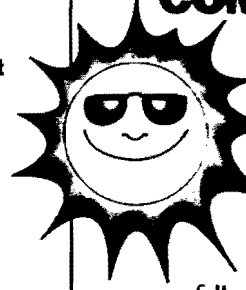
#### Features:

- Two-day admission to Opryland® Themepark
- Tour with Grand Ole Opry Sightseeing Tours<sup>sm</sup>
  - morning or mid-morning cruise on the General Jackson® showboat (meal not included)

(Continued on page 7)



### COMING UP IN JULY



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

**Parent Joins Alumni to Build Bond With Daughter**

**Helping Other Teachers See FFA Benefits**

**Choosing Activities That Motivate and Build Local Success**

**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.

The official address for the National FFA Alumni Association is: P.O. Box 15058, Alexandria, VA 22309; 703-360-3600; Ext. 793.

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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**CORRESPONDENCE:** Address all correspondence to Ricardo Valencia, executive editor, FFA Alumni *New Visions*, P.O. Box 15058, Alexandria, Virginia 22309-0058, or e-mail: ricardo\_valencia@ffa.org.

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Shirley Carte  
*National FFA Alumni Association President*

# ROUND TABLE

## HELP MAKE DREAMS

## A REALITY...

# Bend a Hand!

As we move through a new year, we seek new goals, new hopes, new dreams... Agriculture education departments across this nation are alive with young people that are excited—hopeful—and looking forward to the next adventure, a new challenge...but wait! Who is that tired, over-extended, harassed, stressed-out ADULT? Oh! That's just the agriculture teacher/FFA advisor.

Why should he/she be tired or stressed? They only teach agriculture education classes six or seven hours each day, then train the livestock, parliamentary procedure, agricultural mechanics and agribusiness management teams, assist with the tractor driving competition and public speaking, and help with proficiency and degree applications. Then in their "spare" time, they supervise banquets, fairs and fund-raisers, attend faculty and school board meetings...and the




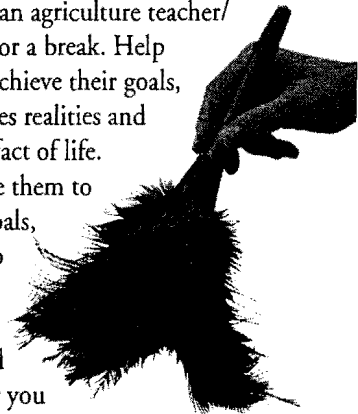
list goes on. This schedule does not leave much time for their own families.

Agricultural education teachers/ FFA advisors are some of the busiest teachers in any school system.



How can FFA alumni members help? Think of the vast pool of talent among local affiliate members. The cattlemen that judge livestock daily, the local tractor dealer that knows all there is to know about tractors... the person that has a way with words, the retired business man that would really like to teach the agribusiness team... endless possibilities.

Give an agriculture teacher/ FFA advisor a break. Help students achieve their goals, make hopes realities and dreams a fact of life. Encourage them to set new goals, hold on to that hope, dream bigger and know that you will be right there cheering them on, picking them up, dusting them off and walking beside them all the way to success. Make their life better and your life will take on a new meaning... **MAKE A DIFFERENCE ...GET INVOLVED!** 





## BUILD LOCAL SUCCESS WITH SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

School boards make major decisions that affect local agricultural education programs. As local residents, alumni members can play a role in demonstrating to school board members how FFA and agricultural education prepare students for careers and life.

### Highlight Student and School Benefits

"Students taking agricultural education courses learn how agriculture has changed to meet the diverse needs of a modernized society," says National School Board President Sammy Quintana.

Quintana says school board members need to see how agricultural education helps students, school and communities. Develop activities that stress how these benefits are achieved locally:

- Many students have a natural interest in plants and animals, and by pursuing their interests, they are motivated to learn more. Agriculture applies the tools of science (photosynthesis, genetics and biology) and math (fractions, percentages and algebra) to real-world issues.
- Agricultural education and FFA incorporate the school-to-career concepts of applied learning, school-sponsored enterprises and linking a career major with the workplace. Students are required to complete a

work-based experience and document it in a record book.

