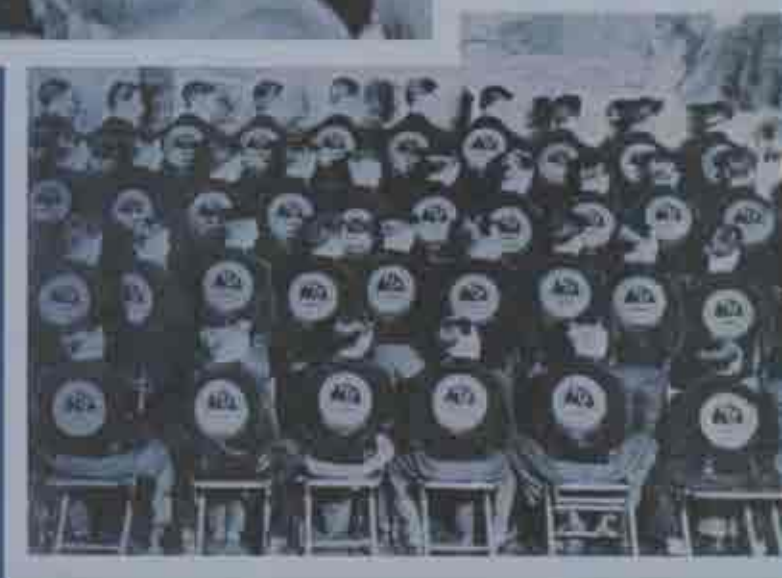
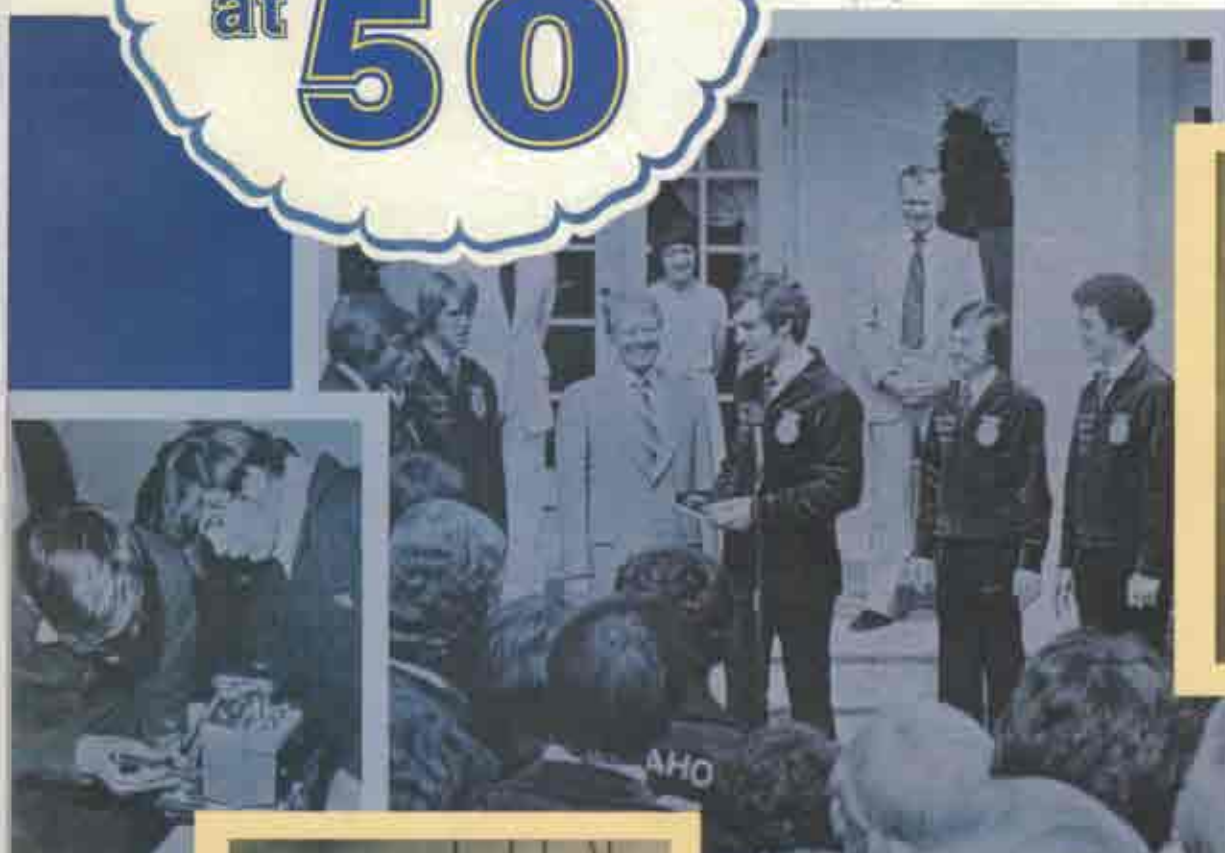




A GOLDEN PAST
A BRIGHTER FUTURE





by Dr. A. Webster Tenney

1928-1978

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Introduction

"FFA At 25" was written at the close of the first quarter century of the FFA. "The FFA At 50—A Golden Past—A Brighter Future" has been written because of the nationwide demand for a record of the development, growth and achievement of the Future Farmers of America during its first 50 years.

The manuscript was written by Dr. A. Webster Tenney, FFA chapter advisor in Florida 1930-1935; National Executive Secretary of the FFA 1943-1957 and National FFA Advisor 1961-1965. Dr. Tenney has drawn freely from his many years of service to the FFA in the preparation of this significant history. "The FFA At 50" contains the dynamic accomplishments of FFA members as they worked constructively under the guidance of chapter advisors, state advisors, teacher educators and national leaders.

H. N. Hunsicker
National Advisor
Future Farmers of America

The Author's Foreword

When I was invited by the National Board of Directors of the Future Farmers of America to write a history of the first 50 years of the organization I accepted and considered it a special privilege to share in this important assignment. I requested that local chapters, state associations, officers, local, state and national leaders and friends of the FFA be invited to submit ideas and materials for the history. The response to this request has been most gratifying.

The "FFA At 25" was written by the late John Farrar who, as Director of Public Relations and Information for the national FFA organization, recorded the development, growth and achievements of the Future Farmers of America during its first 25 years. The history of the first 25 years of the FFA is truly a record of high achievement. It serves as a firm foundation for the writing of the history of the first 50 years of the FFA. Effort has been made to include in this new history much of the information and color found in "FFA At 25."

Some readers may comment that the author is prejudiced in favor of the FFA. After serving for six years as a local chapter advisor, eight years helping direct the Florida FFA Association, 16 years as National Executive Secretary and four years as National Advisor of the FFA I admit with pride to being prejudiced. Any person who reviews the record of achievement of the Future Farmers of America will agree that it is a great organization.

It has been a formidable task to review an enormous amount of excellent publications, unpublished materials and other timely information about the achievements of the FFA. Selection has been made of those achievements and events which relate to the development of the organization. It has been necessary to leave out many stories that could be told about the accomplishments of members, chapters and state associations. The achievements of the organization each year have been so great that many volumes could be written about the various activities. Fortunately many state associations and local chapters are writing histories of their accomplishments. It was necessary to limit the length of the publication so it can be made available to members and friends throughout the world.

During the past 50 years many changes have been made in the agencies of government on the national,

state and local levels which have administered and sponsored the Future Farmers of America. Vocational education was, in the early days, administered by the Federal Board for Vocational Education. When the FFA was organized in 1928, the Agricultural Education Service under the Federal Board sponsored FFA on the national level. Later the vocational education programs were moved to the Office of Education in the Department of the Interior. Some time after that the Office of Education was transferred to the Federal Security Agency, and still later, that agency was made the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Through all those moves, the Agricultural Education Service retained its identity until the word "Service" was changed to "Branch." In a major reorganization the Agricultural Education Branch was abolished and its responsibilities were assigned to new branches which were formed. The Chief of the Branch became a Specialist in Agricultural Education. Many similar changes have been made in the states in the administration of the Future Farmers of America.

There have been many changes in the names of the boards that have administered the Future Farmers of America organization. At first, the national governing board of the FFA was the Board of Trustees, composed of the six national youth officers, the national advisor, the executive secretary and the treasurer. Then there was added the Advisory Council. This was a group of four state supervisors of vocational agriculture, elected by their fellow supervisors at annual regional conferences. This group, with the national advisor as chairman, was given the power of approval over actions of the Board of Trustees and convention delegates. Power of approval, incidentally, was just a nice way of saying final power.

Still later, the four regional agents of the Agricultural Education Service were added to the Advisory Council, and there was a period during which they were called regional advisors. The immediate past national president of the FFA also served on the Advisory Council.

When the FFA received its federal charter of incorporation in 1950, a Board of Directors, similar to the old Advisory Council was spelled out very plainly as "the governing body of the corporation."

There also was created a Board of Student Officers

composed entirely of the six national youth officers. Their duty was to "advise and make recommendations to the Board of Directors."

Through the years the student officers and the adult members of the Advisory Council or the Board of Directors have worked together effectively and harmoniously. They have usually met together, with everybody free to participate in the discussions. The youth officers express their opinions and make recommendations to the Board, which are usually accepted.

The history of the Future Farmers of America organization is a thrilling story of achievement of youth under the guidance of dedicated and capable teachers of vocational agriculture. These instructors were given encouragement, instruction and assistance by supervisors and teacher educators. The Future Farmers of America is an important part of the program of vocational education in agriculture.

This history is dedicated to the vocational agriculture instructors of the nation, whose efforts have been largely responsible for the achievements of the FFA members. Fortunately some instructors have been associated with the FFA since it was founded in 1928. Many were members prior to becoming instructors. They have motivated and guided their students to become members and participate in the challenging activities of the FFA.

The accomplishments of state associations and the national organization of FFA have been, in the long run, the result of work in local chapters. The foundation of the FFA is in the school, the home and the community. Activities of the local chapter are performed by the student members under the guidance and leadership of the vocational agriculture instructor.

Their creed presents the spirit in which the teachers serve as advisors of local FFA chapters:

"I am a teacher of vocational agriculture by choice and not by chance.

"I believe in rural America; I dedicate my life to its development and the advancement of its people.

"I will strive to set before my students by my deeds and actions the highest standards of citizenship for the community, state and nation.

"I will endeavor to develop professionally through study, travel and exploration.

"I will not knowingly wrong my fellow teacher. I will defend him as far as honesty will permit.

"I will work for the advancement of vocational agriculture and I will defend it in my community, state and nation.

"I realize that I am part of the public school system. I will work in harmony with school authorities and other teachers of the school.

"My love for youth will spur me on to impart something from my life that will help make for each of my students a full and happy future."

Credit should be given to those who have assisted with the preparation of this history. The regional agents of the Agricultural Education Service during the early years of the vocational agriculture program were most helpful by doing such a thorough job of recording the proceedings of their conferences. The persons who so carefully compiled and preserved a file entitled, "Old American Royal and Dairy Show Material," must be thanked for much information about the early days of the FFA which was gleaned from these sources.

Another good source of information was the History of Agricultural Education of Less Than College Grade in the United States, compiled in 1942 by the late Frank W. Lathrop and the late Rufus W. Stimson, from materials sent to them by workers in vocational agricultural education throughout the United States. Much of the information contained in this history was taken from the proceedings of the national FFA conventions, and minutes of various official meetings, all carefully compiled and preserved by the men who served as national executive secretary of the FFA. Much valuable historical information was found in taped interviews with state and national leaders who shared in or observed the early development of the FFA. These tapes and other valuable historical materials which are kept in the archives of the organization were used freely in the preparation of this document.

The staff members in the National FFA Center have been most helpful in planning and providing materials for the history. They also reviewed the manuscript and offered suggestions for improvement. The Board of Student Officers and the Board of Directors have rendered invaluable back up support. And finally, a vote of appreciation to Mr. H. N. Hunsicker, National Advisor of the FFA, for his guidance and assistance in the preparation of this history and for inviting me to share in this challenging task . . . A. Webster Tenney

The FFA at 50

What it is . . . How it works

The FFA today is one of the most effective youth organizations in the world. At 50 it is like the youth who belong; active, confident—and yet still far short of the attainment of their ultimate possibilities.

In its Golden Anniversary year the FFA was active in 8072 local high school chapters located throughout 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. An active membership of nearly 510,000 youth preparing for careers in agriculture and agribusiness attested to its popularity. Members who were preparing to become farmers were studying agriculture and investing in their chosen occupation while those who were preparing for employment in agribusiness were working and earning as they studied to prepare for permanent employment. They are excellent examples of capable, ambitious and industrious youth who have entered the business of farming and agribusiness while they are enrolled in school.

More than 20,000 members and guests were expected at the fiftieth National FFA Convention in November 1977 and it was anticipated that 25,000 would be present for the Golden Anniversary Convention in 1978. This was the second major anniversary of the FFA. The first was the Silver Anniversary Convention, which was held in October 1953. At that time the Post Office Department issued a three-cent postage stamp in commemoration of the FFA's 25th year; the President of the United States and two of his cabinet members were speakers at the convention. It is expected that the Golden Anniversary Convention will be the greatest in the history of the FFA.

For many years the FFA has received strong support from state and national officials in the United States. Similar organizations are being developed by other nations throughout the world.

FFA is the national organization of, by, and for youth who are studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools which operate under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. It is an educational, non-profit, non-political organization of students designed to develop agricultural leadership, character, thrift, scholarship, cooperation, citizenship and patriotism.

Youth must be enrolled in vocational agriculture to be eligible for membership. They may retain their membership for three years following their graduation from high

school, or until they become 21 years of age.

The FFA is sponsored by the Agricultural Education Staff in the Office of Education, United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, in cooperation with the various state boards for vocational education and local high school departments of vocational agriculture. National headquarters is maintained near Mount Vernon at Alexandria, Virginia.

Under a charter of incorporation granted by Act of Congress in 1950 (Public Law 740, 81st Congress), a Board of Student Officers of six members is elected each year by the national convention delegates. They include the president, secretary and four vice-presidents, one to represent each of the organization's four administrative regions.

