

FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1992

National Convention Preview

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FFA New Horizons

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

October-November, 1992

Volume 41 Number 1



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T H E F R O N T L I N E



There was a popular guy in my high school class (whom I'll call "Bob" so as not to embarrass his mother) who got elected as a class officer one year. Bob was cool, well-liked, well-known and, well, wasn't much of a class officer. When it came time to get things done, Bob was hard to find. Although we were angry at Bob at the time, we deserved his style of leadership; we had, after all, elected him.

Leaders like Bob get elected in every school in this country every year. And each year another class learns that "popular" does not equal "leader."

If we had asked ourselves a few key questions, the outcome would have been different. Is he creative? Does he listen well? Is he committed to the cause?

This November, George Bush and Bill Clinton will be running for Class President of the United States of America. Some people will vote for the popular person (whomever that might be at the time) just like in high school. Others will vote only after they ask the key questions, listen to the candidates, read what the candidates want to do and weigh that against what the voter wants to see happen.

Just as we had to deal with Bob's leadership (or lack of it), you will be personally affected by the actions of the man leading the country in the next four years. Before it's too late, you may want to ask these questions: How much is college going to cost me? Will there be jobs when I graduate from school? How much money will the government take out of my paycheck for taxes? These are all real issues in this year's campaign and you will be affected by the outcome longer than your parents or grandparents.

If you are old enough to vote, do it. If you're not 18 by November 3, voice your opinions to your parents, or anybody else who will listen. In a national election of millions of voters, you might feel like your voice could get lost in the crowd. Make it heard anyway.

You can have an even stronger impact

locally. More people serve in local government than on the state or Federal levels. Do you know what those candidates stand for? Do you even know who is running? Informing yourself is the first step. Getting involved is the next.

Just being in FFA gives you an edge in having an impact in government. You work in committees and teams and may have held an office yourself or at least run for one. Most importantly, you've practiced speaking your mind in a way that is persuasive, but not offensive. A lot of people haven't figured that one out yet.

If you know the issues and present your view in a credible way, people will notice. Past national FFA president Mark Timm didn't just waltz into the White House and announce he was ready to work for the summer (see page 14). He proved over time that he had a passion for getting involved and trying to make a difference.

The environmental movement uses the phrase "Think Globally, Act Locally" to get people involved. The same could go for government. Have an idea of the kind of world you want to live in, then vote for the people who you think will lead in that direction. Whoever wins, stay involved and hold them to their promises. That goes for congressmen, chapter FFA officers, the mayor, Farm Bureau president, the prom committee and president of the United States of America.

Andy Markwart



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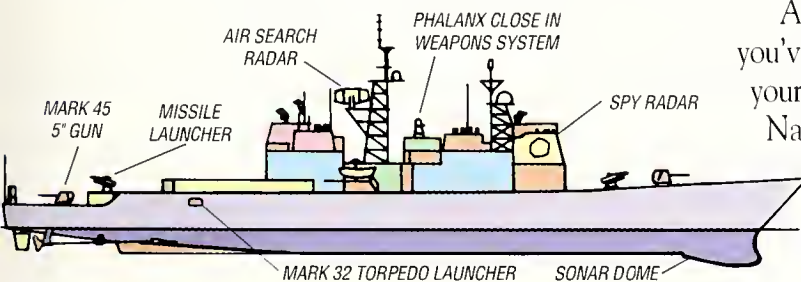
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Fashionable Fish?

By raising colorful koi fish, this Visalia, California, FFA member is reeling in the business

By Lynn Hamilton



Photo by Lawanna McGary

To assure a quality product, Keith medicates the fish and keeps them in quarantine for a month before selling them to customers.

Do you like your fish red and white or blue and orange? What's that? You say the classic white and black or the basic solid colors are more your style? Keith Jones will be happy to color coordinate fish for the pond in your yard.

Jones sells to about 75 customers, and believes keeping them happy keeps his business afloat. "I help my customers so they come back," he says. He notes that the fish he sells are larger, better quality and less ex-

pensive than the other two koi sources in town. This happens, he says, because "I grow my own fish, I spawn (hatch) them, and I have a lower cost of operation."

Jones figures giving the buyer extra perks now means profit for him later. He gives each customer a few extra fish, makes sure each one he sells is healthy, provides starter feed with each order, and makes house calls if a problem develops. Soon, Jones plans to sell feed and medication to patrons at lower prices than they can get in specialty pet stores.

"I help them out quite a bit, and in turn they help me out," Jones says. Some of his customers trade water lilies, which are quite expensive, for fish, while others pitch in during seining time, when the fish are caught in nets to be moved to different tanks.



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The business has become very profitable for him. He spent \$2,000 on four female breeding fish to start with, and now estimates that each female will yield 1,000 offspring. Jones sells his fish for an average of \$10 each. Not counting feed and other expenses, that's \$10,000 of return on each of the original fish.

And he's not scaling back any time soon. Jones has submerged most of his parents five-acre farm, turning much of the land into fish ponds. He estimates he has 20,000 fry, or newly hatched fish, to contend with now, and plans to open a store in town to serve more customers.

Even though Jones seems to have a corner on the Visalia koi fish market these days, he started out very small. He began building a fish pond in his backyard as part of a home improvement project. He liked working with the fish, and started helping another fish grower seine. Wanting to learn even more, Jones read about the art of raising koi. As he learned about spawning, medication and equipment, he bought more fish, expanded his operation at home, and went into business.

Many of his buyers heard about him

through other satisfied customers. "Right now, there's a big boom of people putting in fish ponds," he says. One customer built a fish pond, decided it wasn't big enough, and built a bigger one. A neighbor saw it, and put one in, which prompted the family across the street to do the same. All of these folks ended up in Jones' backyard buying fish. He also advertises in the newspaper and puts busi-

ness cards in area stores.

Though Jones hopes to stay in the fish business for a long time, he has other alternatives. He plans to get a nursing degree, as well as a degree in aquaculture. "The demand is out there (for fish) and right now I can't keep up with it, but if anything happens, I'll always have something to fall back on." ...

Be Your Own Boss

Tired of punching someone else's timeclock? Maybe you can turn your supervised agriculture experience program (SAE) into a business. Jones has some advice for other young entrepreneurs.

Do some research first, he recommends. "I checked out the koi fish business, and got in at the right time," he says. See what the market is like, and how your business might fit into it. "If there are a lot of other businesses, you might get some customers, but it's best to get out on your own."

You also need to know what you're

talking about when dealing with customers. "You have to do research and read," he says. "When customers have questions, you have to find the answers. You can't expect your parents to do it."

He believes more FFA members could develop their SAE programs into a small business. "A lot of people in class have projects they could take a lot farther," Jones says. "There are tons of things to do—sometimes you've just got to have the initiative to do it."



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Fun Times At K.C.

These are memories you might have if you go to the 65th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, November 11-14.

My most exciting memory was...watching the new national officers rushing to stage at the closing session of convention. I wonder if I'll ever be up there?



Here I am with a new friend. It was unbelievable how many people, from all over the United States, I got to meet.



I didn't meet Olympic champion Mary Lou Retton and former Lebanese hostage Dr. Thomas Sutherland in person, but I did hear their motivational speeches.