- Thousands of FFA members take part in community service programs from helping the disabled to improving the environment.
- FFA's emphasis on learning by doing helps motivate students to be actively engaged with their studies and stay in school.
- Students trained in agriculture are well prepared for the job market. There are more than 8,000 different job titles in the food, fiber and natural resources fields. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports there are 48,000 job openings that go unfilled each year because of a shortage of college graduates in agriculture.
- FFA teaches leadership skills that will help students succeed in whatever career they choose.

### Eight Ways to Open Doors

1. Attend school board meetings on behalf of the local program.
2. Present updates and student successes at board meetings in cooperation with the local agriculture teacher.
3. Invite board members to join the alumni association and sponsor their membership.
4. Involve board members in community activities that allow them to have contact with district residents who support the local program.
5. Give each board member a complimentary subscription to the *FFA New Horizons* magazine.
6. Give board members a *Country Visions* CD during National FFA Week.
7. Invite them to a breakfast or FFA chapter banquet where key business supporters and volunteers present why they support FFA.
8. Invite board members on a tour that highlights student agribusiness, technology or environmental projects. ■

# NEWS

you can see

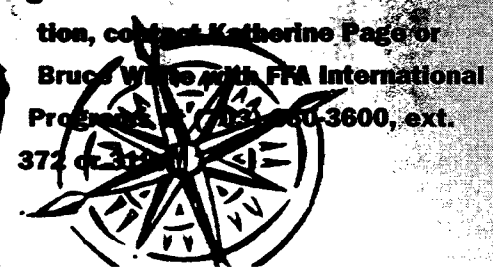


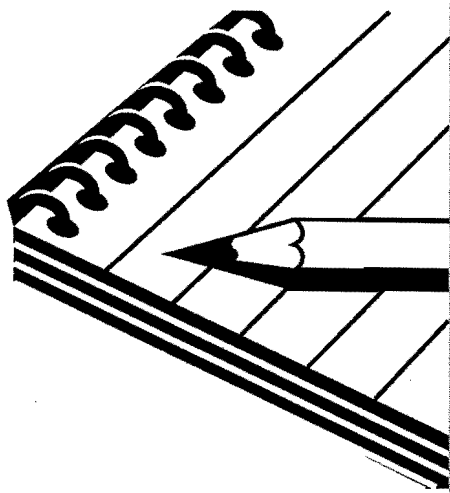
## BACK TO THE SOURCE

...to the...  
...on...  
...that will take...  
...immersion, ...  
...instruction.

After two weeks of...  
Costa Rican farm and...  
...language...  
...college, a follow-up...  
...tropical agriculture...  
...include working with banana...  
...and touring a rain forest...  
...farm. You will return August 19...  
...new world perspective as well as a...  
...deeper understanding of the Spanish...  
...language and Costa Rican culture.

The seminar is open to anyone with a background or strong interest in agriculture. Participants should be 18-24 years of age and have the equivalent of one year of high school Spanish. There is a possibility for college language and agriculture credit. For more information, contact Katherine Page or Bruce White with FFA International Programs at (713) 660-3600, ext. 372 or 373.





## National Office Offers Roster Instructions...

# STEP by STEP.

### Membership Policy Changes

Keep these points in mind before you begin the process. As of Jan. 1, 1997:

- The membership year runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31.
- Individual membership year now runs on an anniversary date system. If you joined in October 1997, your membership will expire October 1998. (See the attached graph.)
- Pro-rated life membership has been eliminated. The national association will honor individuals currently paying dues under the pro-rated life system.
- Memorial scholarships for life memberships have been eliminated. The national association will honor scholarships for all life members postmarked prior to Jan. 1, 1997.

**FILLING OUT ROSTERS** — The red area on your rosters is for national office use only. The national office will list the joining date when it receives rosters. It is important for rosters to be processed immediately to avoid any delay in providing services to members.

Listed below are easy-to-follow steps to fill out your membership rosters.

**STEP 1:** Make sure that the name and address of your local affiliate and high school are correct. If there are any changes to the mailing address, make corrections on the roster using a red ball point pen.

**STEP 2:** Review each of the members names listed on your roster. If there are any changes to the spelling of the names or addresses, or if a member transfers from another affiliate, make the correction on the roster and circle the changes using a red ball point pen.

**STEP 3:** If a member is renewing their membership, total the amount of state and national dues, and then list the dues amount paid in the column heading "Alumni Dues."