There is an adult Board of Directors composed of five members of the agricultural education staffs in the national and regional offices of the Office of Education, and four state supervisors of agricultural education who are elected by their fellow state supervisors in regional conferences.

In conducting business of the organization, the Board of National Student Officers usually meets two or three days before the Board of Directors to prepare recommendations to the adult board. They then join the adult board and participate in discussions. When new business arises they submit their recommendations. Questions on policy frequently are referred to the delegate body at the national convention, or are resolved through polls of the state associations. Although the FFA constitution gives the Board of Directors final authority, action taken usually represents the recommendations of the Board of National Student Officers. Essentially, the business of the organization is run by youth under adult guidance.

The National Officers and Board of Directors ordinarily meet three times during the year—in late January and in July at or near the National FFA Center, and in November at Kansas City just before the national convention. During the interim, the boards leave authority to conduct business with a governing committee composed of the National Advisor and two members of the agricultural education staff.

The FFA Charter provides that the Chief of Agricultural Education in the Office of Education shall be the National



Learning basic carpentry skills was an important part of early agricultural mechanics instruction.

Advisor, and that a member of that staff shall serve as Executive Secretary.

Each local chapter, and each state association of FFA, elects its own officers each year. In local chapter meetings, usually held once or twice a month, all active members may vote. State conventions are held once each year, and ordinarily two official delegates from each chapter comprise the voting body. In the annual national conventions the official delegate body is composed of representatives from each state association, usually headed by the state president.

In all cases, the teacher of vocational agriculture is the advisor of the local chapter, and the state supervisor of agricultural education is the advisor of the state association.

FFA members engage in a variety of activities. Through their participation members learn how to take part in meetings, follow parliamentary procedure, speak in public, and cooperate with their fellow students in programs for individual and community betterment. Each FFA Chapter develops and follows an annual program of

activities. Each member shares in planning the program and participates in its execution. Local chapters sponsor recreational activities; conduct scrap drives, safety campaigns, home improvement programs, hold parent and member banquets and engage in almost any kind of constructive activity that the mind of youth can conceive and the energy of youth can carry to fulfillment.

Many FFA activities are designed to encourage youth to do more and better work in vocational agriculture. Advancement through degrees in the organization from Greenhand through Chapter Farmer, State Farmer, and American Farmer is based largely on achievement in farming. Similar degrees are offered for those who are preparing for employment in agribusiness. Awards offered through the FFA for outstanding achievement in such fields as agricultural mechanics, electrification, soil and water management, dairy production, safety and for experiences and achievements made while employed in agribusiness occupations, stimulate increased effort by students. Chapters operate pig and calf chains and school land laboratories to help students get started. They



The Pledge of Allegiance is part of the closing ceremonies of every FFA chapter meeting.

pool their funds to purchase improved breeding stock, to make quantity purchase of seeds, fertilizers, nursery plants and other supplies.

Chapter members take part in many judging contests which build interest in learning how to select quality livestock, poultry and plants. Fairs and livestock shows are held to build enthusiasm for raising top quality products. Many chapters own one or more high quality sires for use of members and others in the community in improving the quality of their livestock. Chapters located in urban areas help provide greenhouses, potting sheds, nurseries and facilities for producing and arranging flowers for use by students who are preparing for careers in agribusiness. FFA members are active in horticultural societies, dairy herd improvement associations, farm organizations and other organizations working for the improvement of agriculture and agribusiness.

Business and industrial firms, other organizations, and interested individuals give strong support to vocational agriculture and the FFA. The Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc., which budgets nearly a million dollars



Through chapter activities FFA members learn to apply the lessons taught in vocational agriculture classes.

annually for awards, is supported by annual cash contributions from some 1,500 sponsors.

The foundation sponsors a wide variety of awards for FFA members. Best known of these awards are the Star Farmer of America and the Star Agribusinessman of America. During the selection of winners of the various awards made possible by the National FFA Foundation consideration is given to accomplishments in agriculture or agribusiness, leadership, cooperation and citizenship.

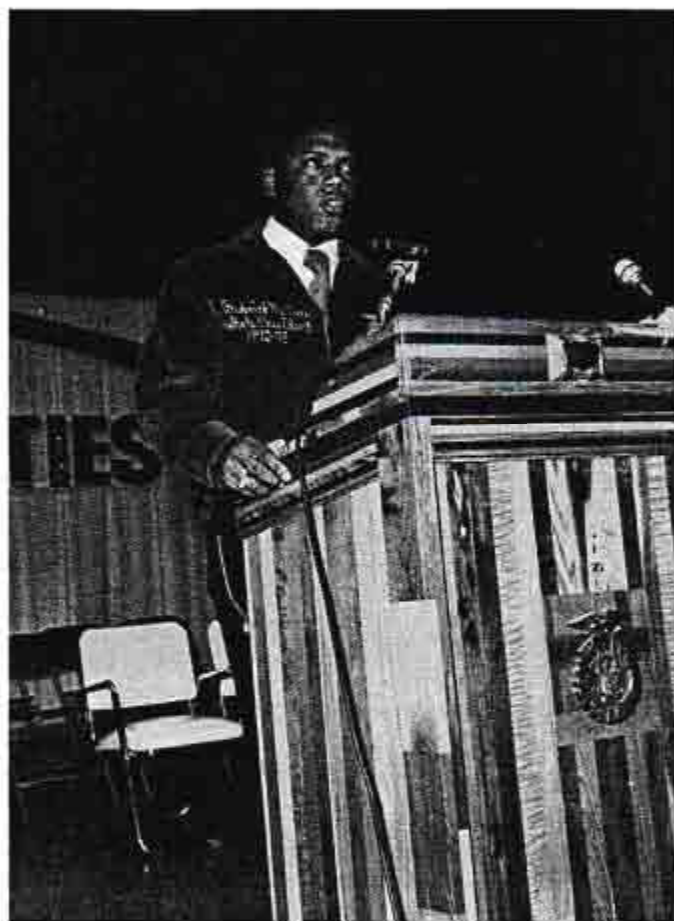
The FFA publishes a bi-monthly magazine, *The National Future Farmer*, which is mailed to the homes of all of the members, many former members and to many friends of the FFA. In 1977 more than 500,000 copies of each issue were printed and distributed. The organization also operates the National FFA Supply Service, providing mail order sales for merchandise bearing the FFA emblem. The FFA sponsors official calendars which are distributed through local FFA chapters and state associations. The national FFA contests and award programs are administered through the National FFA Center. For many years the national organization has employed staff to provide information to the public about the activities and achievements of the FFA.

The National FFA Center is located on 36 acres of land south of Alexandria, Virginia, and near Mount Vernon. The Center houses the program staff, the National FFA Supply Service, FFA Alumni headquarters and *The National Future Farmer* magazine. The FFA owns and operates the National FFA Center.

The organization has operated in the black since its first year. The FFA employs over 100 persons to work on the program staff, publish the magazine and work for the National FFA Supply Service and Alumni Association.

Income, in addition to that provided by annual dues of \$1.50 per member comes from modest profits of the National FFA Supply Service and the sale of advertising in *The National Future Farmer* magazine and the sale of official FFA calendars.

National student officers of the FFA spend one year almost full time working for the FFA organization. The National Officers are on the road an average of 250-300 days of the year and travel thousands of miles to make major appearances before audiences of FFA members or other groups as well as news media. Travel



FFA public speaking contest activities help members gain self-confidence in their ability to communicate in public and work with people.

expenses of the officers are paid by the organization and at the end of their year in office each of the six officers is presented a scholarship in recognition for their service to the FFA organization. The national officers help conduct the business of the FFA, visit state association conventions, visit many local chapters, tell the story of FFA to many groups throughout the nation, visit other nations in the interest of FFA and help conduct national, state and local leadership training conferences. Each year the officers visit many of the sponsors of the National FFA Foundation.



Ornamental horticulture is one of many occupational opportunities open to vocational agriculture/agribusiness students. This school nursery is a laboratory providing opportunities for students to "learn by doing."

The FFA organization conducts an active international program. Support is given to youth organizations patterned after the FFA which have been organized in other nations. Youth exchange programs are conducted and tours are arranged so that members may have the opportunity to visit communities and observe agricultural programs in other nations. The FFA also assists youth from other nations by planning tours or arranging work placements for them in the United States.

At the request of former FFA members who wished to continue to support the organization and keep informed about its activities and achievements the FFA Alumni organization was launched in 1971 and now has a membership of 15,000.

One of the major objectives of the FFA is to provide training in leadership. Most of the training is given on the local level. State associations sponsor leadership training programs for chapters. Likewise the national organization provides leadership training programs in Washington for chapter and state officers each year.

The FFA at 50 is a vigorous organization that is doing much to educate students enrolled in vocational agriculture classes and provides for them many opportunities to participate in worthwhile programs which are designed to motivate youth to higher attainment, improve agriculture and lead to richer lives in their homes and communities.



On-the-farm experience helps this FFA member learn the practical side of poultry farming.

The Development of FFA

On November 20, 1928, a small group of 33 vocational agriculture students, their advisors, state leaders in agricultural education and representatives of the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education met for an historic session in the old Baltimore Hotel at Kansas City, Missouri.

They were part of the total group of more than 1,500 vocational agriculture students who were in Kansas City for the third annual National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students. Their meeting became the first national convention of the Future Farmers of America.

The organization that was launched on that occasion was destined to become one of the nation's great forces toward the development of citizenship, leadership, the improvement of agriculture, community service, the development of pride in agricultural occupations and the utilization of groups of students through the FFA to work for the improvement of rural communities and the nation.

The meeting was not hastily called. The Future Farmers of America organization was the outgrowth of many years of constructive work. More than two full years of intensive effort by many leaders throughout the nation had helped overcome difficulties and develop plans which were presented for action at the national meeting.

Early Developments that Led to the FFA

The real story of FFA goes back much farther than 1928. FFA is tied directly to vocational education in agriculture in the public secondary schools in the nation. Vocational education is one of the earliest forms of education, dating to the early periods of history when young men served as apprentices to masters as a means of learning a trade. Apprentices learned by doing, but it



In 1921 this class of vocational agriculture students was "learning by doing" in a meat cutting laboratory.

was a slow process, and offered little hope that the student might someday be better than his teacher. There was need for a better way to prepare youth for careers in agriculture.

The writings of early American leaders show that many of them were concerned with the need for a system to provide education and training in agriculture. George Washington, one of the best technically educated Americans of his day, had gained most of his knowledge about farming by experimentation and through correspondence with agriculturists in England. Washington frequently urged the establishment of a "Board of Agriculture" in America.

Leaders in agriculture were concerned about their problems and by themselves were unable to find satisfactory answers. Agricultural societies, the forerunners of our present farm organizations, were organized for the promotion of agriculture, beginning about 1785. The societies helped establish educational fairs and exhibitions, which helped spread information about agriculture. The first such fairs in America were held during the early 1800's.

Even in those days, some of the societies sought to have agriculture taught in the public schools, but with little success. The Agricultural Society of South Carolina, which was founded in 1785, started an agricultural school for poor boys and girls in 1796. The Gardiner Lyceum School was organized at Gardiner, Maine, in 1823, to offer instruction in those branches which, "are calculated to make scientific farmers and skilled mechanics." The school was financed from private and state funds. Progress in establishing educational programs in agriculture at that time was slow. The citizens of the early 19th century were more interested in pushing the boundaries of the nation westward than in conserving and improving the production of the land they had cleared.

Almost three quarters of a century after George Washington first proposed the idea, an act of Congress in 1862 established the Department of Agriculture. The chief officer was called Commissioner of Agriculture, and it was not until 1889 that the Department became an independent branch of the government and its head, or secretary, a member of the President's Cabinet.

The Morrill Act was signed by President Lincoln in

1862. It provided for the support and maintenance of state colleges devoted to agricultural and mechanical arts to "promote the liberal and practical education of industrial classes in the several pursuits of professions of life." The Act was the keystone in the development of some 60 institutions of higher education which induced major redirections in the pattern of American education.

During the last half of the 19th century, there were people trained in the sciences of agriculture; not many, it is true, but enough to grasp the vision of great things in store for the nation when their knowledge could be shared by all farmers.

Once again the move came to introduce the study of agriculture in the public schools. In 1873 the National Grange, an organization of farmers, advocated that practical agriculture and domestic science be taught in the rural schools. Many states soon required that youth take a course in agriculture in school, usually in the seventh or eighth grade. Colleges established short courses and farmer's institutes in an attempt to carry their work directly to the farmer.

Perhaps the closest approach of any of these to the vocational agriculture training we know today was the handful of special agricultural schools where students received classroom instruction plus the benefit of experience working on the school farms.

In 1880, Booker T. Washington established agricultural teaching for Negro boys in his little one-room school at Tuskegee, Alabama. Friends bought a 100 acre farm for the school to give the students a chance to pay part of their expenses and at the same time to obtain intelligent training in the best methods of farming.

This was a period of discouragement for farm youth. They were migrating from farms to cities in droves. Public leaders became concerned about the effect of this movement on rural life. Theodore Roosevelt appointed the Country Life Commission which urged that steps be taken to help rural boys and girls understand and appreciate the opportunities for happy and successful lives on farms.

State and Federal Legislation for Education in Agriculture

A state bill passed in 1889 established Congressional District Agricultural Schools in Alabama. A similar movement was going on throughout the country. At the turn of the century, farm boys in many areas were able to get training in agriculture from schools of less than college grade. Several states took legislative action to add departments of vocational agriculture to their high school curriculums in the early 1900's. Some of these courses were largely "academic" or "book" agriculture. Others went "overboard" in the other direction, basing the instruction almost entirely on practical farm work, usually on farms maintained by the schools. By 1916 agricultural training was offered in more than 3,000 high schools.