Interested in saving up to 50 percent on your airfare? If your answer is yes, call this toll free number 1-800-756-6125 to make your convention flight reservations.

Your Travel Documents

- American Royal Entertainment Schedule**
- Fri Nov 6—Trisha Yearwood—7:30 pm
 - Sat Nov 7—Sammy Kershaw—2 and 7:30 pm
 - Sun Nov 8—Diamond Rio—2pm
 - Mon Nov 9—Tracy Lawrence—11:30 am and 7:30 pm
 - Tues Nov 10—Suzy Bogguss—11:30 am and 7:30 pm
 - Wed Nov 11—Brooks & Dunn—11:30 am and 7:30 pm
 - Fri Nov 12—Steve Wariner—7 and 7:30 pm
 - Sat Nov 13—Lou Harris—7 and 7:30 pm
 - Sun Nov 14—Wynonna Judd—Sawyer Brown, and McBride—2pm

No 0504
American FFA Degree Luncheon—
 November 13, noon, (serving lines open at 11:30 a.m.), Bartle Hall. Price is \$10.00.

No 0224
National Chapter Recognition Luncheon—November 12, noon, Bartle Hall. Price is \$10.00.

It was fun to see other National Chapter, Safety and BOAC award winners here.

No 0368
National Leadership Dinner—
 November 13, 5 p.m., Bartle Hall. Price is \$10.00.

Special Meal Events
 They can't say I didn't get enough to eat!

This is where I met a bunch of chapter and state FFA officers, and people who had been to the Washington Conference and Made For Excellence.



Video Talent Search

Imagine this. There are 25,000 FFA members at the national FFA convention and they're all cheering for you. It could happen...if you're selected as a winner in the video talent search. The four FFA members chosen will be music television-type video announcers in Kansas City. The talented winners will be on camera, catching convention action.

How To Enter

- Make an unedited videotape (up to one and a half minutes long) that depicts your life. You can give a tour of your house, show us your friends, school, etc.
- At some point in your videotape, say your name and where you're from.
- Send your completed videotape, your name, address, school and home phone number to: Video Talent Search, Linda May, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA, 22309.
- Your videotape must be in our hands by October 20, 1992.

Tips:

- Wear casual clothes.
- Have fun.
- The judges will be looking for a sense of humor and on-camera ease.
- Any questions? Call 703-360-3600, ext. 248 or ext. 301.

Career Show

Hundreds of agribusiness, university and agricultural association exhibitors will be at the National Agricultural Career Show. Grand opening is 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 11. If you're interested in getting a summer internship in the agriculture industry, be sure to show up at the Career Show Placement Symposium. For information contact Toni McCombs at the FFA Center, 703-360-3600.

How To Get Meal Tickets By Mail

Send a list of the number of tickets you need for each meal, and your check to: Meal Tickets, National FFA Center, Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Make checks payable to: "National FFA". (Do not send cash.) Pick your tickets up at the Meal Ticket Booth in the H. Roe Bartle Hall lobby.

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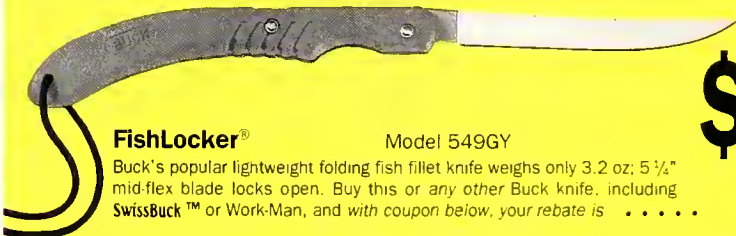
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Barnyard Battle

As animal activists turn up the heat, FFA members can help tell agriculture's side of the story

By Michael Wilson

The idyllic images of farm life in children's storybooks are a far cry from the crowded, filthy, and disease ridden conditions endured by animals raised for meat, eggs, and milk... Factory farming has created a living hell for billions of chickens, cows, pigs and other animals, and it devastates the health of people and the environment as well."—from a children's booklet produced by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

Did that get your attention? It should. For anyone who isn't concerned about so-called animal "rights" activists, this is your wake-up call.

Ten years ago many farm families considered the animal rights movement a joke. Today it's no laughing matter. Hundreds of animal rights groups have formed. Frustrated by a lack of success in the medical and research field, many of the groups now target livestock farms.

Following a familiar pattern, the more radical groups use misinformation, sensation, and emotionalism to get attention, promote their agenda, and keep checks coming in from believing supporters.

Many of the groups use farmers as their tool to keep funding coming, says Ken Cheatham, Executive Director for the American Veal Association. How? They stretch facts—as in the case of recent print advertisements that claim veal calves are mistreated—to make people believe farmers treat animals cruelly. "There are a lot of well-meaning people out there who are confused, but who send money anyway," says Cheatham.

And sometimes you can tell which animal welfare group wears the white hat.



Photo by Author

Educating urban folks at places like state and local fairs is an excellent opportunity to get the facts across.

"Your grandmother may send \$25 to the humane society, but the humane society—some of their leaders—are true animal rights activists," says Cheatham.

Animal rights groups have yet to score a major victory in Congress, but they have gained attention among non-farm people. The most recent volley is the "Beyond Beef" campaign, calling on consumers to cut beef consumption by half in the next 10 years. Other messages are more subtle, like Murphy Brown's People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) coffee mug.

Dos and Don'ts

Paul Walker, professor of animal sciences at Illinois State University, says the animal rights viewpoint cannot be ignored. "We're going to have to become more involved than ever before." Many brochures and videos are available to help you learn more about the animal rights movement. These can help you tell your side of the story.

Walker offers this checklist of dos and don'ts you can get started on right away:

- Develop an animal care and management strategy. Include the best way to handle or prevent animal illnesses, hous-

ing maintenance, nutrition management, and a mortality policy in your plan.

- Do not participate in petting zoos unless they are "correctly designed," says Walker. "There's a good petting zoo and a bad petting zoo." A bad petting zoo attaches human emotions to the farm animal—something Walker calls the "Bunny Rabbit Syndrome."

"If you're going to have a petting zoo, don't take a little cuddly lamb or little piglets and let non-farm people pet them and identify with them. They don't want to eat those. If you're going to take a baby lamb to a petting zoo, what

should you have with it? You ought to have right next to it a bundle of wool, a sweater, and a lamb chop, to show what the purpose of that lamb is in society."

- Do not participate in farm and ranch tours unless they are preplanned. "Before visitors arrive, take an imaginary tour of your operation," Walker suggests. "Look at it through someone else's eyes, not yours. What would they think of that pile of manure over there? They wouldn't like it, and that animal surely wouldn't like to end up in it either."

- Do become active in farm organizations on local, state, and national levels. "They're your voice in Congress to protect you from legislation that's anti-farming, counterproductive," Walker says. "And it takes dues paying members to do that. Checkoff funds are only used for promotion, education and research, so you need to support your organizations."

"Farmers should become activists," urges Cheatham. "We have a lot of farmers who are too busy farming. Our people have had to learn to look outside their barns, because there's a world out there that affects their living." ...



NEWS IN BRIEF

Get Your Scholarships Here!

If you're a high school senior planning to attend college, all you have to do is fill out an application and you'll be in the running to win an FFA scholarship. Six hundred and thirty-eight members received scholarships last year. A total of \$868,350 was awarded.