- Dues for a one year national memberships are \$7.00.
- Dues for life memberships are \$150.00.
- Dues for pro-rated life memberships are \$37.00.
- State dues vary state by state.

**STEP 4:** If the member is paying annual dues and wants to receive the *FEA New Horizon* magazine, enter the subscription amount of \$1.75 in the column heading "Magazine Sub."

**STEP 5:** If the member wants to ensure that they receive the *NEW Visions* alumni newsletter, make sure that the letter "N" is next to the affiliate code. If an "N" does not appear next to the affiliate code and a member wants to receive the newsletter, write an "N" next to the affiliate code.

**STEP 6:** If the member is *not* renewing their membership draw a line through the entire name and address and write the word "DELETE" using a red ball point pen.

Once you have completed editing the current membership roster list. It is time to add any new members to your roster.

**STEP 7:** Please print each new member's name and address, including the zip code. Please make sure that the spelling of the member's name is correct.

**STEP 8:** If the new member wants to receive the *NEW Visions* alumni newsletter, print the letter "N" in the left hand side of the column heading "Affiliate Code."

**STEP 9:** List the alumni affiliate code in the column heading "Affiliate Code." The affiliate code will be the same code for all members in the affiliate. If you do not know the affiliate code, call the state or national alumni office. If the rosters are being completed by a new affiliate, leave the affiliate code blank.

**STEP 10:** Total the amount of state and national dues, and list the amount paid in the column heading "Alumni Dues."

- Dues for a one year national memberships are \$7.00.
- Dues for life memberships are \$150.00.
- Dues for pro-rated life memberships are \$37.00.
- State dues vary state by state.

**STEP 11:** Total the dues amount at the end of each page.

**Return to the top of the roster and proceed with these steps:**

**STEP 12:** Total the state and national dues and enter the amount in the space provided.

**STEP 13:** Total the number of new life members and enter that number in the space provided.

**STEP 14:** Total the amount of money received for life memberships and enter that number in the space provided.

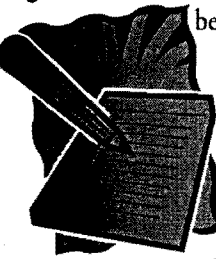
**STEP 15:** Total the state and national annual dues and enter that number in the space provided.

(Continued on page 7)

# PARENTS FIND BENEFITS OF CULTURAL EDUCATION

**Dena Fletcher and her husband John joined the Cortez, Colo., FFA alumni affiliate in October 1996 because they wanted other students to benefit from FFA just like their son Shawn did.**

"I didn't know how diversified agricultural education and FFA had become," Fletcher says. "Students can do anything they set their minds to and FFA helps them make those real-world connections."



Fletcher offers these tips to parents:

1. Volunteer to help the local program. Go to the local agriculture teacher and ask how you can help. "I wish I would have gone to Kevin McComb [Cortez agriculture teacher] earlier," she explains in retrospect. "Ninety percent of teachers need help, and all we need to do is ask."
2. Get involved with your children. Review the opportunities available through agricultural education and FFA with your children and help them select activities that will benefit them and match their needs. Stress the unlimited career opportunities in agriculture.

"Nowadays students can use computers or sit behind a desk and achieve success in culture," Fletcher says. "Agriculture has changed dramatically and we need people who know everything from fertilizer to genetics." ■

# POINTS of LIGHT

## PARENTS CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SON'S SUCCESS

Dena and John Fletcher had almost abandoned any hope of their son Shawn finding a good job or attending college after high school. That was until they enrolled in agricultural education and joined FFA. Today, Shawn has a 3.0 grade point average at a state college in Sterling, Colo., and works on the state's largest chicken farm.

District 41 created a unique program for students with learning disabilities. The program is a partnership between elementary and secondary divisions. It provides a supportive environment for students who would otherwise be considered at-risk students.

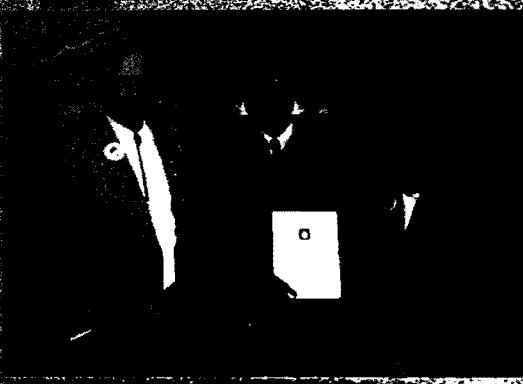
The Fletchers enrolled their son in a special school. Along with the help from a local eye doctor and a grade teacher, there was still a lot of work and Shawn's self-confidence grew.