There was disagreement among educators. Some advocated special agricultural schools for boys. Others wanted to teach agriculture as a part of the regular high school curriculum. Gradually a system evolved combining classroom instruction with farming projects conducted by the students on the home farm or at the school. It was learned that students needed to be taught agricultural mechanics to enable them to cope with the technical changes that were taking place in farming. This led to the development of school shops which were used to teach essential mechanical skills to farm youth and prepare them to use and maintain the equipment and machines on the farm. Instruction in agriculture became one of "learning to do, doing to learn." When students conducted their farming programs at home and were permitted to keep the profits of their work a third aspect, "earning to live," was added.

Education in agriculture received strong support from agricultural experiment stations which were made possible by the passage of the Hatch Act by Congress in 1887. The experiment stations provided information on agriculture and promoted public high school instruction in agriculture.

Massachusetts, followed by other states, established, in 1914, a state system of public vocational education, including instruction in agriculture.

The Commission on National Aid to Vocational Education was created by an Act of Congress in 1914 and reported that:

"There is a great and crying need for providing vocational education of this character for every part of the United States—to conserve and develop our resources; to promote a more productive and prosperous agriculture. . . ."

Congress, in its continuing effort to help farmers improve their methods, passed the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, establishing the Agricultural Extension Service. The extension program helped distribute agricultural knowledge from the colleges and experiment stations to the local communities. It developed new local interest in improved methods, and it dealt with special problems of the farm and rural community. Still lacking, though, was a program of systematic courses of instruction in agriculture for the great masses of farmers and their children.

That program came in 1917 with the passage of a congressional act sponsored by Senator Hoke Smith and Representative Dudley Hughes, both of Georgia. The Smith-Hughes Act provided for the administration of vocational education programs by a Federal Board for Vocational Education. States at the same time formed state boards for vocational education to administer the programs on the state level.

The Smith-Hughes Act provided for the establishment of programs of education in agriculture for students in high school, for out-of-school young farmers and for



Sen. Dudley M. Hughes, co-author of the Smith-Hughes Act.



Senator Hoke Smith,
co-author of the
Smith-Hughes Act.

adult farmers. The major purpose of the instruction was to improve their efficiency in farming.

The Act provided federal funds to the states, on a fifty-fifty matching basis, for the promotion of a program of vocational education in the high schools. The Act recognized the pioneering work that had been done in the field of agriculture, and specified that students of vocational agriculture, in addition to their studies in school, must have in operation a program of supervised practice for at least six months of the year.

The plan of the Smith-Hughes Act might be simply stated like this: The federal government said to the states: "You develop a program of vocational education in your high schools and we'll pay half the cost, provided you first submit plans for your program that meet our approval."

The state boards then repeated the offer to the local communities, so that in the early days a vocational agriculture teacher's salary was paid about one-third each from local, state and federal funds. As the local program has expanded over the years since 1917, there have been gradual increases in the proportion of local funds spent for vocational education to the point that the local communities now pay about half the cost, the states about one third, with the remainder coming from the federal government.

Prior to 1917, 23 states made grants in aid to high schools for the teaching of agriculture. In addition, agriculture was taught in some high schools in 16 other states. The programs of education in agriculture varied so

much in nature and in quality that the states adopted quickly the provisions of the Smith-Hughes Act. A program of systematic instruction in vocational agriculture spread throughout the nation in just a few years. Only 14 states had some type of program that might be called vocational agriculture in 1917, but under the influence of the Smith-Hughes Act, 48 states offered such courses in 1922.

The Smith-Hughes Act had a strong impact upon education in agriculture throughout the nation for many years. Students were frequently called "Smith-Hughes boys." This term was gradually replaced first by "vo-ag student," then by "Future Farmer" and later by "agricultural" or "agribusiness student."



On February 23, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Hughes Act, which provided funds for a nationwide program of vocational education in agriculture.



One of the first FFA chapters was organized at Weyers Cave, Virginia. The Chapter's Charter is now on display at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

Organizations of Youth in Agriculture

When farm youth first enrolled in courses in agriculture they felt a spirit of unity and common purpose because of their rural background and interest in farming as a vocation. It was only natural, therefore, for student organizations to be developed. Records are incomplete concerning organizations of agriculture students in those early schools. The Agricola Club of Ypsilanti, Michigan, an organization of high school agricultural students, with a motto of, "Learn by Doing," was founded in 1915 by their teacher, B. A. Walpole.

Walpole's idea spread to other Michigan schools and by 1917 there was a state association of clubs known as The Michigan High School Agricultural Association. Their motto was similar to Agricola: "I Learn To Do By

Doing." When the Michigan organization voted to become affiliated with the Future Farmers of America in May 1929, it had more than 100 local chapters.

Illinois is reported to have had agricultural clubs organized in some of their high schools as early as 1912.

The development of Smith-Hughes courses in vocational agriculture had great influence on the expansion of youth clubs in agriculture. When the first organization of these students was formed is unknown.

Many states reported early clubs of vocational agriculture students, going under a wide variety of names. Maryland had at least one in 1919 at Middleton. A Maine group known as Young Farmers Association of Presque Isle, was organized in 1918 for cooperative activities.

New York had the Endicott Young Farmers Club, organized by Stephen O. Salmon in 1920. In Georgia, departments of vocational agriculture were holding father-son banquets in 1920. The earliest known activity of this kind was at the Winterville High School.

Agricultural service clubs had been organized in many high schools in Iowa. The members used a regular ritual for their meetings, participated in judging contests and took part in many community service activities. "Living to Serve" was finding its place in vocational agriculture.

In 1919 Henry Groseclose, who later became one of the great FFA leaders, used his students at Buckingham High School, Virginia, to make a survey of agricultural practices and production on 100 neighboring farms.

Students at the Rich Square School in North Carolina organized in 1920 to remodel an old barn to make a farm shop for the school, an activity that became common in later years as boys donated their labor to help build school facilities which were badly needed by expanding vocational agriculture classes.

H. C. Groseclose
of Virginia, National
FFA Executive Sec-
retary and National
FFA Treasurer 1928
to 1941.



As the agricultural clubs increased in number they also expanded their services to youth, the local community and agriculture. Georgia reported in 1920-21, "The work in Georgia has been significant in the following lines: The teachers have organized a large number of community fairs; one school has developed a cooperative marketing association, another has placed 55 pigs for a local bank on an endless chain plan." These activities were continued as popular features of local FFA programs.

Leaders in the Southern Region encouraged the expansion of activities by youth enrolled in vocational agriculture classes. At the 1921 Southern Regional Conference for Workers in Agricultural Education, project tours, father and son banquets and contests were encouraged to promote education and interest in agricultural education. A regional livestock judging contest held in November 1921, had student participants from seven states.

As the youth organizations of vocational agriculture students grew in numbers there was also a gradual development of clear-cut objectives for these clubs. At first these objectives varied widely. Teachers used them to

promote interest in agriculture and to help develop the vocational agriculture program. Social and recreational activities were popular and it was soon learned that youth could be given valuable leadership training through participation in club activities which would help prepare them to take an active role in adult farm organizations. There were also many opportunities for the members to take part in cooperative activities.

Undoubtedly, the movement received a boost because most farm boys, having chores to do at home, were unable to participate in many of the regular school sports and other activities. By having an organization of their own they could plan activities to fit their own needs and schedules.

In 1922, L. D. Clements, vocational agriculture teacher at Beatrice, Nebraska, assisted the students in forming the Junior Farmers Association and prepared the following purposes for the club:

1. To develop rural leadership and citizenship.
2. To bring together graduates and students of the agriculture department.
3. To develop a spirit of cooperation among young farmers.
4. To promote scientific and up to date agricultural methods in the community.
5. To promote athletics as a rural social activity.
6. To develop a more desirable social attitude among rural people.
7. To sponsor the annual Gage County Fair.
8. To cooperate with adult farm organizations and civic clubs.

A report from New York by W. J. Weaver indicated that young farmer clubs had been established in New York in 1921 and that an Association of Young Farmers Clubs of New York was formed in 1926 with the following primary objectives:

1. To teach boys to work together.
2. To train leaders and followers.
3. To effect economic savings and develop service attitudes.
4. To serve the social interests of farm boys.

5. To cement interest in the agricultural department.
6. To lead boys into farm organizations.

It is interesting to note that many of the objectives of the FFA are found in the two lists of purposes presented here.

A report from Delaware, made in 1926 by R. W. Heim, told of the promotion of the organization of vocational agriculture clubs "to foster increased interest in farming and in related social activities."

The formation of state associations of vocational agriculture students was a logical outgrowth of strong local clubs. Michigan and Illinois had developed effective state associations before 1917. Many years before the FFA was organized, Illinois was honoring outstanding students of agriculture at state meetings by designating them Master Farmers. Many other states began the formation of state associations of clubs before the FFA started.

New Jersey, under the leadership of State Supervisor H. O. Sampson, established the Young Farmers Organization of New Jersey in 1923. The chief objectives of the organization were:

1. To promote vocational agriculture in New Jersey.
2. To train members for future participation in farmer's organizations.
3. To promote the social activities of the organization at the annual meeting.

It is interesting to note that a publication issued by the New Jersey organization in 1924 was called *The Future Farmer*. L. S. Archibald, a teacher member of the organization's Advisory Committee, wrote in the first issue of *The Future Farmer*:

"I have no doubt that other states will be copying and looking to New Jersey for a model from which their state organizations will be formed. Who can tell but that a nationwide organization may eventually be formed and that the president of it may be a New Jersey boy."

Archibald's predictions came true four years later when the FFA was organized and Leslie Applegate from New Jersey was elected as the first national president.

Students of vocational agriculture in Ohio became affiliated with a state organization called the Townsend Agricultural Education Society.

Steady progress was being made in the development of many strong local and state organizations for farm boys who were studying vocational agriculture in high schools under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes Act. These organizations gradually replaced the informal cooperation that had existed.

Leslie Applegate of New Jersey was elected first National President of the Future Farmers of America in 1928.



H. O. Sampson, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture Education in New Jersey, was a pioneer in the effort to establish an organization for vocational agriculture students.



The second National FFA Convention was held in the Baltimore Hotel in 1929. Thirty-three states were represented by 64 delegates.



In the early years of the FFA an official banquet was held in the Baltimore Hotel. When convention attendance outgrew the hotel, the banquet was moved to the Municipal Auditorium. Today convention attendance is too large for a banquet but the current Officer/Delegate luncheon is an outgrowth of those early banquets.

Development of Judging Contests

Livestock judging contests were popular events among vocational agriculture classes even before youth organizations were launched. Successful contests conducted by local students stimulated interest in state contests. There are records of state-wide judging contests for vocational agriculture students in Alabama and Virginia in 1919, and in North Carolina, Nebraska and New Mexico in 1920. These state-wide contests were conducted before most states had formed a state association of a youth organization.

Judging contests proved so popular that a strong movement developed for national contests. The International Live Stock Show in Chicago established a non-collegiate judging contest in 1919, but not separate contests for students in vocational agriculture.

Dr. C. H. Lane, formerly Chief of the U.S. Agricultural Education Service, told of attempts made to have national judging contests at the International Live Stock Show in Chicago. In 1918 a committee composed of Dr. Lane, J. A. Linke, and C. V. Williams developed plans for such contests but the officials of the Chicago show would not approve the plans.

In 1925 a committee composed of Dr. Lane, G. I. Christie, Director of the Extension Service in Indiana and J. E. Hill, state supervisor of Agricultural Education in Illinois, met with officials of the National Dairy Show and obtained permission to hold a national dairy judging contest for students of vocational agriculture. The first National Vocational Dairy Cattle Judging Contest was held at the National Dairy Show at Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12, 1925. Seventeen states were represented.



Three men responsible for early leadership and growth of the FFA, all of whom served as National Advisor, were Dr. W. T. Spanton, 1941-1961; Dr. C. H. Lane, 1928-1933, and John A. Linke, 1933-1944.



Judging contests were the common element that brought vocational agriculture students together in Kansas City where they formed the National FFA Organization in 1928.



At one time the Meats Judging Contest was held at the Cudahy Packing Company in Kansas City.



The Milk Judging Contest used facilities of Chapman Dairy in Kansas City.



The National Dairy Judging Contest in Waterloo, Iowa, served as the National Dairy Cattle Judging competition for the FFA before dairy cattle were brought to the American Royal in Kansas City specially for FFA competition.

In the 1920's when vocational agriculture students first came to Kansas City to participate in livestock judging, they formed a loosely knit organization called the National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students. The National FFA Organization formed in 1928 was an outgrowth of the National Congress.





This was a dinner for members of official judging teams at the Baltimore Hotel. The dinner was held during the third National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students in Kansas City.

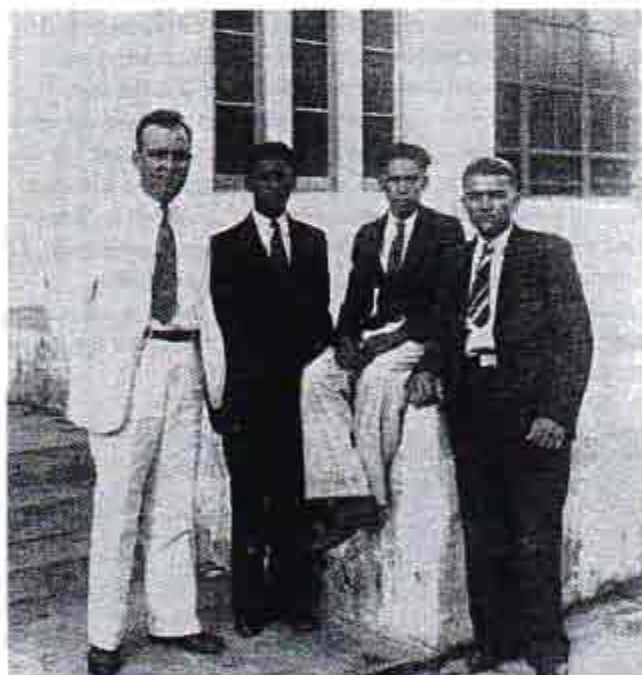
Dr. Lane said they were so pleased with the success of the first National Dairy Cattle Judging Contest that the committee decided to confer again with officials of the International show in Chicago in an effort to get a separate livestock judging contest for vocational agriculture students. Again their proposal was firmly rejected. This led the committee to look for another show where the national livestock judging contests might be held.