This year it could be your turn to win anywhere from \$250 to \$10,000. Applications, which will be ready in December, are available from Toni McCombs, Teacher Services Specialist, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA, 22309, 703-360-3600, extension, 255.



National FFA president Lee Thurber presented President George Bush with an FFA sweatshirt and plaque at the 1992 State Presidents' Conference. The conference is funded by Chevy Trucks as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Hot National News

The National FFA Board Of Directors met in July. Here are some results of the meeting.

National FFA Parliamentary Procedure Contest Topics

- regional realignment
- award selection on a national basis, no regional winners
- a name change for the national organization.

The finals contest will be held on Friday, November 13, 1992, in Kansas City during the national FFA convention.

1992 National FFA Contests

Scholarships—You can receive from \$500 to \$1,000 when you win national awards in these contests: agricultural mechanics, dairy judging, farm business management, floriculture, livestock and meats evaluation and technology. For more details contact Carol Duval at the National FFA Center, 703-360-3600, extension 262.

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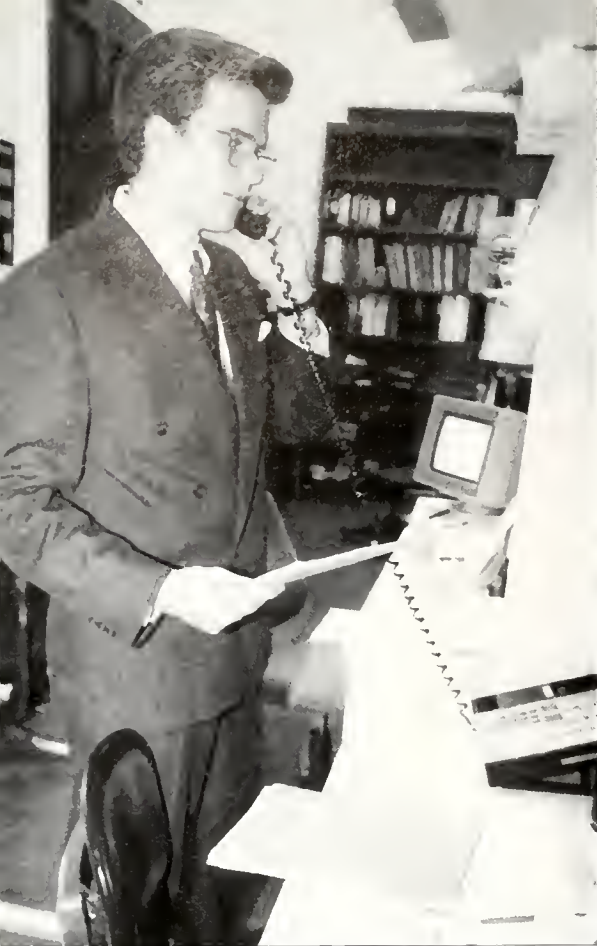


Photo by Lavinia McGary

Mark worked an average of 11 hours a day during his stay in Washington, D.C.

My Summer At The White House

Former national officer Mark Timm tells about working for the president

I flash my pass across the computerized scanner, punch in my private code and walk right in to the Executive Office Building next to the White House. I am surrounded by uniformed Secret Service officers (with the Smith and Wesson revolvers) don't even give me a second look. I belong here...for the summer anyway.

As an office of presidential liaison intern, I worked at least 11 hours a day setting up presidential briefings and events. Once, with only six days notice, our office of 25

had to get 1,200 people together for a presidential announcement. Two thousand phone calls later everything was planned.

No time to celebrate though, there was more work to do. My alarm still went off at 5:45 a.m. the next morning. The almost standstill rush-hour traffic didn't rush along just for me. The president and his events didn't take a break so I could get a breather. And I still didn't get paid (with money anyway) for the work I was doing.

Sometimes the intense work load was frustrating. We would spend days rushing from computer to typewriter to the phone, making sure the president only saw perfection at our functions. We realized at any moment an event could be altered or cancelled. Matters of state don't wait.

To me though, the workload was *nothing* compared to the benefits I was getting. While still a college student, I learned how to

Privileged information was in my hands. In the wrong hands these facts could mean danger for the president. I guarded details about Mr. Bush's whereabouts as if it were classified information. It was either the burn bag or paper shredder for every tidbit of paper that might give the press or the public clues about his schedule.

When a scribbled note from our office somehow survived destruction and ended up in *The Washington Post* newspaper, I

Career  Watch

began to take security very seriously, especially when I heard it was common each summer for an intern to be let go for breaking the rules.

The Secret Service guarded the White House and the Old Executive Office Building (where my office was). My first taste of how thorough they were in protecting the president and confidential information came when I was offered the internship. Although I had already accepted, I only had the job if my background check came out squeaky clean. A traffic ticket for more than \$100 would have caused an investigation. Being pulled over for driving while intoxicated (DWI) would have cancelled my chances.

I filled out a 22-page form listing all of my immediate family, someone I knew in elementary school, high school and college, and three people in the community. I felt like I was applying for MCI friends and family phone service!

They even wanted to know who I met when I went on the national officer tour to Japan and China.

The investigation made me realize how one silly move in high school could have meant no three months in Washington, D.C., for me. Now that the summer is over, I'm in awe of the whole experience. At times it doesn't even seem like it was real.

Although I didn't get to keep any paper mementos of my internship—the Secret Service made sure of that—I'll always carry the memories with me.

Leaving my job and my special White House pass behind was disappointing. From now on I'll have to stand in line for the White House, just like everybody else.

Mark Timm was 1990-91 National FFA President.

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Photo by Author

Having enough fish to eat was no a problem (thanks in part to the 45 fishing rods and reels ZEBCO furnished). Kenny Meyer, left, and Wes McCrea haul the day's catch back to camp.

Northern Exposure—FFA Style

Camping out in Canadian wilderness brings these members closer together

By Scott Stump

Cicely, Alaska, may seem remote to some television viewers, but to the Prairie Heights, Indiana, FFA members who travel to Skookum Lake, Canada—Cicely is a thriving metropolis. It has showers; Skookum has a lake. Cicely has electricity; Skookum has gas lanterns and the northern lights. One thing you might see in either place though, is an occasional moose wandering through camp.

Dr. Fleischman's School of Achievement

For 25 years members have travelled to this remote area. But only the 15 students who earn the most points working on the 230-acre school farm, and participating in leadership activities get to go. Just as Dr. Fleischman struggles to better himself in Cicely, these FFA members work for the chance to play. Senior Kurt Stump worked before school, after football and basketball practice, on weekends and even during the summer to earn his trip. "I feel like I'm doing something worthwhile, and at the same time I'm being rewarded for it," he says.

Maurice's School of Fishing

The FFA annual trip centers around fishing and always produces stories that even Maurice (the "big fish" story teller from *Northern Exposure*) wouldn't believe! Conversations of "the one that got away" and "...but his head was on one side of the boat and his tail in the other," float around the campfire. A few stories, like the 8 1/2-pound northern pike reeled in by senior Brian Light, and a tree limb and several logs—sophomore Steve Cuatt's first catch—were even true.