**FFA Opens Doors**  
The real change came when Kevin McComb, local agriculture teacher, invited Shawn and his parents to visit his classroom during his freshman year. McComb explained the opportunities available through agricultural education and FFA. Shawn and his parents decided to enroll in the program. Over the next four years, Shawn spent all his time on FFA activities. He

raised chickens and held office for two years. He found a job on a farm near Sterling, Colo., and then went to college. He is now a member of the FFA Alumni and works on the state's largest chicken farm.

Shawn's success is a result of the support and encouragement he received from his parents and the FFA program. He is now a member of the FFA Alumni and works on the state's largest chicken farm.

This past year, Shawn served as a state FFA officer. He says his post allowed him to repay what FFA gave him. Thanks to FFA, Shawn's life has changed his.



...the FFA almost all...  
...mother says...  
...access...

# A WINNERS' GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES

## Find A Purpose

Successful activities have a clear focus that inspire participation. LeRoy and Milton alumni built their achievements around activities that benefit these areas:

### AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.

Don't overlook the obvious: Find out what your local agriculture program needs. Both affiliates credit their success to close cooperation with FFA advisors. Milton alumni get additional input from an FFA student representative who attends their meetings.

**SCHOOL SYSTEM.** "In Milton, our philosophy is to help both the students in the agriculture program and the school system at-large," says Bob Agnew, former alumni director and active member. Addressing the needs of the school system benefits FFA members while building community support for your efforts, he says.

**COMMUNITY.** FFA advisor Bob Brown encourages LeRoy alumni to take on community service projects with FFA members because "they build pride for both students and adults. People can see what you've done, and everyone remembers it."

Ask the parks commission, historical society, civic clubs and social service organizations for ideas.

### Helping students

Both affiliates found these activities effective in providing resources and building support:

**SERVE AS MENTORS.** Alumni enjoy sharing their expertise and their involvement gives agriculture teachers much-needed help. LeRoy alumni often drop in on Bob Brown's classes and become on-the-spot teachers. They also stage practice competitive events and assist FFA members with project recordkeeping.

### PUBLICIZE FFA ACHIEVEMENTS.

Success breeds success, so tell your community about FFA activities. Alumni in both affiliates coordinated radio, TV, and newspaper interviews, promoting their local programs. LeRoy alumni obtained road signs from the Illinois Department of Transportation to celebrate a national award in 1995.

### TAKE ON SCHOOL-WIDE PROJECTS.

Both groups helped their FFA chapters organize farm visits and agriculture programs for elementary school students. Don't be afraid to aim high, as Milton FFA Alumni did when they built a new football field and a new agriculture classroom with school board and community support.

### Serve your community

Community service projects strengthen relationships between

FFA members and alumni, and yield tangible results.

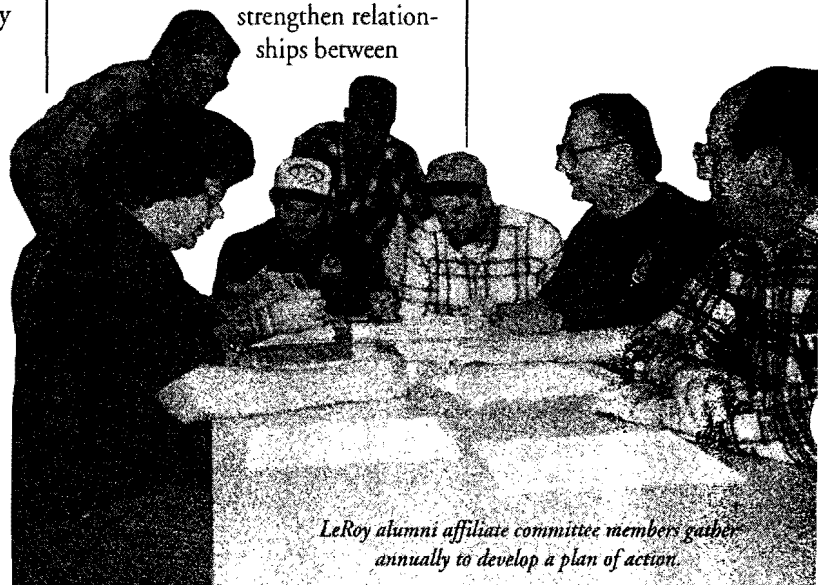
**HELP RESIDENTS.** "In Milton do everything from raking and landscaping to painting buildings for citizens," says FFA advisor Bob Johnson. "This builds a positive image in the community."