National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students

In May of 1926, Dr. Lane went to Kansas City, Missouri, for a conference with officials of the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show concerning the possibility of establishing national livestock judging contests in connection with the American Royal. He received a warm reception according to the report of the meeting:

"The officials of the American Royal, the Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City, Missouri, the Kansas City Livestock Exchange, the Kansas City Stock Yards Company, and the *Kansas City Star* are enthusiastic over the possibilities of our developing a national vocational program at the American Royal and have promised every means at their disposal to make our efforts a great success."

There was established in November of 1926 the first of a long series of the National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students, forerunner of the national FFA convention. The willingness of Kansas City to recognize vocational agriculture students at the Royal in 1926, and



Puerto Rico was involved in the FFA almost from the beginning. In the 1930's these Puerto Rican state officers and their advisor paused for this photo.

the wholehearted cooperation of its citizens and leaders since that time is the main reason Kansas City, Missouri continues to be the home of national FFA conventions.

The first Congress was an outstanding success. A total of 1524 boys from 22 states registered. The program lasted three days and included judging contests and tours of packing plants and business establishments. The *Kansas City Star* gave a banquet for the students, and

Will Rogers appeared on the program. Kirby Tranberger, Cecil Fry and Everett Jones of Ponca City, Oklahoma won a silver trophy for first place in judging.

A constitution and bylaws were adopted for the Congress. At the agricultural section of the American Vocational Association, at Louisville, Kentucky, an official cap for vocational agriculture students was adopted.

The annual National Congress at Kansas City was an important event for vocational agriculture students, their instructors and state leaders. Now it was possible to bring together thousands of young men who were interested in agriculture. The judging activities were interesting and educational and the visits to the Royal to see the livestock and to the slaughtering plants were exciting. These annual meetings also became a valuable showcase for vocational agriculture. The Congress was planned and conducted by adults for the students. The livestock industry and leaders in business and industry shared in making animals available for judging, in providing facilities needed for the contests and in providing personnel to help with the judging, awards and entertainment for the students.



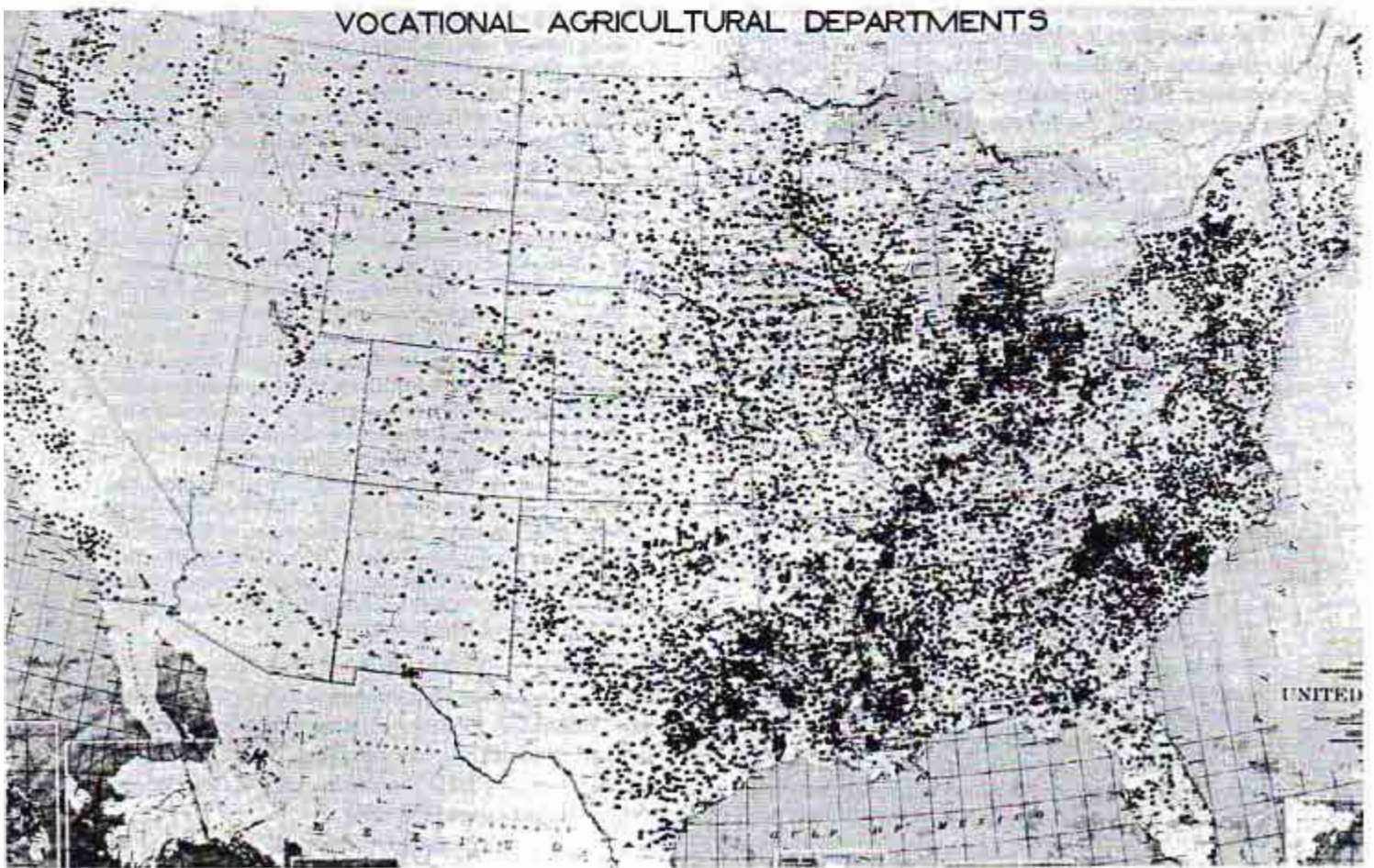
From the beginning FFA members showed a keen interest in competition to improve themselves as well as the FFA. Here Henry Groseclose, National FFA Executive Secretary, presented the Founders' Trophy to the Tennessee Association in recognition of the association's outstanding FFA activities.



FFA field trips, such as this one to observe conservation practices, have always been a highlight of FFA activities.



Vocational agriculture students develop an appreciation for the environment through their studies in conservation and forestry.



By the early '60's vocational agriculture departments and FFA chapters functioned in every state including Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The Future Farmers of Virginia

The movement to organize vocational agricultural students was strong in many states. Names were being adopted and programs were being planned. There was need at that time for a name which would be acceptable in the various states and which could bring unity to the movement. There was also a need for a constitution and bylaws which might serve as a pattern for other states.

The influence of the Virginia organization was so great that the state is frequently given credit for originating the movement. The contribution made by Virginia was great but it was not even the first state to have a state organization.

Virginia's success and leadership in the development of FFA may be attributed to three things: First, the time was ripe for the development of state organizations of vocational agriculture students. Second, the constitution and ritual developed there were so outstanding that they were used for a pattern in other states. Finally, the happy choice of the name Future Farmers was immediately acceptable over much of the nation.

The term Future Farmers had been used in New Jersey, Wyoming and perhaps in other states, but Virginia was the first to use it in the name of their state organization. Henry C. Groseclose generally is credited with suggesting its use. A history of the FFA in Virginia, published in 1943, states:

"One hot day in September, 1925, Walter S. Newman, state supervisor of agricultural education, sat at a table in the teacher training department at Blacksburg talking to three members of the staff. What he was saying was very much like this: 'In my opinion the farm boys of Virginia, who are enrolled in vocational agriculture, are equal to any other group of boys in the state. But somehow the boys themselves seem to have a feeling of inferiority. Especially is this true when the farm boy goes to the city and has to compete with his city cousin.'

" 'This condition should not exist. I believe that a strong organization of our boys in agriculture would help them to overcome this handicap. Let's form an organization that will give them a greater opportunity for self expression and for the development of leadership. In this way they will de-

velop confidence in their own ability and pride in the fact that they are farm boys '

"This occasion was an important one in the development of the FFA. Today those who visit the department of agricultural education (at Virginia Polytechnic Institute) will see the table at which this discussion took place. It bears a brass plate carrying the following inscription:

" 'At this table in September, 1925, it was determined that boys studying agriculture should have their own organization—now the FFA. Present: Walter S. Newman, Edmund C. Magill, H. W. Sanders and Henry C. Groseclose.'

"But what should we call the new organization? No one seemed to have the answer until Henry C. Groseclose came forward with this happy solution: 'It will be the FFV—Future Farmers of Virginia.' For generations the letters FFV represented the 'First Families of Virginia.' But Washington was first, last and all the time a farmer. The same was true of Jefferson and other members of Virginia's 'first families.' Now the letters took on a new significance and farm boys as well as their parents and friends were prompt and enthusiastic in their acceptance.

"By common consent, Groseclose was assigned the task of drawing up a constitution and bylaws for the new organization. But New Year's Day, 1926, found him ill and his work came to a temporary standstill. However, Newman presented the idea of a state organization to the 500 boys in attendance at the annual rally at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in April of the same year. They were enthusiastic in their approval. With a long period of convalescence at hand, Groseclose was once more able to direct his attention to the task that had been assigned to him.

"On June 14, 1926, his job was finished and there was mailed to every instructor a copy of 'The Proposed Constitution and Bylaws for a Boys' Organization of Vocational Agriculture Students in Virginia.' In performing this service, Groseclose not only made an outstanding contribution to the Virginia organization, but provided the basis for the national organization as well."

The Virginia FFA history relates that boys and their teachers throughout the state gave hearty approval to the idea of the FFV. Finishing touches on the plans for the organization were completed in the summer of 1926, and a goal was set for a local chapter in every vocational agriculture department in the state.

Clarifying the places of Newman and Groseclose in the development, the Virginia publication says:

"Newman originated the idea of a state organization and convinced his fellow workers as well as the boys of its place and need; once the idea was accepted, he worked un-



In the middle 1920's four men, Walter S. Newman, Edward C. Magill, H. W. Sanders and Henry C. Groseclose sat around a table in the Department of Agricultural Education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute discussing an organization for students of vocational agriculture. Their discussions led to the formation of the Future Farmers of Virginia, after which the National Organization of the Future Farmers of America was patterned. (Newman and Sanders posed for this photo at VPI in 1977.)

ceasingly to attain the goal of a chapter with a strong program in every department of vocational agriculture; more than anyone else he was responsible for guiding the state association to financial independence; he ably presented the Virginia program to others, first in the southern region and then to representatives from other states.

"Groseclose originated the name; produced the constitution and bylaws which, with some minor revisions, were accepted by both the state and national organization; he gave the idea of progressive membership based on achievement and the names of the degrees; developed the emblem, the key, and the seal which was almost identical with that of today with the exception of the cross-section of an ear of corn."

State and Regional Action

Dr. C. H. Lane, Chief of the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, and the Regional Agents of that Service helped promote the development of student organizations in vocational agriculture during their visits to the states and at regional conferences and other meetings.

At the North Atlantic Regional Conference for supervisors and teacher trainers held in Bronxville, New York, February 14, 1927, reference was made to the progress of youth organizations in vocational agriculture in Vir-

ginia, Ohio and New Jersey. In his extensive report on "Young Farmer Clubs," W. J. Weaver of New York said:

"We feel that our state association has a place but only as it can render service and contribute to the building up of local clubs. Similarly, the sponsoring of a national association might be a worthy move."

At the 1927 conference of vocational agriculture supervisors and teacher trainers in the Southern States, held in San Antonio, Texas, March 28 to April 2, a committee that included T. E. Brown of North Carolina as chairman, W. S. Newman of Virginia, and J. T. Wheeler of Georgia, submitted the following resolution which was passed by the group assembled:

"Whereas, it appears from the experience of the several states that the community interests of members of all-day, day-unit and part-time classes can be greatly advanced and solidified through intercourse growing out of organized effort.

"Be it therefore resolved: 1. That the states of the Southern Region encourage the organization of members of all-day, day-unit and part-time boys for our vocational agricultural classes into appropriate groups for directing community effort.

"2. That such local organizations be known as Future Farmers of the state in which the organization is located; for example, Future Farmers of Virginia.

"3. That each of the states develop a state organization of Future Farmers, looking forward to regional or national federation.

"Be it therefore resolved, that the action of the Southern Region in this connection be brought to the attention of other conferences."

During 1927 many states followed the leadership of the regional conferences and organized state associations of their youth organizations in vocational agriculture. Many of these associations were called Future Farmers.

A survey by Henry Groseclose of Virginia in the summer of 1927 showed that state-wide young farmer organizations were already in operation in 12 states: Arkansas, California, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming. These organizations were in varying degrees of development but all were state-wide in scope. In addition many local departments of vocational agricul-

ture had clubs in operation. Fifteen states reported that they had such clubs.

In 1928 the Future Farmers of Tennessee, under the leadership of their State Supervisor, D. M. Clements, began work on what probably was the first state Future Farmer camp. Local chapters raised money, some gifts were received, and the legislature authorized the use of state funds for development and maintenance. The camp was appropriately named Camp Clements.

In 1928 the New York organization reported that 40 schools had Young Farmer clubs in operation with a membership of 1250 boys; that two general meetings had been held during the year; that a publication entitled the *New York Times* had been started; and that a public speaking contest was in operation.

At the North Atlantic Regional Conference held in Boston, February 22-25, 1928, A. P. Williams, Regional Agent, reported on the progress of student organizations in Ohio and New York.

The 1928 Southern Regional Conference was an historic one. Meeting at Memphis, Tennessee, in March, the Southerners heard an exhaustive report presented by a committee including Groseclose as chairman; R. B. Smith of Arkansas and G. E. Freeman of Tennessee.

The report recommended uniform action among the states of the Southern Region in establishing Future Farmer organizations. It asked for a federation of Future Farmers organizations for the region, to be called "The Future Farmers of Dixie," and made the further recommendation that if a national organization was established the regional name should be dropped in preference for the name of the national organization.