Maggie's School of Survival

In search of more fish at Marie Lake, the group backpacked deeper into the woods. While loaded with cooking oil, flour, a pepsi or two, and toilet paper (poison ivy leaves are hard to distinguish), the group boated across Skookum, hiked to Boundary Lake, crossed it, then hiked for another hour and a half. Less than 50 people each year ever make it this far. At the end of the trail is a tree-lined valley full of mountain-purified water. The water is so clear you can actually see the bass

hit your lure. Two islands serve as the Motel 6 for the night: Big Bear for upperclassmen, and Little Bear for the younger students. Members set up tents and start fishing for supper. No Fish—No Eat!

While one group cleans the fish, others build the fire and prepare to cook. "You learn to rely on each other," says Stump. Creating havoc can be fun sometimes too. The overnight islanders on Big Bear and Little Bear have a 25-year-old feud that includes raids in the night, initiation for freshmen and even a giant slingshot with fish heads strategically launched from one island to the other.

Chris's School of Life

Each night, before taking their chances with fish heads and feuds, the group talked about friends and family around the campfire. Cicely's resident philosopher, Chris who spends hours analyzing life, would be proud. "Everyone says things here that they won't say at home," says sophomore Wes McCrea. "There's something about it that just kind of makes you open up and feel more free to talk about things you don't normally talk about—religion, feelings about people," agrees graduate Eric Troyer. "We go around the group and talk about what we have and how fortunate we are. It does something...makes you feel closer to people and to nature." ...

by **DON MCKENZIE**
Wildlife Management Institute

A HARVEST OF FRIENDSHIP

Hunters share with farmers and ranchers the conviction that responsibly using the earth's renewable natural resources is necessary, natural and appropriate.

THE FIRST TIME I saw a "No Hunting" sign, I realized how much hunters depend on farmers and ranchers. The specific reason that particular sign went up isn't really important. But the fact that it did go up, showed that the traditional partnership between hunter and landowner had broken down, probably for no good reason.

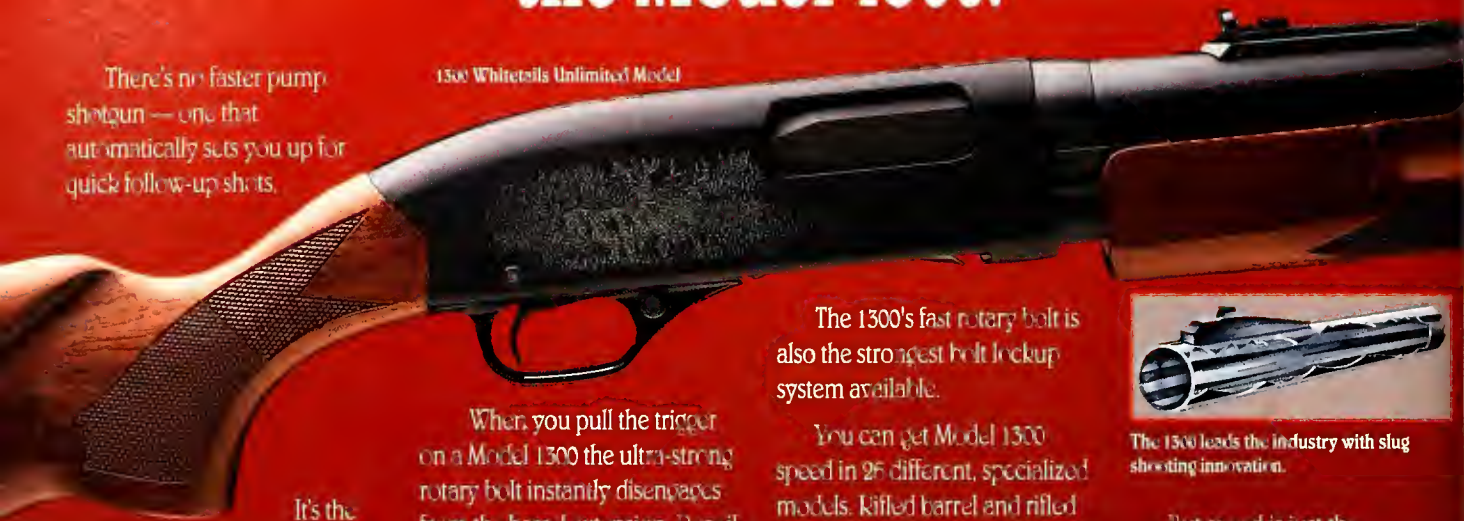
Hunters and farmers share their dependence on the land and their desire to harvest the renewable resources that the land can provide.



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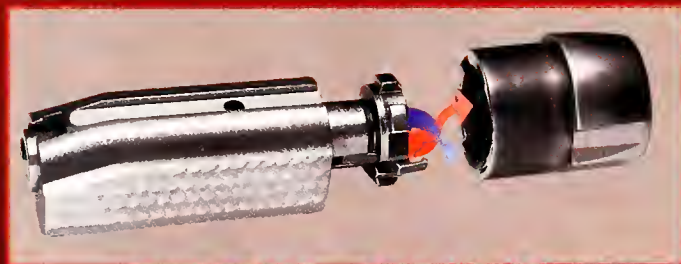
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For decades, hunters have worked hard to improve their relations with rural landowners. Virtually every hunter education program addresses and emphasizes the sanctity of private land ownership and the absolute need for responsible "user" behavior. In most states, it was hunters who initiated programs to report poaching and other game law violations. Hunters also have been behind efforts for better conservation law enforcement and steeper penalties for those who abuse the privilege of hunting, particularly on private lands. And, it was hunters in the 1980s who drafted, pressed for and gained improved legal definitions, laws and regulations pertaining to recreational access and trespass.

Hunters continually reinvest in the land. Money from their purchases of hunting licenses and certain equipment is distributed to states through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act—better known as the Pittman-Robertson or P-R program—for wildlife management programs that benefit both game and non-game species. These

programs include wetland restoration, prescribed burning, shelterbelt planting and a variety of other practices that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and sustain other renewable natural resources. Some of these millions of hunter dollars also go to purchase and administer refuge lands and wildlife management areas which help relieve recreational pressure on private lands in some areas. And in some states, P-R funds also are used for animal damage management, such as crop depredation by wildlife.

Finally, as with most natural resource conservation legislation of the past 100 years, recreational hunters were catalysts and prime movers in developing and refining the conservation provisions in the 1985 and 1990 Farm Acts. These individuals and groups continue to monitor the enforcement of that legislation to assure that the American landscape and agricultural communities are given fair treatment and a square deal.

Probably more than any other group, other than farmers and



ranchers themselves, hunters care about and work to keep, protect and strengthen the culture, traditions and values of rural America. Studies have clearly shown that recreational hunters are more knowledgeable about, sensitive to and supportive of the agricultural economy than any other non-farming segment of the U.S. population.

Hunters appreciate the character and composition of the land and of those who strive and sometimes struggle to exact a living from it. Hunters share with farmers and ranchers the conviction that responsibly using the earth's renewable natural resources is necessary, natural and appropriate for people to survive and achieve a reasonable standard of living. To 18 million people, hunting is one of the most rewarding ways known to achieve direct and meaningful contact with the land that farmers and ranchers maintain daily.

Whether or not farmers and ranchers allow hunting on their lands, hopefully they'll recognize that hunters are on their side. In an ever-more urbanized and specialized society that is continually distancing itself from the land, hunters are an important group that supports the agricultural environment and lifestyle.