**IMPROVE PARKS AND MONUMENTS.** LeRoy FFA members and alumni have planted trees, repaired cemetery gravestones, and turned an old train turntable into a town memorial. The Milton affiliate is making plans to develop a 35-acre public park. Large or small, these activities have a visible, long-lasting impact on the community.

**FORM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.** Cooperate with civic and social service organizations to maximize resources. LeRoy FFA members and alumni helped the Kiwanis assemble and deliver Christmas food baskets. Milton members organized the town's Fourth of July celebration with help from the Optimists and Jaycees.

A focused mission helps ensure successful activities, but you can increase your impact with strategic planning. The next issue of *New Visions* will feature criteria for choosing activities that work for your affiliate and its members.

How do FFA alumni affiliates develop activities that benefit their local programs? Read on to discover the award-winning strategies used by the LeRoy, Ill., and Milton Wis., affiliates—winner and runner-up for the 1996 Outstanding Affiliate Award.



*LeRoy alumni affiliate committee members gather annually to develop a plan of action.*

**Opryland USA Offers Vacation Package for Members!**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

ning performance of the Grand Ole Opry® musical production at the Ryman Auditorium®

- A concert featuring FFA Alumni spokesperson Ty England, Mindy McCready and The Thompson Brothers Band

**OR**

**Opryland Themepark and Country Concert Only:**

Available only on June 14, 1997 - Code: FSA 7

(\$23.27 plus tax per person)

**Features:**

- One-day admission to Opryland® Themepark
- A concert featuring FFA Alumni spokesperson Ty England, Mindy McCready and The Thompson Brothers Band

**OPTION # 2**

**2-night "Weekend in the Country" Package:**

Available to members from May through October 1997 - Code: FSA 2

(Attraction only price \$12.95 per person)

Same features as option #1, excluding the Ty England concert

*Opryland Hotel accommodations available. Call for more information. ☐*

**National Office Offers Roster Instructions...Step by Step.**

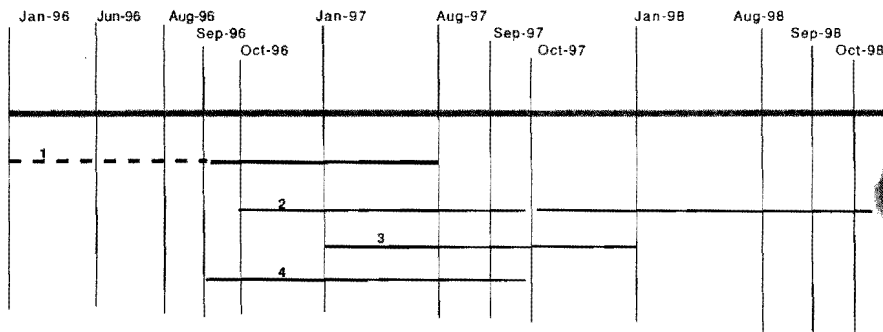
*(Continued from Page 4)*

**STEP 16:** Total the number of subscriptions being purchased by *annual dues paying members* and enter that number and the amounts in the spaces provided.

*Congratulations! You have completed your rosters!* At this point you are ready to mail

your rosters and dues to either the state or national alumni office.

**STEP 17:** Separate your rosters. Local affiliates keep the *green copy*. State alumni offices keep the *yellow copy*. Send the *white copy* to the national office. ☐



**Example 1 -** A member who joined before Sep 1996 (ex.: June 96) must renew before Aug 31, 1997. Because of the new membership year (Sep 1 to Aug 31), any member who joined between Jan 1, 1996 thru Aug 31, 1996 will have the privilege of renewing their membership by Aug 31, 1997. If you have not renewed your membership by Aug 31, 1997, you will not be an active member counted for award purposes.