The Southern report, following the Virginia pattern, asked that membership in the organization be confined to students of vocational agriculture and that membership be voluntary. Uniform grades of membership were established by the Federation. The recommended grades of membership, in order, were Greenhand, Farmer and a third, determined the following year, was "State Planter" and "Dixie Planter."

Grades of membership in the "Future Farmers of Dixie" would be based on attainment, and a limitation would be set on the number who could attain the highest degree. Greenhands would wear a bronze pin and a dis-

tinctive design would be developed for the "Dixie Planters."

The owl, the plow and the rising sun, were the basis for the insignia. The committee recommended that a convention of the Future Farmers of Dixie be held in the Southern Region in 1929.

The Future Farmers of Dixie was not organized because of the strong movement which was underway to develop a national organization.

The 1928 North Central Regional Conference met shortly after the Southern Region at Des Moines, Iowa, March 26-30, and gave careful consideration to vocational agriculture student organizations. After reports by V. E. Kivlin of Wisconsin, J. B. McClelland of Ohio and P. W. Danielson of South Dakota, recommendations were adopted that the Federal Board for Vocational Education copyright the name Future Farmers, that a national insignia be adopted and that action be taken that would bring about speedy adoption of a national organization of Future Farmers.

The purposes suggested for the organization were:

1. More intelligent choice of agricultural occupations
2. Achievement in agriculture
3. Nurturing a love of country life
4. Thrift
5. Cooperation
6. Recreation
7. Scholarship
8. Improving the leadership ability of rural boys

A few weeks later, during the Pacific Regional Conference at Denver, Colorado, April 30 to May 5, Dr. C. H. Lane, Chief of the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, and Dr. W. T. Spanton, Regional Agent, encouraged the development of the FFA. Both Lane and Spanton were later to become national advisors of the FFA.

In Dr. Lane's address to the conference he listed eleven purposes that student organizations should achieve, a list very close to the Aim and Purposes that were adopted officially by the FFA. "Steps will be taken shortly," Dr. Lane said, "looking to a national organization of Future Farmers of America. The whole movement is based upon achievement on the part of the individual vocational boy."

Addressing the conference, Dr. Spanton said:

"I cannot too heartily endorse the student organization idea. . . I believe that the constitution, bylaws and so forth, and general plans for the organization should, if possible, be similar enough so that the various state associations can some day, if found desirable, unite into one strong nationwide organization, which might hold its annual meeting in Kansas City in connection with the National Congress of Vocational Agricultural Students.

"Personally, I have been most impressed with the constitution, bylaws, admission requirements, and so forth, of the Association in the state of Virginia, known as the FFV's, or Future Farmers of Virginia. The name Future Farmer is catchy and appropriate, and if a strong national organization could be established, what would be a more appropriate name than FFA, or Future Farmers of America?"

The conference named a committee to study the student organization question, composed of W. A. Ross of Wyoming, chairman, J. A. McPhee of California, L. D. Klemmedson of Arizona and Dr. Lane. The committee recommended:

"The Chief of the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education proceed with drawing up of a constitution and bylaws for a national organization of vocational agriculture students using the name of the Future Farmers of America, or other appropriate name, with a state chapter in each state, and with a local unit in each vocational agriculture department."

The committee also recommended that national colors, slogan and emblems be adopted and copyrighted.

The Formation of the Future Farmers of America

By the spring of 1928, the goal of a great national organization of students of vocational agriculture was in sight. Teachers, teacher educators and supervisors of vocational agriculture were aware of the value of such an organization. From all four of the administrative regions had come definite proposals concerning the type and kind of student organization that should be developed. In each instance these recommendations sup-

ported the idea of building on the pioneer work done by a number of states in the development of a national organization of, by and for students of vocational agriculture, to be known as the Future Farmers of America.

In line with suggestions from the states, a temporary constitution for the Future Farmers of America organization, patterned closely after that of the Future Farmers of Virginia, was drafted by members of the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education in Washington, D.C., during the summer of 1928. Those who had a part in this undertaking were, Dr. Lane and the following agents for agricultural education: R. D. Maltby, A. P. Williams, W. T. Spanton and H. O. Sargent. Newman and Groseclose of Virginia were called in from time to time to assist in the work. Letters of incorporation were drawn up and the Future Farmers of America received a charter under the corporate laws of Virginia, dated September 5, 1928. The Board of Incorporators were listed as C. H. Lane, J. A. Linke, H. O. Sargent, A. P. Williams, W. T. Spanton and R. D. Maltby, all of Washington, W. S. Newman and Henry C. Groseclose of Virginia, and H. O. Sampson of New Jersey.

In the fall of 1928, the tentative constitution was sent to the states, together with an explanation of the procedure to be followed by a state in becoming affiliated with the FFA, and a call was issued for the first national convention of the Future Farmers of America.

The first national convention of the FFA was held at the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 20, 1928, in conjunction with the American Royal Livestock Show and the National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students. Eighteen states were represented by 33 official delegates, as follows: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

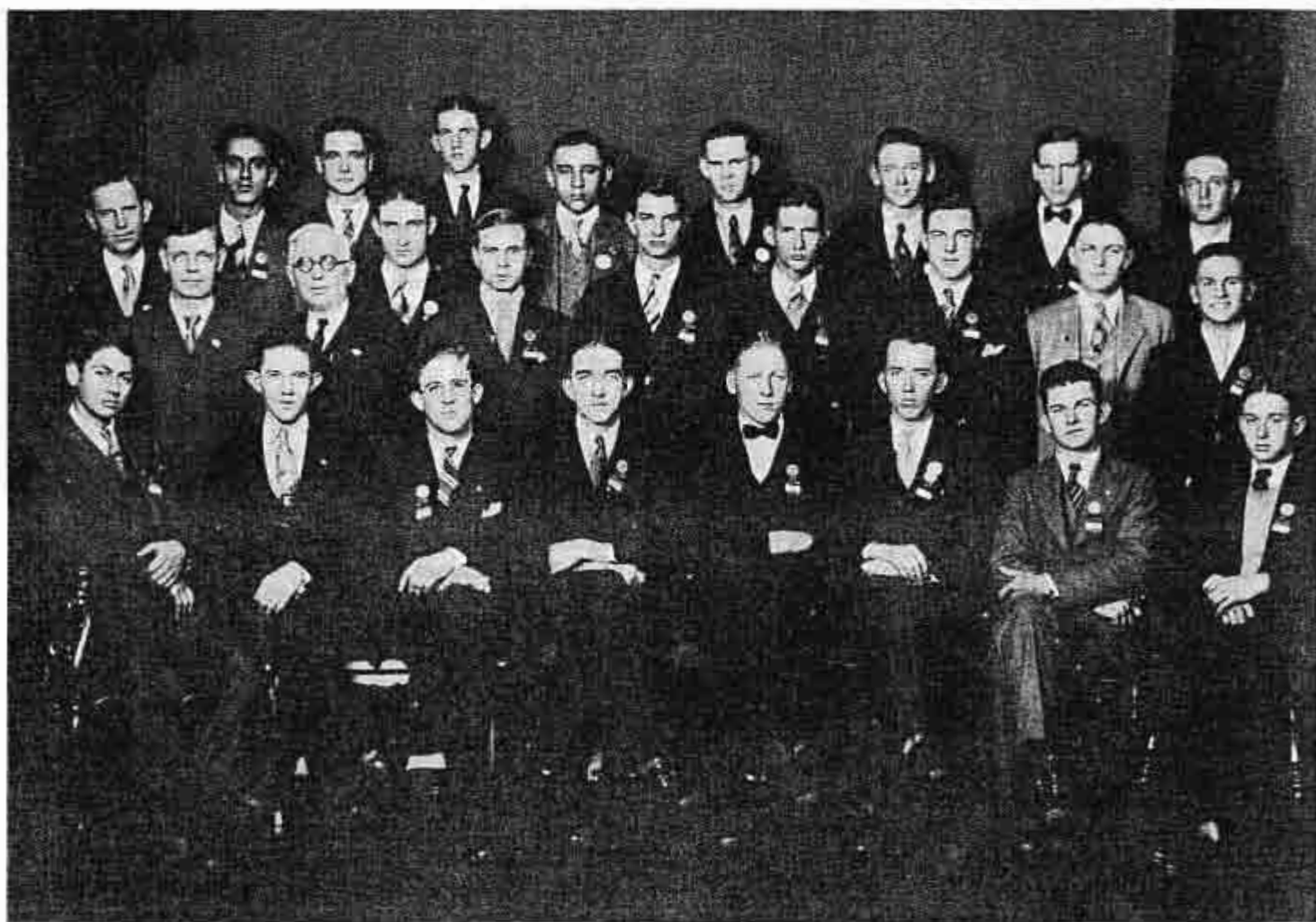
The constitution was adopted and Leslie Applegate of New Jersey was named the first president of the national FFA organization. Dr. Lane was elected the first national advisor, and Henry C. Groseclose the executive secretary-treasurer. Suggested programs of work for local chapters, state associations and the national organization were formulated. National dues were set at 10 cents per

member per year. Ten members were elected to the American Farmer degree. Plans were made for the preparation of an FFA handbook. At that time the organization was \$191 in debt, the only time its receipts have been less than expenses incurred with the exception of the construction of facilities for the national FFA center.

The delegates passed a resolution endorsing the George-Menges-Reed Bill then pending in Congress (to

increase federal funds for vocational education). This was the first and last time that the FFA convention was used in an attempt to influence legislation.

Early in 1929 the *Weekly Kansas City Star*, through W. A. Cochel, Managing Editor of the *Kansas City Star*, announced that it would offer a \$1,000 prize to the FFA member whose achievements in farming and leadership was most outstanding in the nation. The award winner



These vocational agriculture students were the first recipients of the American Farmer Degree awarded at the 1929 National FFA Convention.

would be known as the Star Farmer of America. Other prizes of \$100 each were to be awarded on state and regional levels.

The Star Farmer of America award was destined to become the nation's best known award for a farm boy. Its sponsorship was continued for 20 years by the *Kansas City Star* until 1949 when, at the request of the FFA organization, it was turned over to the FFA Foundation.

At this same time a National Chapter Contest was launched and the *Farm Journal* magazine agreed to sponsor the contest.

In 1929 an attempt was made to have the Future Farmers of America chartered by Congress. After passing the Senate and being approved by the House Committee on Education, the bill bogged down and did not come up for vote in the House of Representatives. It was not until 1950 when Public Law 740, 81st Congress, was passed that FFA received a Federal Charter.

The first official manual of the organization was written in 1929. It was first mimeographed and then issued as a printed pamphlet.

At the second convention in November 1929, 33 states were represented by 64 delegates. However, 35 state associations with approximately 1500 chapters and 30,000 members had actually affiliated with the national organization during the year. Twenty-nine American Farmers were elected, and Carlton Patton of Wooster, Arkansas, was named the first Star Farmer of America. The first Honorary American Farmer degrees were awarded to Groseclose and Newman of Virginia, Sampson of New Jersey and to Dr. Lane.

A budget of \$4,100 was approved, including \$2480 to pay half-time salaries of the executive secretary and his stenographer.

The Future Farmers of America continued to expand during its second year of operation. At the end of that year 41 states reported 40,064 members and three additional states applied for charters. The third convention was attended by 1,900 persons. There was a growing public interest in the organization and major improvements in the organizational and administrative structure. The FFA was becoming a strong, popular organization and many significant accomplishments were being made.



The Star Farmer of America was one of the first awards created by the National Organization. For many years the award was presented by the *Kansas City Star*.

Significant Accomplishments

The creation of the FFA by vocational agriculture students, teachers of vocational agriculture, state and national leaders was a major achievement. From the beginning improvements were made in the organization and there were many constructive changes made in the program. The FFA has always been conducted as an integral part of the vocational agriculture program. Teachers have always devoted official time, both in and out of the classroom, to assist in the operation of the FFA. They have also accepted responsibility for the program. The FFA program has always been influenced by the changes made in national and state legislation and by policies of the Federal Board for Vocational Education and later by the U.S. Office of Education.

Administrative Direction and Supervision

At the time of the formation of the FFA much thought and attention had been given to the program and activities of the FFA organization but not enough study had been devoted to the administration and supervision of local chapters, state associations and the national organization. A new national constitution had been adopted which did not contain a definite plan for the administration and supervision of the organization. A plan had not been prepared and policies had not been determined by 1929 for the election of local, state and national advisors. Members could elect anyone they desired to serve in these positions. The state supervisors at the convention requested the national FFA officers to appoint a committee of adults to study the problem of administration. A committee was appointed which requested the Federal Board for Vocational Education to clarify the administration of the FFA. This was done with the assistance of the Comptroller General of the United States. (For a detailed report please see the chapter on Administration.)

The ruling by the Federal Board for Vocational Education and the opinion of J. K. McCarl, Comptroller General of the United States, served as the legal foundation for the operation of the Future Farmers of America under the



C. H. Lane, National FFA Advisor, 1928-33



J. A. Linke, National Advisor, 1933-41



Dr. W. T. Spanton, National Advisor, 1941-61



Dr. A. W. Tenney, National Advisor, 1961-65; National Executive Secretary, 1947-57



H. C. Groseclose, National Executive Secretary, 1928-30; National Treasurer, 1928-41



H. N. Hunsicker, National Advisor, 1965-



W. A. Ross,
National Executive
Secretary, 1935-43



Wm. Paul Gray,
National Executive
Secretary, 1957-
76



C. Coleman Harris,
National Executive
Secretary, 1977-



D. J. Howard,
National Treasurer,
1941-57.



R. E. Bass, National
Treasurer, 1957-
61.



J. M. Campbell,
National Treasurer,
1961-

Smith-Hughes Act until this problem was further clarified by Congress in 1950 when it granted a Federal Charter to the FFA. (Public Law 740, 81st Congress.)

Originally, the national advisor and executive secretary-treasurer were elected annually by the delegates. In order to provide a national headquarters in the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, the constitution was amended to specify that the national advisor should be the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service and that the executive secretary should be a member of that staff. The separate job of treasurer was added. The Board of Trustees was made to include the six national youth officers, the advisor, the executive secretary and treasurer.