A Wildlife Biologist Looks at

HUNTING'S PARTNERSHIP

WITH AGRICULTURE

Unlike the subsistence hunting of yesteryear, recreational hunting today is highly regulated and based on biological principles, sociological situations and management experience.

by **DICK McCABE**
Wildlife Management Institute

SOME PEOPLE can't understand why I hunt. Because I'm a wildlife biologist and an active conservationist they can't imagine how I could go afield in search of wild animals. Not to study them. But to shoot them.

For most of us who hunt, it's an intensely personal experience. Each hunt is an exercise of mind, body and spirit. Each hunt helps us learn about our innate capabilities and inherent limitations and, somehow, to maintain our place in the national order of the world.

This explanation of recreational hunting isn't likely to be understood, much less believed, by non-hunters or by highly opinionated and vocal anti-hunters. To non-hunters, that sort of explanation smacks too much of a "Zen thing" or some other Far East mystical exercise. But it's an honest explanation and the best one I can come up with.



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While there has been much publicity focused on recent efforts to save endangered species, it is gratifying to know that sportsmen-supported conservation efforts have already rescued many species of wildlife from the brink of extinction. These species, now abundant, have come to be known as the "Un-endangered Species."



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Now: Most abundant breeding waterfowl in the eastern U.S.



Wild Turkey

Then: In the early 1900s there were only about 650,000.
Now: Today there are about 4,000,000 wild turkeys.



Elk

Then: In 1907, there were only 41,000 in the U.S.
Now: There are more than 750,000 elk in the U.S.

In part, I believe my feelings about hunting stem from my understanding of hunting's role in wildlife management and hunting's place in our modern society.

In the broadest sense "hunting" is the pursuit of something with the intent to process it. It's what people do to acquire things, circumstances or a state of mind that they don't have or don't have enough of. F Hunting merely describes a process

of search. But the most commonly understood definition of hunting involves the chase of wild animals, with intent to kill them.

People have been hunting wild animals since earliest times. Hunting—along with fishing and gathering—is how people survived for roughly 99.97 percent of human history. In the past, people also hunted for security, religious, cultural and recreational purposes. Hunting is

part of our biological make-up, our history and our tradition.

Up until the last few centuries, it was necessary for most people to hunt wild animals in order to survive. But the growth of population and developments in technology have both made it possible and necessary that food is produced more efficiently. Nowadays, relatively few people—primarily farmers, ranchers and commercial fishermen

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White-tailed Deer

Then: In 1900 it was estimated that there were less than **500,000**.

Now: Today there are over **18,500,000** white-tailed deer.

—do the actual work of feeding all the others. Hunting for wildlife, at least in much of the United States, isn't necessary or practical in terms of providing enough food for people.

But people still hunt—principally as “a vacation from the human condition.” Each year some 18 million Americans choose to face the diverse challenges and unique satisfactions of recreational hunting. Besides the prospect of food and other products from harvested game, every hunt provides us with new experiences in natural surroundings. As much as nearly any other activity where we invest our time and energy, hunting provides excitement, exercise, relaxation, camaraderie and understanding of the environment—all at the same time.

To be sure, killing is part of recreational hunting; it is the unique aspect of hunting. And it's the mere notion of killing that some people find objectionable. They don't understand, however, that a kill is not a requirement of a hunt, for hunting neither begins nor ends with killing. Only the perceived potential for a kill is necessary. In fact, many successful hunts do not result in a kill. Every hunt is successful when the hunter achieves personal satisfaction from the total experience, regardless of whether a kill is made. But that total experience must include anticipation of the possibility of a kill. Otherwise, the activity is something other than hunting.

Unlike the subsistence hunting of yesteryear, recreational hunting today is highly regulated and based on biological principles, sociological situations and management experience. Populations of game species

are carefully monitored, and hunting seasons and bag limits are set to make certain that no game species is over hunted. A wildlife species is not hunted if its populations cannot sustain themselves in the face of all forms of natural mortality such as predation, disease, age and hunting. Of the more than 1,150 species of birds and mammals in North America, only about 145 (12.5 percent) are legal game. To be classified as “game,” a species must possess three characteristics in common: usefulness in providing food, fur or hide; biological capability to survive and thrive under regulated hunting; and its elusiveness or other behavior that provides unique or traditional challenges to hunters.

From a scientist's point of view, individuals of an animal species are much less important than the overall population. Each spring, wildlife populations rise dramatically as the breeding season progresses. Every winter, populations decrease as individuals die in response to seasonal habitat and climate changes. Death of individual creatures is a natural part of nature. The annual increase and decrease of wildlife populations takes place, whether or not the population is hunted.

Recreational hunting provides substantial direct and indirect benefits to the environment. Hunting helps create active conservationists by stimulating interest in the environment. It provides the largest source of reliable funds—about \$600 million each year—and political support for conservation programs, and provides an incentive for protecting and improving 250

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The impact of hunting on the environment is minimal. No wildlife species in the United States has become extinct, endangered or threatened because of regulated hunting. In fact, no game species in the United States is in any danger of extinction.

million acres of wildlife habitat that is privately owned or leased by hunters. Finally, hunting provides a means of protecting certain types of habitat by reducing excessive numbers of some species such as white-tailed deer.

Hunting benefits both our society and our culture. Hunting provides more than 300 million days of recreation annually. Hunters spend about \$14 billion per year for their equipment, supplies and travel and stimulate another \$20 billion in "spin-off" economic activity. More than 380,000 jobs in the U.S. are supported by hunting, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Hunting helps form personal traits and attitudes that benefit both community and family relationships. Recreational hunting strengthens family bonds and friendships. Hunting also encourages a wide variety of year-round related recreational activities, furnishes more than 750 million pounds of wild meat each year, and provides a means of controlling surplus wildlife populations where those populations have adverse affects on people. All told, the benefits of hunting for the environment and society significantly improve the quality of life for hunters and non-hunters alike.

Safety is a major concern of most people and hunters strive to make sure that hunting is one of the safest outdoor recreations. The likelihood of a hunter being injured in a shooting accident while hunting is about one-thirteenth that of a person playing golf having an injury requiring emergency medical treatment. Hunting accidents involving non-hunters are extremely rare—a non-hunter is 20 times more likely

to die from stinging insects than from being wounded by a hunter.

As Americans we can choose whether or not we hunt. But whether or not people hunt, the cycle of nature that includes killing and dying will continue. And as long as there is suitable habitat and harvests are scientifically-regulated, populations of game species will continue to be abundant.

From an ecological point of view, people should use natural resources for the long-term well-being of the environment. To remain acceptable to society, such uses should be conducted in a safe, legal, responsible and ethical manner. This benefits both individuals and society without jeopardizing the natural resources that produce and sustain all life. Recreational hunting clearly meets these criteria.

For a comprehensive explanation of recreational hunting and a discussion of its role in modern wildlife management, a booklet entitled "Placing Hunting in Perspective" is excellent reading. It may be obtained for \$2.75 per copy post-paid from the Wildlife Management Institute, Suite 725, 1101 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.



Hunters On Your Land

The farmer glanced over at the old border collie, marveling at the dog's new full, shiny coat. What a difference from six months ago.