**Example 2 -** A member who joined in Oct 1996 would need to renew before the end of Oct 1997; and every October following. In this situation, the member would be counted as an active member on Aug 31, 1997 for award purposes.

**Example 3 -** A member who joined in Jan 1997 would need to renew before the end of Jan 1998; and every year following. In this situation, the member would be counted as an active member on Aug 31, 1997 for award purposes.

**Example 4 -** A member who joined in Sep 1996 would need to renew before the end of Sep 1997. In this situation, the member would be counted as an active member on Aug 31, 1997 for award purposes.

**HERE'S ONE FOR YOU**



**BECOME A PARTNER FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY**

Local FFA chapters can now promote agricultural safety in their communities through the Partners for a Safer Community program. By becoming a Farm Safety 4 Just Kids (FS4JK) "Partner," your local chapter can promote positive safety attitudes and behavior for those who work, play, visit or live on a farm. The mission of FS4JK is to prevent farm-related childhood injuries, health risks and fatalities.

**The benefits of partnership to a local FFA chapter:**

- Increased farm safety awareness.
- Availability of numerous safety resources.
- Eligibility for recognition through national and state FFA award programs.
- Educational safety ideas.
- Low member prices when purchasing farm safety materials.
- A quarterly newsletter for each member, which includes articles on current farm safety activities and up-to-date resource materials.

Encourage your local FFA chapter to become a FS4JK "Partner." Offer your expertise in teaching farm safety topics.

The National FFA Foundation is offering to match first year's dues dollar-for-dollar. Call 1-800-423-5437 and ask for details about FS4JK "Partners." ☐



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

National FFA Alumni Association • Future Farmers of America  
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Newsletter

# CALENDAR

JUNE thru JULY



### JUNE 1

**Council nominations due for Southern and Eastern Region representatives**

**Outstanding Achievement Award applications due**

**State resolutions and constitutional amendments for national consideration due**

### JUNE 12-14

**"Weekend in the Country," Nashville, Tenn.**

### JULY 22-27

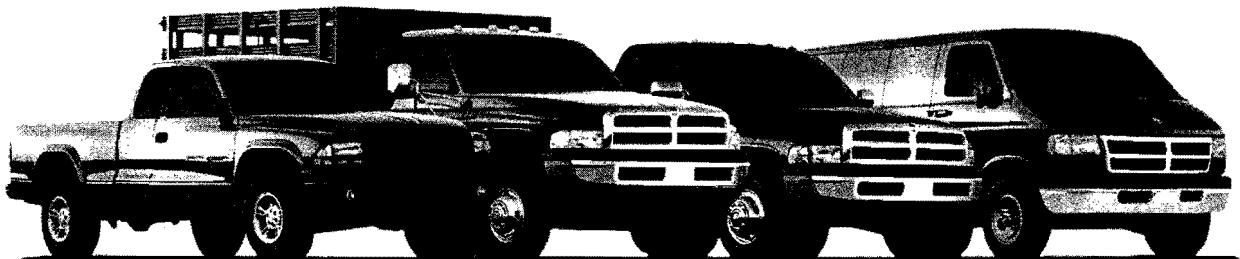
**FFA Alumni State Leaders' Conference, Washington, D.C.**

# Farm Animals

Hardworking, capable and dependable — the mark of a workhorse. Magnum engines, payload and towing, bold styling and intelligent engineering — the mark of a Dodge truck. They come in all shapes and sizes. From our all new Dodge Dakota to our full-size Ram pickup and our long-lasting Ram Van. All powered by Magnum engines — overall the most powerful line of pickup engines on the planet.

Dodge Truck is proud to support American agribusiness through Farm Bureau® partnerships, Young Farmer and Rancher programs and FFA activities. We believe it is important to recognize excellence and commitment in any chosen field. This is why Dodge Truck is committed to the sponsorship of FFA Nursery Operations, Ag Mechanics and Forest Management Proficiency Awards and the National FFA Scholarship Award Program and Horse Judging CDE. In addition, we take great pleasure in meeting FFA members at the National Agricultural Career Show. At Dodge Truck we're proud to join and support working hands of agribusiness people today and in the future.

When you're looking to add the next workhorse to your stable, be sure to test-ride one of ours at your friendly local Dodge dealer. For more information, call 1-800-4-A-DODGE or visit us online at <http://www.4adodge.com>.



America's Truck Stop  The New Dodge