W. A. Ross from Wyoming was employed by the Agricultural Education Service in 1929 and was named executive secretary, with Dr. Lane continuing as advisor and Groseclose as treasurer.

Another significant change was made in the bylaws, providing for an Advisory Council of four state supervisors, one from each of the four Administrative regions. (See page 91.) Chaired by the national advisor, the Advisory Council had the power of approval of the actions of the Board of Trustees and delegates. Members of the first Advisory Council, elected in the spring of 1931, were J. A. Guiteau of Washington, E. E. Gallup of Michigan, D. M. Clements of Tennessee and W. J. Weaver of New York.

The changes accomplished three things: First, they provided a definite tie between FFA and vocational agriculture on the national level. Second, they provided closer adult guidance and supervision. And, third, they brought representation from the states into the Advisory Council which would have an important part in establishing organizational policies.

National Administrative Personnel

National Advisors

- 1928-33 C. H. Lane, Chief, Agricultural Education Service, Federal Board for Vocational Education, Washington, D.C.
- 1933-41 J. A. Linke, Chief, Agricultural Education Service, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.
- 1941-61 W. T. Spanton, Chief, Agricultural Education Service, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.
- 1961-65 A. W. Tenney, Chief, Agricultural Education Branch, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.
- 1965- H. N. Hunsicker, Chief, Agricultural Education, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.

National Executive Secretaries

- 1928-30 Henry C. Groseclose, Professor, Agricultural Education, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia.
- 1930-43 W. A. Ross, Agricultural Education Service, Federal Board for Vocational Education and later U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.
- 1943 Stuart Huslander, Agricultural Education Service, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.

- 1943-57 A. W. Tenney, Agricultural Education Service, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.
- 1957-76 Wm. Paul Gray, Agricultural Education Service, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.
- 1977- Coleman Harris, Agricultural Education Service, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.

National Treasurers

- 1928-41 Henry C. Groseclose, Professor, Agricultural Education, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia.
- 1941-57 Dowell J. Howard, Assistant State Supervisor, later State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, and later State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.
- 1957-61 R. Edward Bass, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, later State Director of Vocational Education in Virginia, State Department of Education, Richmond, Virginia.
- 1961- Julian M. Campbell, State Supervisor, Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, Richmond, Virginia.

Development of the FFA Emblem



About two years before the FFA was organized, a movement was started to secure an emblem for vocational agriculture. Sentiment favoring the idea was evident in all four administrative regions and the matter was discussed in sectional meetings of the American Vocational Association and in the regional conferences. An American Vocational Association committee headed by J. A. Linke, then agent for the North Central Region, was appointed. The work of this and other committees resulted in the formulation of an emblem which evolved into the present emblem of the Future Farmers of America. The emblem is made up of five symbols: the owl, the plow and the rising sun, within the cross section of an ear of corn, which is surmounted by the American eagle. On the face of the emblem are the words, "Vocational Agriculture," and the letters, "FFA." The owl is symbolic of wisdom and knowledge; the plow is the symbol of labor and tillage of the soil; the rising sun is emblematic of progress and the new day that will dawn when all farmers are trained and have learned to cooperate; the cross section of an ear of corn represents common agricultural interests since corn is native to America and grown in every state; and the eagle is indicative of the national scope of the organization.

In 1955 the National Board of Directors, which replaced the Advisory Council in 1950, acting upon the recommendations of the National Board of Student Officers and the national convention delegates, was assigned the responsibility for establishing policies governing the use of the FFA name and emblem.

The emblem and the letters "FFA" are protected by trademark registration, in the U.S. Patent Office, and by Public Law 740, 81st Congress. Official policies regarding the use and authorization for use of the name and emblem of the FFA are included in the official FFA Manual.



One of the first jackets introduced at the National Convention was brought to Kansas City by Gus Lintner, Vocational Agriculture Instructor at Fredericktown, Ohio. Early versions of the FFA emblem did not include the eagle.

Motto, Colors and Creed

The motto, suggested by Dr. C. H. Lane, and adopted by the FFA was:

Learning to do
Doing to learn
Earning to live
Living to serve

The colors Corn Gold and National Blue were selected as the official colors for the organization by the delegates at the national FFA convention.

Two FFA creeds had been used unofficially and the one printed in the first FFA manual is entirely different from the official one used today. Delegates at the 1930 national convention cleared the situation by voting to adopt the creed that had been written by E. M. Tiffany, Teacher Educator in Agricultural Education at the University of Wisconsin, and first presented in 1928. Over the years minor modifications have been made in the creed as vocational agriculture and the FFA have changed.

E. M. Tiffany, Wisconsin teacher educator, was author of the FFA Creed.



This chapter created its own station markers from FFA emblems.



David Boyne, 1953-54 National FFA President, accepts a podium constructed of many species of Virginia wood. It was presented by Bruce Robertson, Advisor of the Rocky Gap, Virginia, FFA Chapter which constructed the podium, which is still used at the National FFA Convention.

Adoption of Official Uniform

For many years before the FFA was launched there was interest in having vocational agricultural student groups wear something so they could be readily identified. In compliance with that desire an official cap for vocational agriculture students throughout the United States was adopted by the Agricultural Section of the American Vocational Association in 1927.

The adoption of the official colors, corn gold and national blue, was another step toward the approval of an official dress uniform. The delegates to the 1930 convention adopted an official dress uniform, consisting of a dark blue shirt, blue or white trousers, blue cap and yellow tie. This was used as the official dress uniform until 1933 when delegates to the national convention voted to drop the blue shirt, trousers, and tie dress uniform and to substitute for it an official jacket of blue corduroy. Thus the FFA blue jacket came into being. A company that manufactured uniforms sent a salesman to the convention with a sample corduroy jacket but sold only one jacket. Gus Lintner, advisor of the Van Wert, Ohio, FFA chapter, had a few jackets made with a big FFA emblem embroidered on the back, by the Universal Uniform Company. The jacket was not widely used for a number of years.

The appearance of the Utah State FFA Band, dressed in blue jackets and white trousers, at the 1934 national FFA convention gave a big boost to the sale and use of the blue jacket.



Although the FFA jacket first appeared in the early 1930's it was not until the late '40's and '50's that the FFA jacket became the common uniform for members. This participant in a Farm Blacksmithing Contest in 1936 found that overalls were the most practical dress for the occasion.



Members of the Fredericktown FFA Chapter came to the convention dressed in jackets embroidered on the back by the Universal Uniform Company of Van Wert, Ohio. It was the forerunner of today's blue and gold corduroy jacket still produced by the Universal Uniform Company.



Campaign hats and FFA necktie illustrate early FFA wearing apparel.



In 1964 Eddie Wiederstein of Audubon, Iowa, was presented the one millionth FFA jacket.



Twelve years later Johnny Bowman of Aurora, Missouri, put on the two millionth FFA jacket assisted by National FFA President Bobby Tucker at the 1976 National FFA Convention.

Public Speaking and Chapter Contests

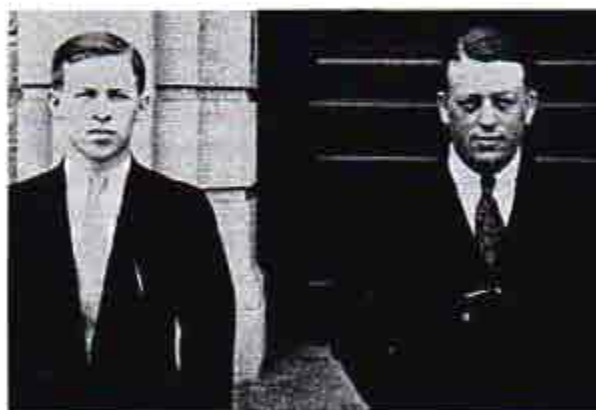
The national FFA public speaking contest was started in 1930 as an event of the third national convention. It was designed to encourage members to study and speak on current farm problems. The contest was sponsored for two years by Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas. This contest was the forerunner of the national FFA public speaking contest that is now sponsored by the FFA Foundation. The first national contest, held at Kansas City, was broadcast over the CBS radio network. The contest winner was Edward Drace, a member of the Keytesville, Missouri FFA Chapter.

Since the activities and accomplishments of the local FFA chapter are basic to the state associations and national organization those who launched the organization

in 1928 took steps to stimulate continuous improvement in the work of the local chapters by starting a state association contest in 1929. Virginia was the first winner in this contest. The chapter award contest winner that year was the Danville FFA Chapter of Danville, Arkansas. The contest was sponsored for two years by *Farm Journal* magazine, and then by the FFA until it was included in the program of the National FFA Foundation. The national chapter contest has been modified so that the work of local chapters may receive recognition according to their annual achievement. Awards of superior, at the state level, and gold, silver and bronze at the national level are available for participating chapters.



A major responsibility of National Officers has always been to meet with government and business leaders. In 1945 the National Officers were honored by a special luncheon hosted by Senator Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma (seated right). The guests included Vice President Harry S. Truman (second from left), and Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard (third from left).



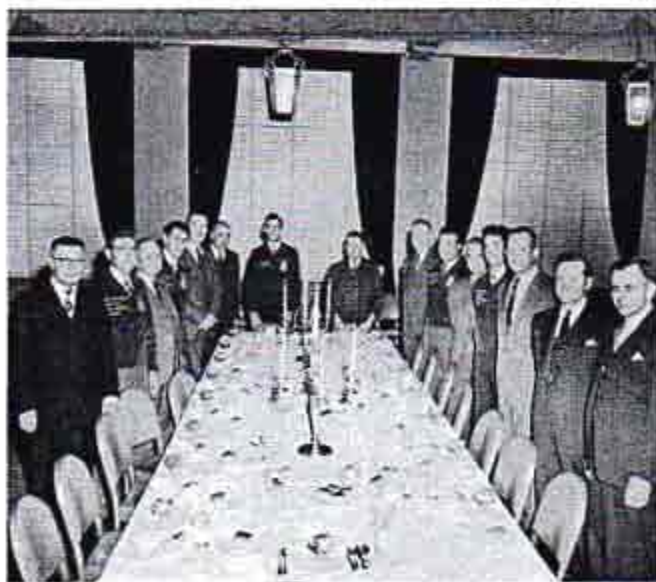
Edward Drace, of Keytesville, Missouri, was the winner of the first National FFA Public Speaking Contest held in 1930. The \$500 prize for first place was provided by Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas. L. B. Creekmore (right) was his vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor.



The Deer Lodge, Montana, FFA Chapter was one of the outstanding chapters in the early years of the FFA. It won the National Chapter Contest in 1932.



The National FFA Band in concert at the National Convention.



The FFA has always maintained close contact with farmer cooperatives. In 1947 National Officers and their leaders were the guests of the American Institute of Cooperation at a dinner given in their honor.

State Association Awards

The delegates to the 1929 national FFA convention approved achievement awards for state FFA associations starting in 1930. Leaders of the FFA realized that strong chartered state associations were absolutely essential. They stimulate, guide and inspire the work of both individual members and local chapters, and provide strong connecting links in the structure of the national organization. The reports submitted by the various associations were used as a basis for selecting winners. This contest, which was won the first year by the Virginia association, was discontinued after a few years. The National Grange provided financial support for this contest.

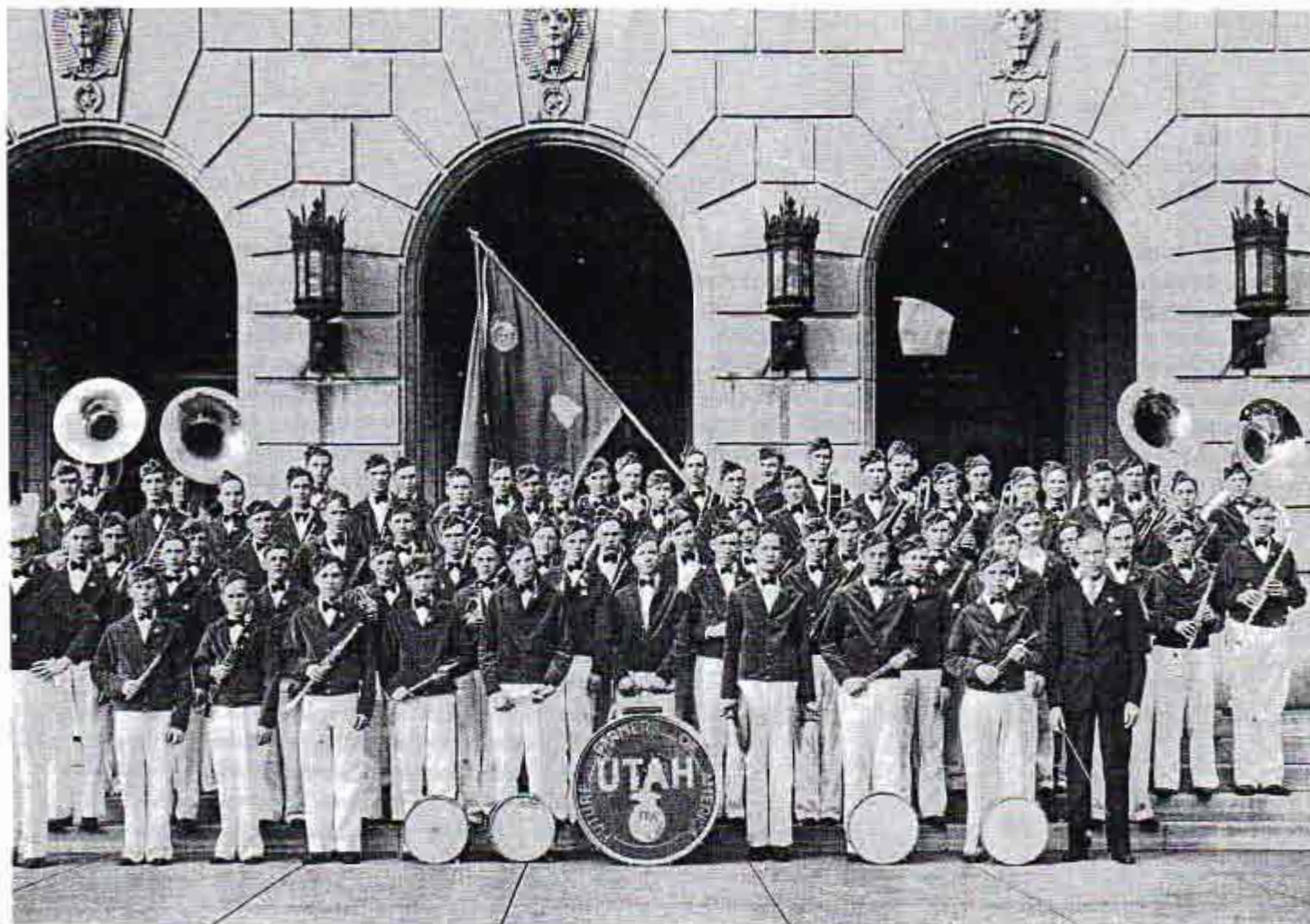
Manual and Convention Proceedings

The manual, which was first suggested by delegates at the 1929 Convention has been expanded and improved through the years. At the 1930 National Convention the report of the Executive Secretary stated that "The manual of the Future Farmers of America has been made up as requested . . . It has been published by the Farm Journal Press of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Four thousand eight hundred seventeen copies have been sold." The manual contains essential information concerning the operation of the national organization, state associations and local chapters. Over the years the manual has been expanded by the inclusion of the national constitution and bylaws, sample state association and local chapter constitutions, ceremonies for meetings and degrees, guides for parliamentary procedure and other basic information for members.