It was six months ago that the farmer had commented to Steve, one of the hunters on the place, about the border collie's loss of hair and the fact that the vet couldn't figure it out.

"Are you feeding him a lot of table scraps?" the hunter asked.

The farmer nodded.

That could be the answer.

"I had the same problem with one of my dogs. Seems too much fat from the table scraps can cause that problem for some dogs. Once I cut out the leftovers, the rash cleared right up."

It proved to be good advice, the farmer recalled.

Granting hunters access to wildlife on your land is a big decision, but knowing that those same sportsmen might be able to return the favor in other ways down the road helps to make the decision easier.

Most sportsmen are more than happy to abide by your rules. In fact, according to a recent survey, 7 out of 10 landowners think hunters respect the landowners property and rules.

Here are some additional points to consider when allowing hunters on your land.

- Discuss in advance where hunters may hunt and point out roadways, neighboring houses or barns to be aware of.

- Let hunters know about any "off-limits" areas where your livestock or those of a neighbor might be grazing.

Most hunters are more than happy to follow your guidelines in exchange for the right to hunt on your property. And you're likely to make some special friends who might be able to return the favor down the road.

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Typically, shooters pay between \$20-65 for a "round" of Sporting Clays consisting of 100 clay targets. For an enterprising landowner, a Sporting Clays course could become a potentially profitable cash crop since ideal terrain for Sporting Clays includes land generally considered non-productive for agricultural purposes. And you can decide in advance how often Sporting Clays can be shot—daily, weekly or twice a month—whenever it is convenient for you.

The amount of land required for Sporting Clays varies, depending on the number and type of shooting stations. A typical course will incorporate between five and 10 stations covering an area of between 40-50 acres, although it's possible to set up a course in a much smaller area, providing safe shooting zones are ensured.

A recently published guide, "Developing New Places To Shoot," offers some insights into shooting range development, from financial assistance to zoning and community support. Copies of this informative booklet are available for \$1.00 each from the National Shooting Sports Foundation, 555 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897-2217.



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Say Goodbye

By Paul Bolstad

• TO THE SNICKER BAR ERA •

On Halloween night, the small village that is my home becomes a freewheeling zone of pumpkin smashing and egg throwing. The local cop cruises the streets in his LTD, trying to catch the teenage marauders with little success. By morning, the carnage of Halloween fills the town. Toilet paper drapes the trees like Spanish Moss, crushed Jack-O-Lanterns form an obstacle course for passing cars, and angry homeowners drag out hoses to wash smashed egg off their houses.

When I was a freshman, Halloween was on a Tuesday, and my friends spent all day at school planning the night's exploits. That afternoon, our English teacher, Mr. Thompson, (whose house is right downtown) gave each of us a candy bar from his cache of treats.

"Happy Halloween," he said, grinning. "Now go to bed early tonight!" We laughed, then burst out of the room with the bell. Everybody knew what the candy bars were for.

The next morning, I stood by my locker at school and listened to stories of my friends. Each one tried to tell the tallest tale of his adventures. One of my friends, John, walked into school with an ear to ear grin. We all knew *he* had a story to tell.

"What's up with you?" one of my friends asked.

"Yeah. Man, what are you grinning about?" another boy pressed.

"Weelll," John said, drawing the word out for effect. "I had one egg left last night, and I just happened to be by Thompson's house and sooo..."

"You didn't!" someone cried.

"Yup," John gloated. "I smacked his house on the side that faces the street with my last Grade A Super Large."

The first bell rang and we rushed off to class. John couldn't tell everyone in his first hour class about his heroic deed, but those who missed it heard it in their second, third and fourth hour classes.

By lunch the story had grown—now John broke windows and used truckloads of rotten eggs. In one evening, he plastered every surface of the house with

a sort of paper mache' of eggs and toilet paper that only a fire truck could hose off.

John's notoriety was at a peak by our eighth hour English class.

"Do you think Thompson knows who did it?" we asked each other.

"He better not find out," John warned.

We walked into Mr. Thompson's class uncertainly. We braced ourselves for anything. John smirked proudly.

Mr. Thompson took roll as we filed in, then put his pen down, pushed his heavy glasses back on his nose, and rose up from his chair.

"Hope you all enjoyed those candy bars I gave you yesterday," he began. "They're the last you're gonna get from me."

His voice grew loud, filling the room. Words exploded from his mouth. Mr. Thompson's temper was legendary, and he gave us its full force.

"This morning at six a.m. I had to clean egg off my house. IT DID NOT PUT ME IN A GOOD MOOD! SAY GOODBYE TO THE SNICKER BAR ERA!"

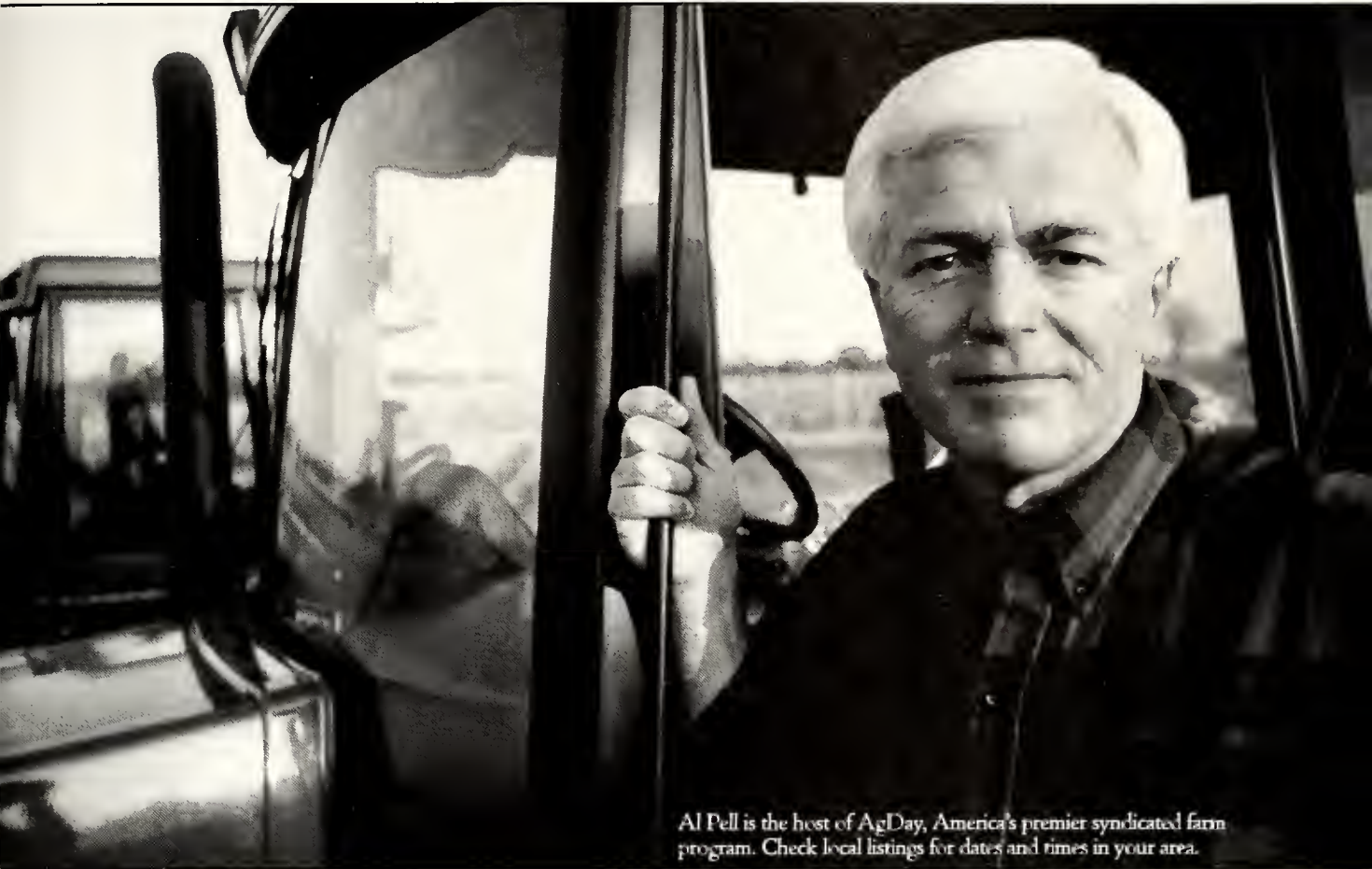
Mr. Thompson's face was crimson. He stood straight up, towering over us. His fury filled the room, making each of us feel responsible for the egg on his house.

Safe in my back row seat, I stole a glance at John. His smirk was gone. It looked like he was melting into his chair. His face was almost as red as our furious teacher. He forced his eyes to focus on the exact center of his desk. He avoided eye contact with everyone.

Mr. Thompson finished yelling at us. He gruffly gave us a long reading assignment, then fumed at his desk while we worked. No one said a word. Each click of the electric clock was painful. When the bell finally rang, John was the first one out the door. The rest of us followed somberly, wishing he had gone to bed early the night before. ...

Author Paul Bolstad is vice president of the North Crawford FFA Chapter in Gays Mills, Wisconsin.

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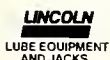
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Don't Forget The Fish/Wildlife Photography Contest

Here's a chance to showcase your photography talents. Just have your favorite fish or wildlife photo in our hands by October 15, 1992. Send your entry to: Fish/Wildlife Photography Contest, FFA New Horizons, 5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160. Also, print your name, age, FFA chapter, school name and home phone number (including area code) on a separate piece of paper and tape it to the back of your color print or slide.

All photos and slides are property of FFA and can't be returned unless you include a self-addressed stamped envelope. First, second and third place winners will get ZEBCO fishing equipment and may even have their entry published in the next issue of FFA New Horizons.

Rules—Three inch by five inch color photos or color slides of fish or wildlife are accepted. One entry per person.

Due Date—Photo or slide must have arrived in our office by October 15, 1992.

FFA

FFA IN ACTION

Meeting Mania

South Carolina, Texas, Virginia
The FFA Food Trap

They say "food is the way to the heart." But from what we've heard from FFA readers, food is also the way to get members to attend chapter meetings.

Jennifer Malek, an officer of the Banquette, Texas, Chapter in Robstown, wrote that her officer team promotes attendance by providing ice cream, punch, or by organizing a social activity after each meeting such as volleyball matches with other student organizations. Members also earn extra points toward an annual FFA trip as a reward for good attendance.

"When we have a chapter meeting, we try to have food and drink. One time we had a cookout," wrote Steve Biller, Jr., Dayton, Virginia.

Lyn Hicks from Lexington, South Carolina, believes in the power of food too. "We usually start the meeting with refreshments some of the members prepare. Sometimes we have hamburgers or deer stew. Frequently we have speakers about topics of interest to lots of members." ...

Nebraska
Busy is Best

To keep members involved, the recreation committee of the Tri-County, Nebraska, Chapter meets monthly with the executive council to plan recreational activities for both before and after FFA events. Last year they had something special after every meeting. Chapter leaders believe this resulted in a 10 percent increase in meeting attendance.

Their list of recreational ideas include a spring dance, a pizza party, a summer barbecue, a summer water fight, a hay ride with Future Business Leaders of America, softball, basketball or volleyball games, auction night, agriculture marketing computer game night, and a scavenger hunt.

The committee also organizes movie nights to show films of national and state conventions. ...

Texas and Arkansas
Across The Border Leadership

Officers from Mansfield, Texas, and Mansfield, Arkansas, trained their new chapter officers together at a leadership camp.

The three days included goal setting sessions, a review of officer duties, practice in parliamentary procedure and rehearsal of opening and closing ceremonies.

Past Texas state president Erica Clark, conducted the camp and spoke at the Tuesday evening banquet. ...

Do You Care?



National FFA President, Lee Thurber

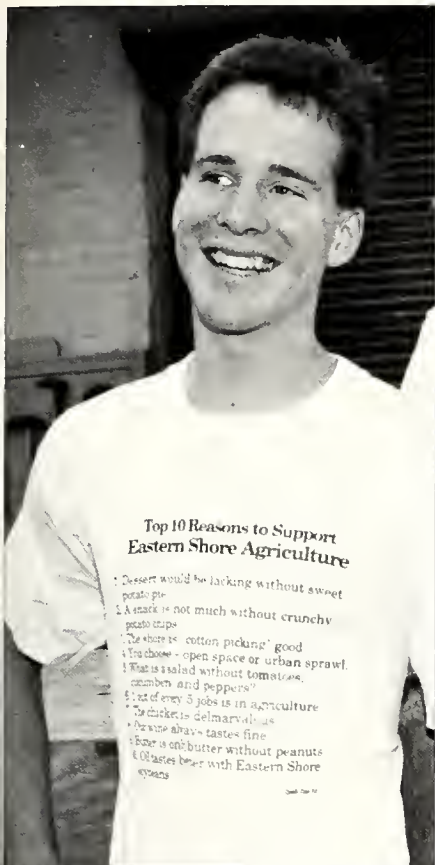
Does your chapter give back to the community during the holiday season in December and January?

A few days after Christmas, Lee Thurber says his chapter in Roca, Nebraska, held a Christmas tree pickup. "People left their Christmas trees for us beside the curb. We would take them to the lake and tie bricks to them. When the ice melted the trees sank to the bottom of the lake for fish food and habitat."

Let us know how you care for your community by sending your holiday ideas to: FFA New Horizons, FFA Giving, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309-0160.

Virginia
**T-Shirt Billboards for
 Agriculture**

What are the top 10 reasons to support Eastern Shore agriculture? For the answer, take a look at the t-shirt North Hampton, Virginia, FFA members are selling.



President Bill Moore models one of the shirts which sell for \$10.

The chapter got the idea from a similar shirt developed by Cornell University for Ag in the Classroom.

The BOAC committee designed the shirt, thought up the slogans, sought bids and selected a local firm to produce their first order of 50. Although a second order is going fast, FFA is basically just recovering costs.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture was so impressed with the chapter's efforts, they named Northampton as the best FFA chapter at promoting agriculture. State Commissioner, Dr. Clinton Turner, presented the award based on the chapter's use of radio, newspaper, television, attending conferences and the distribution of the t-shirt. (John Downing, Advisor)...

(Continued on Page 32)

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FFA IN ACTION

(Continued from Page 31)

Where's Chapter Scoop?