After the first national FFA convention there was a demand for information about the proceedings of the convention. Printed proceedings were first made of the 1931 national convention. Plans were also made at that time to publish a directory of all affiliated state associations and chapters. As chapters increased rapidly in number this responsibility was assigned to the state associations.



The first Manual was printed in 1930 with a grant from Farm Journal Press of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The Utah FFA Band which appeared at the National Convention in 1934 was one of the first to be dressed in the official FFA jacket and white trousers.

FFA Bands, Choruses and Music

The delegates to the 1930 national convention voted to sponsor a contest, offering \$150 for the best FFA song submitted at the next convention. The "FFA March" composed by Capt. William J. Stannard, of the U.S. Army Band, was adopted as the official march. At the 1931 national convention a song titled, "Hail the FFA," submitted by Bertha A. Kleinman and Ralph Sarager of Arizona, was selected winner of the \$150 prize offered the previous year.

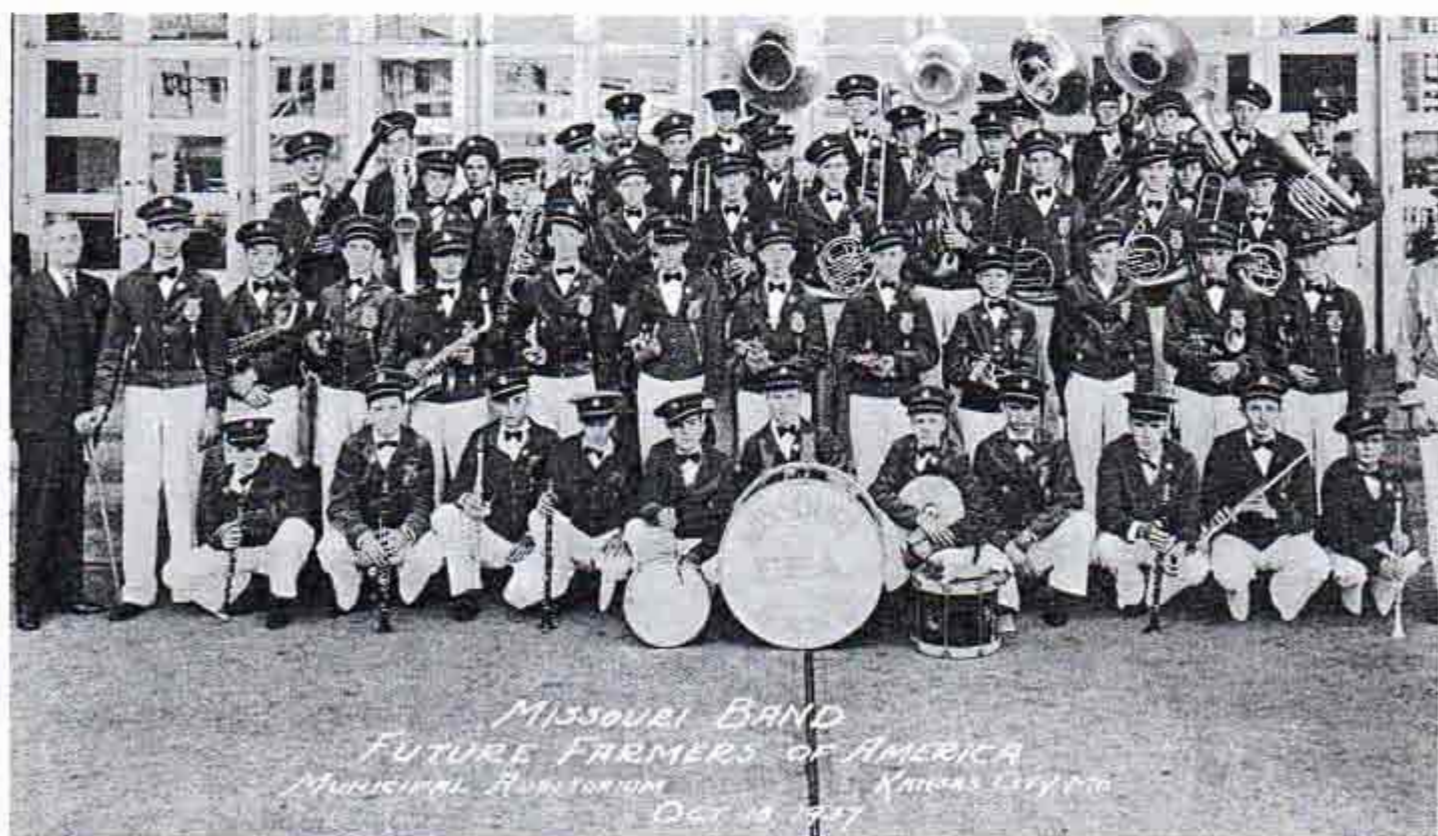
String band and vocal music became popular entertainment features at local chapter meetings, state and national conventions, and on radio broadcasts.

Texas brought the first state FFA brass band to the national convention in 1932. A state FFA band was organized in Michigan and gave a concert during the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago, 1933-34. The first state FFA band to wear the official FFA uniform at a national convention was the Utah band which appeared in

1934. At the tenth anniversary national convention state FFA bands were present from Missouri, Texas and Utah. Through the years many state FFA bands appeared at the national convention. Representatives of the smaller states that could not provide a state band for the national convention said they would like to have representatives in a national band. This led to the organization of the first national FFA band, made up of 120 FFA members from all sections of the United States, and directed by Dr. Henry S. Brunner, Head of the Department of Agricultural Education, Pennsylvania State University. The band was frequently called the "Mail Order Band," because it was organized by mail. This popular band appeared first at the 1947 national FFA convention, and became an annual

feature for succeeding national FFA conventions. Others who later served as director of this band were Cedric Anderson of Cedar Rapids High School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Roger Heath, Band Director at VPI in Blacksburg, Virginia.

A number of state FFA choruses provided entertainment at the national FFA convention. The success of the national FFA band set the pattern for the organization of a national FFA chorus in 1948, which was directed by Dr. James Hatch, State Department of Education in New York. Others who directed the national FFA chorus were I. S. Glover, teacher of Vocational Agriculture, Sylvester, Georgia and Marvin Meyers of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.



Before the National FFA Band was organized state bands performed at the National Convention. In 1937 the Missouri FFA Band was one of three bands that performed for convention participants. The band was featured on a national radio program and participated in the American Royal Parade.



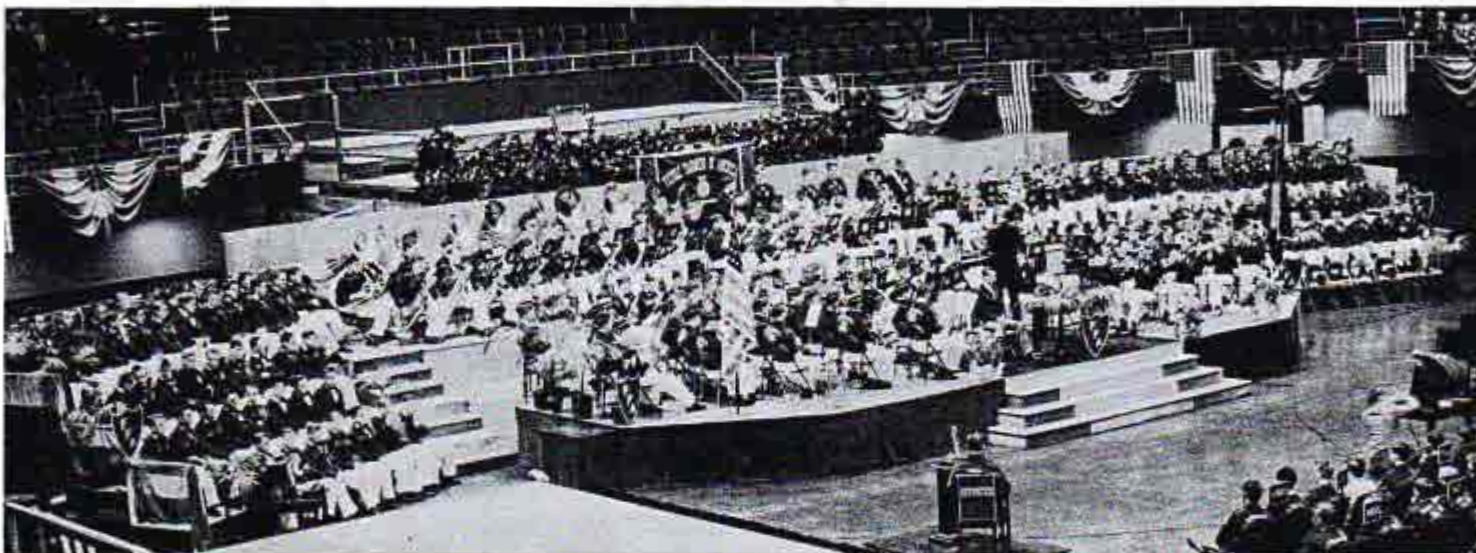
In 1939 the Pennsylvania FFA Band traveled to Kansas City.



In 1947 the first National FFA Band was organized. It quickly earned the nickname of "Mail Order Band" because participants were selected from every state using applications sent in the mail to the band director.



At the eleventh National FFA Convention this Solomon, Kansas, Future Farmer orchestra made up entirely of members from a single chapter entertained banquet participants. In those days a highlight of the convention was a large banquet for all participants. It was held on the main floor of the Municipal Auditorium.



In 1949 the National FFA Band and Chorus was made up of FFA members from every state.



This was the National FFA Band in 1975. Directed by Roger Heath, Director of the Virginia Tech Bands, the National FFA Band is composed of 115 members representing some of the top FFA musicians in every state of the nation.



The last National Chorus of the New Farmers of America (NFA) was brought to the National FFA Convention at the time NFA members became part of the FFA. Under the direction of I. S. Glover of Sylvester, Georgia, they received a long standing ovation after their first concert performance.

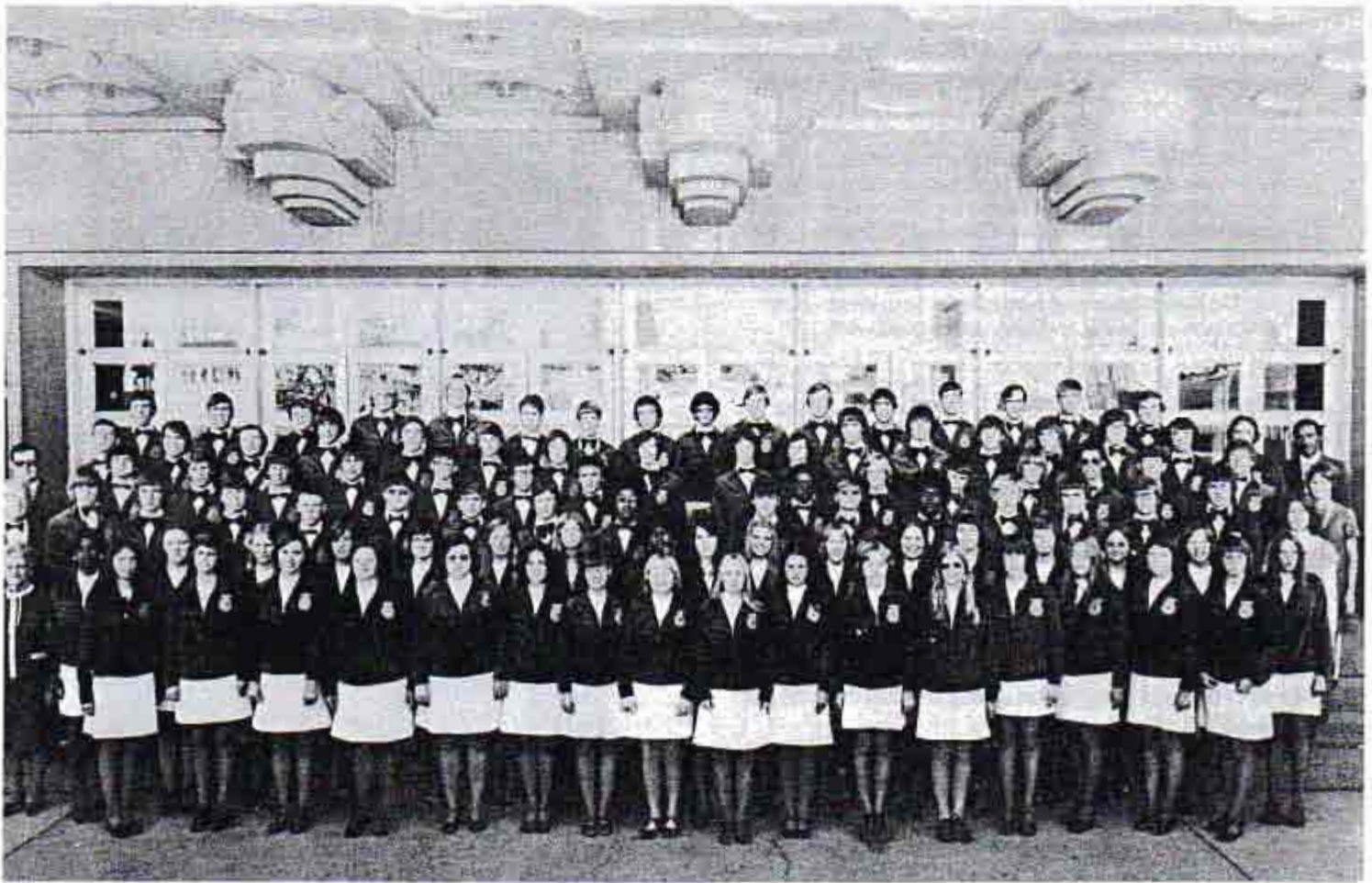


I. S. Glover, former NFA Chorus Director, served as director of the National FFA Chorus for two years after the two organizations merged.