We've combined Chapter Scoop with FFA In Action, but we still want to know what works for your chapter. Now, instead of separating your short notes about events from your more detailed stories, we'll put them both in Action.

Tips For Getting Published

It's much easier for us to pick your chapter for the magazine if we have this information.

- Include your school area code and phone number and a name and number of several students who were involved in your project.

- Get quotes from students. (Make sure to identify who said what.) Ask questions like: What did you like about the activity? What did you accomplish? How did you organize the event? Any tips for other chapters who want to do the same thing? Would you do it again? If yes, why?

- When you're planning an event, figure out what photos you need to take. We're always looking for shots that show action and are in focus. ...



Ohio Full Of Hot Air

The Greenville, Ohio, chapter held a balloon launch with kids in their high school's child care program. ...

Ohio Brain Power Champions



The FFA challenged other school teams and won the trophy for the agriculture department.

After weeks of competition, the FFA team from East Clinton, Ohio, captured the academic challenge at their high school. Teams from the drama club, Future Homemakers of America, honor society, student council, office and library assistants and cheerleaders participated.

Each Wednesday the contestants answered questions from a team of faculty members. The topics dealt with any sub-

jects students would have studied in classes such as Spanish, music, history, math, geography or agriculture.

FFA members Stephen Bosier, Scott Ellis, Frank Swartzel, Kevin Carey, Clayton Morgan, Tricia Flieman, Laura Gall, Holly Bentley and Brad Woodruff received a plaque, t-shirts and movie passes. (Reporter, Laura Gall) ...

Texas Ordering Made Easy

Mansfield, Texas, Chapter offers to pay the shipping charges for members' orders from the FFA catalog. After school starts, chapter leaders send in an order every other Friday in September and October. Getting members to think ahead about their official jacket and other FFA clothing builds pride and improves the image of FFA in the school and community. ...

Nevada Do the Twist

Want to add a new twist to a traditional event? Ruby Mountain, Nevada, FFA organized a "wild sheep showmanship contest" as part of the chapter's invitational livestock show and sale. Eight two-person teams tried to show untrained lambs. Katie Sustacha and Jessica Neff won a trophy sponsored by a local ranch. ...

GET TO KNOW

Michael K. Stevenson



Mike Stevenson

Welcome to Montana. Now go home," Mike Stevenson says jokingly. After his term as national secretary and his years of college are through, Mike says he's heading home to Montana to stay. "The whole

state is very family and spiritually based. The shake of a hand is still the best contract. It's very informal, with a lot of respect for individuals. To me, it's a little piece of heaven nobody else has found yet."

Mike's great grandfather James Robert Stevenson was the first to find paradise in Montana. He homesteaded the original 240 acres the family still lives on today. Since then the ranch has grown to about 12,000 acres with approximately 1,200 head of purebred registered Angus cattle, brood cows and heifers raised each year. "When I was born this operation was hardly anything," says Mike. "We've basically exploded."

Part of this success, he adds, is due to all family members helping. "Working on the ranch when I was growing up was not an option. We always knew there was a swift kick in the butt or a strong hand ready to get you up in the morning."

As a sixth grader Mike learned to artificially inseminate cattle.

"I was proud to work on the family operation," says Mike. He's also proud of his cowboy heritage. And, thanks to his mom, he says, "I make sure to never put my cowboy hat on the bed—that'll give you the blackest luck you'll ever get. I never turn my cowboy hat or boots upside down either because that would let all of the luck run out of them."

Mike never has been much of one to need luck though. He's always worked for his success. "I've got to be going 150 miles an hour or I don't think I'm doing a good job," he says. "Even in high school,

I never considered myself a normal student. When I became a freshman I had too many irons in the fire." Mike was a student representative on the local school board of trustees and student body president, as well as being active in the Methodist youth fellowship, the drama club, 4-H, basketball, track, band and choir.

When he needs a break from his almost constant activity, he usually turns to music. Mike sings, listens to classical and country songs, plays several instruments and even composes his own tunes with a computer. "I started playing the piano in first grade." It's ironic, he adds, that, "It's something I really hated as a child. There are dents in the piano where I've thrown my books at it. Now that I'm older I regret that I didn't spend more time on it."

It's doubtful Mike will ever slow down enough to devote major amounts of hours to practicing the piano. After his national officer term is finished, Mike says he'll probably sleep for 48 hours. When he wakes up it'll be time to look at his options. He'll either go back to school right away or wait for a semester and get his pilot's license or emergency medical technician training first. And, as always, he'll be figuring out new ways to expand the family business. "Even when I'm at home socializing, I'll talk business," he says. "It's interesting to me. I want to return to the operation and keep it growing." ...

- Mike is the second of four brothers, Darrell, 21; Bob, 16 and Jake, 12. His mom, Roberta and dad, Keith, run the ranch.
- After he retires as national FFA secretary Mike plans to attend college with a degree major in business administration and working with an international employer.
- Just for fun, Mike recently bungee jumped 182 feet down, head-first. Some day he also hopes to go scuba diving and hang gliding.



This is 12-year-old Mike with Victoria. She's just been named Grand Champion at the Billings Exposition in Billings, Montana.

J O K E P A G E

Q: If the Marines were playing basketball and they fouled out, who would they put in?

A: The submarines.

*Crissy Morton
Stanton, Kentucky*



WAITER: "I have boiled tongues, fried liver and pig's feet."

CUSTOMER: "I'm not interested in your medical problems. Just bring me a cheese sandwich and coffee."

*Kemy Gilchrist
Waterloo, Alabama*

Q: Why does a chicken coupe only have two doors?

A: Because if it had four doors it would be a chicken SEDAN!

*Sam Tincher
Lewis, Indiana*

Q: What do you call a bad horse ride?

A: A nightmare.

*Ronnie Lewis
Rocky Mount, North Carolina*

A minister whose parish was in a dairy farming community decided to base his Sunday sermon on something everyone should relate to—speaking on the topic, "Our need to give and receive the milk of human kindness."

He became quite winded and preached longer than usual.

After the service, one farmer said to him, "I enjoyed your sermon. But it would have been better if the milk had been condensed."

*Carolyn Stewart
Collinsville, Oklahoma*

Q: Why did the chicken cross the playground?

A: So he could get to the other slide.

*Josh Rath
Hatfield, Arkansas*

Charlie, the Greenhand



"I made a few adjustments...now the faster you go the louder the radio plays!"

After studying for my driver's license oral exam, given at the police station, I went into the testing room and gave my forms to the officer. He proceeded to fire questions at me about various driving regulations and rules.

Then suddenly he looked up and asked, "What does 'E' stand for?"

I panicked. I couldn't remember a sign with the letter 'E' on it, and I meekly answered, "I'm sorry. I don't know. What is it?"

The officer raised his eyebrows and said, "I don't know. It says on this form that 'E' is your middle initial."

*Tina Terwilliger
Oxford, North Carolina*

Q: If you were walking down the street and smashed your toe, what would you do?

A. Call a tow truck.

*Jennifer Cowan
Ralston, Oklahoma*

NOTICE:

FFA NEW HORIZONS will pay \$5.00 for each joke selected for this page. Jokes must be addressed to FFA NEW HORIZONS, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309, or via Stargram on the Ag Ed Network to FF100A. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

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