Since 1967, Marvin Myers, retired member of the Purdue University Musical Organization at West Lafayette, Ind., has been director of the National FFA Chorus.

Traditionally the National FFA Band has led the American Royal Parade through the streets of Kansas City signaling the end of the National FFA Convention and the opening of the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show. The parade on Saturday morning is the last performance of the National FFA Band.



The constitutional change allowing girls to become members of the Future Farmers of America in 1969 changed the sound of the National FFA Chorus. Today the Chorus is a mix of male and female voices.

Pilgrimage to Monticello and Mount Vernon

The outstanding feature of the FFA program in 1932-33 was a three day national pilgrimage by officers and members to Washington, D.C., Mount Vernon, and Monticello, Virginia. At Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson, a room was dedicated and an FFA plaque placed to honor him. After visiting Mount Vernon, home of George Washington, they went to Washington, D.C., where they were greeted on the White House lawn by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt made the following statement to the assembled group of FFA members:

"I would like to welcome all of you to Washington. You may never make a great deal of money. At the same time, the chances are a thousand to one the other way that you'll never starve. The chances are a thousand to one that you'll always have a roof over your head; good educational opportunities for your families. . . . You're doing a fine job. Go back to your own home states, your home counties, and home farms, and keep up the good work."

Girls in the FFA

The FFA organization was launched and conducted for several years as an organization for farm boys who were studying vocational agriculture. The 1933 national convention brought to a head one of the hottest organizational questions of the day. The Massachusetts association had permitted girls to become members of the FFA. They had good arguments. After all, girls could become students of vocational agriculture, and was not the FFA the organization of such students?

A majority of the delegates disagreed. They adopted a strongly worded motion made by delegate Robert Stewart of Montana that: "The Massachusetts Association be given three months to conform to the national constitution or the Board of Trustees be instructed to suspend Massachusetts."

Because of the interpretation of a state law governing student organizations, the Massachusetts association was

unable to comply with the rule for about three years. At the 1934 national convention the delegates relented somewhat and specified that girl membership should be limited to a local and state basis. They did, however, make it clear that it was only a temporary concession to permit Massachusetts to retain its charter until the situation could be cleared.

As more girls enrolled in vocational agriculture throughout the nation the demand became stronger from a number of states for girls to be accepted as full members of FFA. Some of the chapters took the matter to the State Attorney General for a ruling and in each case a decision



1973 was the second year girls were eligible to receive the American Farmer Degree. National FFA President Dwight Seegmiller presented American Farmer Degrees to four girls. Three of the four who received the degree in 1973 were: Carla Chenette of Connecticut, Lisa Tomkow of Florida and Kristann Silkwood of California.

was made that girls had as much right as boys to belong to the FFA. Thus the organization changed from that of a farm boy organization to one that was composed of all students of vocational agriculture, including boys and girls. The delegates at the national FFA convention in 1969 permanently solved this issue by voting to amend the FFA constitution and make girls eligible for membership. For many years girls have been playing a major role in farming and other agricultural occupations and now serve as capable, effective members of the FFA. In 1976 Julie Smiley of Mount Vernon, Washington was elected National Vice President of the Western Region, the first girl to serve as a national officer.

Growth and Action at National Conventions

As the FFA expanded in membership and programs it faced many new problems. The question of organizing collegiate FFA chapters was discussed thoroughly at the 1930 national convention. Finally delegates approved the idea and authorized the Board of Trustees to proceed with the development of plans for organizing collegiate chapters. Two years later collegiate chapters began to function.

By 1931 46 states and Hawaii had received charters from the national organization. The first Hawaiian member to attend the national FFA convention, Wilbert Choi, was given a rousing ovation when he received his American Farmer Degree. A movie of the convention was made and later distributed for use by states and local chapters.

The FFA continued to grow and prosper during the thirties even though there was a serious depression that was threatening the country with economic ruin. Clarence Goldsberry of Houston, Missouri, the 1932 Star Farmer of America, owned eight registered Jersey cattle, 11 registered Hampshire hogs, 952 poultry, and had a partnership interest in 343 acres of land, yet his total investment in farming was figured at only \$2,171.40.

In spite of the depression local chapters, state associations and the national organization continued to grow

and build a firm foundation for future progress by the organization.

Since little money was available to provide needed facilities for vocational agriculture many chapters cut timber, collected stone from the fields and built their own facilities. They planted gardens, preserved vegetables and fruit that many people could not afford to buy, and helped in the production and marketing of livestock.

Records from state associations show that in 1931-32, 15,995 Future Farmers attended state conventions. Fifteen states were sponsoring recreational activities, including camps, and 18 states held leadership training conferences. More than a third of the 3,099 local chapters were engaged in buying and selling activities.

In 1932 a charter was granted to the Puerto Rican Association, leaving only Mississippi (1934) and Rhode Island (1949) to come into the national organization. In 1976 Alaska became the last of the 50 states to obtain a National Charter. Another important event during the year was the participation by 1,100 local FFA chapters in the George Washington Bicentennial Celebration.

The delegates to the 1933 national convention voted to establish an annual FFA Day (changed in 1948 to National FFA Week), and they established the policy of the national organization paying the expenses of one official delegate from each state to the national conventions.

A number of changes were made in the national FFA leadership in 1934. Dr. Lane left his post as National Advisor and was succeeded by J. A. Linke, Regional Agent, North Central Region. W. A. Ross was transferred, temporarily, from the Agricultural Education Service and H. B. Swanson served as Executive Secretary of the FFA for a period of eight months.

This was also the year that the practice started of having national FFA officers travel to state FFA conventions. President Bobby Jones of Radnor, Ohio, attended conventions in Iowa, California, Oregon and the Hawaiian Islands.

The delegates at the 1934 national convention voted to purchase a prize lamb from an FFA member at the American Royal, have it dressed, and sent by airplane to President Roosevelt.

During that same convention the delegates became concerned because Jack Dunn of Hawaii had not been



Right from the start the FFA had an advisory council to review the organization's activities. In 1935 the council members included: FFA Ex. Sec., W. A. Ross; H. O. Sampson, New Jersey; J. E. Border, Montana; J. A. Linke, National Advisor; L. B. Pollom, Kansas and D. M. Clements, Tennessee.



In the early days of the FFA a large annual banquet was held in the exhibition hall of the Municipal Auditorium. This was the scene in 1937 as several thousand vocational agriculture students gathered for the annual banquet.

recommended to receive the American Farmer Degree, because his farming program did not meet the rigid requirements for the degree. Some of the delegates thought farming conditions in Hawaii made it more difficult to qualify for that degree. They raised the question on the floor and a heated discussion followed. During the debate, Dunn, who was an official delegate, requested the floor and asked that no exception be made in his case. He asked them to "Hold up the standard," and the remark brought cheers from the delegates.

One delegate suggested that Jack be given the Honorary American Farmer Degree. Since the proposal was not acceptable according to the constitution, a delegate from Massachusetts, Howard Potter, moved that a Special Honorary American Farmer Degree be awarded. The motion passed 78-3. To this day, Jack Dunn of Hawaii is the only person listed in the official FFA records as having received that special degree.

The active membership passed 100,000, and there were almost 4,000 chapters by 1935. The national convention was extended to four days. An official secretary's book was authorized and made available to local chapters. At the convention delegates started making preliminary plans for a big celebration on the tenth anniversary of the FFA.

Some confusion existed concerning the relationship of the National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students to the Future Farmers of America. FFA was growing so rapidly and was so well accepted by the public that a major change was made. The 1935 printed program was titled: "Eighth National Convention, Future Farmers of America—A Feature of the The National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students." In 1936 the program read: "Ninth National Convention, Future Farmers of America, and National Contests for Students of Vocational Agriculture." This was the end of the Congress which had helped to create the FFA. But it was not until 1942 that the national contests were conducted as part of the FFA.

In 1936 an official treasurer's book for local chapters was approved by the delegates at the national convention, and the national treasurer was designated as parliamentarian for the organization.



The first nine National FFA Conventions were held in the Baltimore Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. This plaque was presented to the hotel, which has since been torn down. The plaque is now on display in the National FFA Archives.



A delegation from Hawaii attended the 1939 National FFA Convention. They were welcomed by National Advisor J. A. Linke. The delegates were Howard K. Kimura, Kona; Seisuke Akamine, Lanai; and L. J. Capellas, Waimea, Kauai, their vocational agriculture instructor.

Tenth Convention Celebration

Ten years of FFA progress was appropriately marked by the Tenth Convention Celebration held in the Municipal Auditorium at Kansas City during the week of October 18, 1937. Every national convention, up to that time, had been held at the Baltimore Hotel, but the organization had outgrown all available hotels.

About 6,000 members, advisors, and friends of the organization registered during convention week. Cele-

bration ceremonies featured placing of an FFA plaque in the Baltimore Hotel to mark the building in which the organization was launched and a special evening program. This program included placing stars on a United States flag by representatives of 49 chartered state FFA associations in the order in which the charters were issued; passing the gavel by past national officers representing each year in the life of the FFA; and a pageant by dramatizing the 20 former national officers' story of the development of the organization.

State FFA bands were present from Missouri, Texas and Utah, playing both as individual bands, and as a massed band of nearly 300 pieces. The Solomon, Kansas, FFA Orchestra furnished banquet music and entertainment. An exhibit was made of typical agricultural products raised in the various states, a feature which was continued at other national conventions.

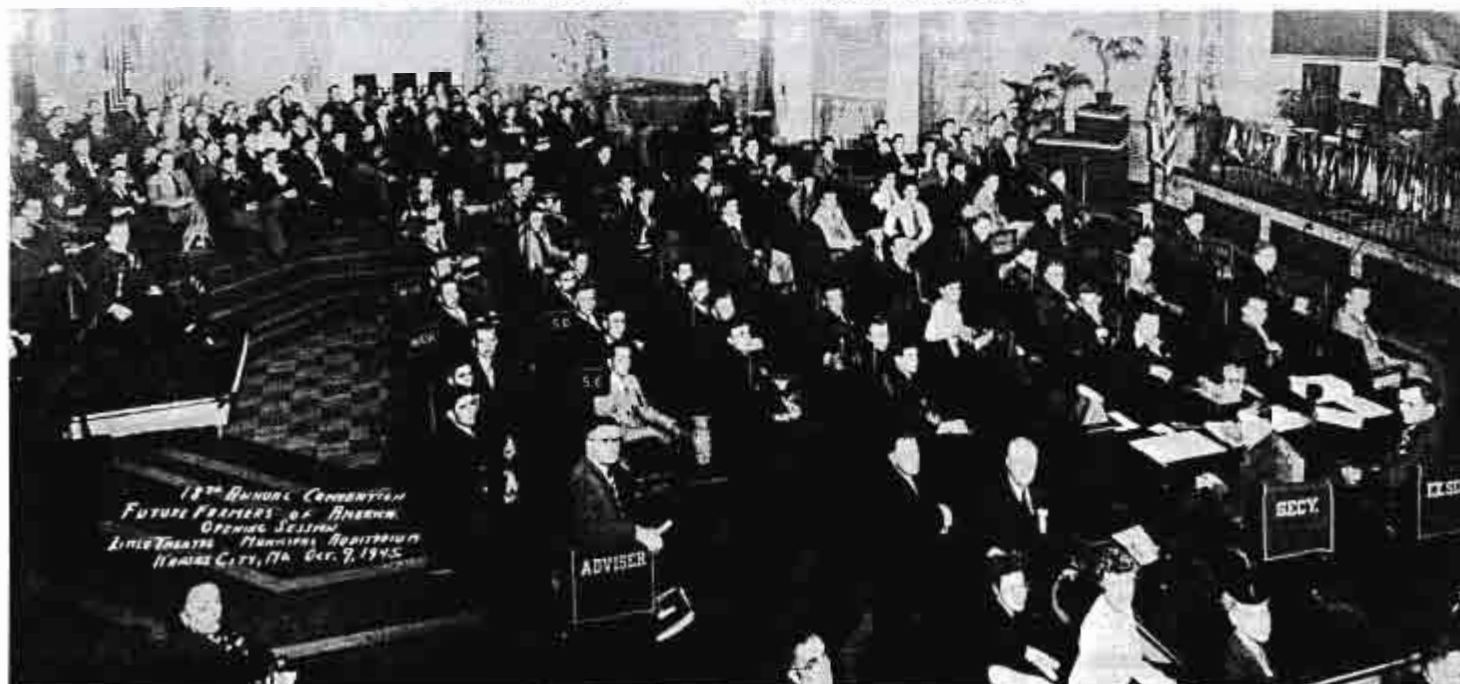
The FFA constitution was completely revised for the third time. One major change added four regional advisors to the list of officers and to the National Advisory

Council. It was specified that the regional advisors be members of the Agricultural Education Service staff in the Office of Education.

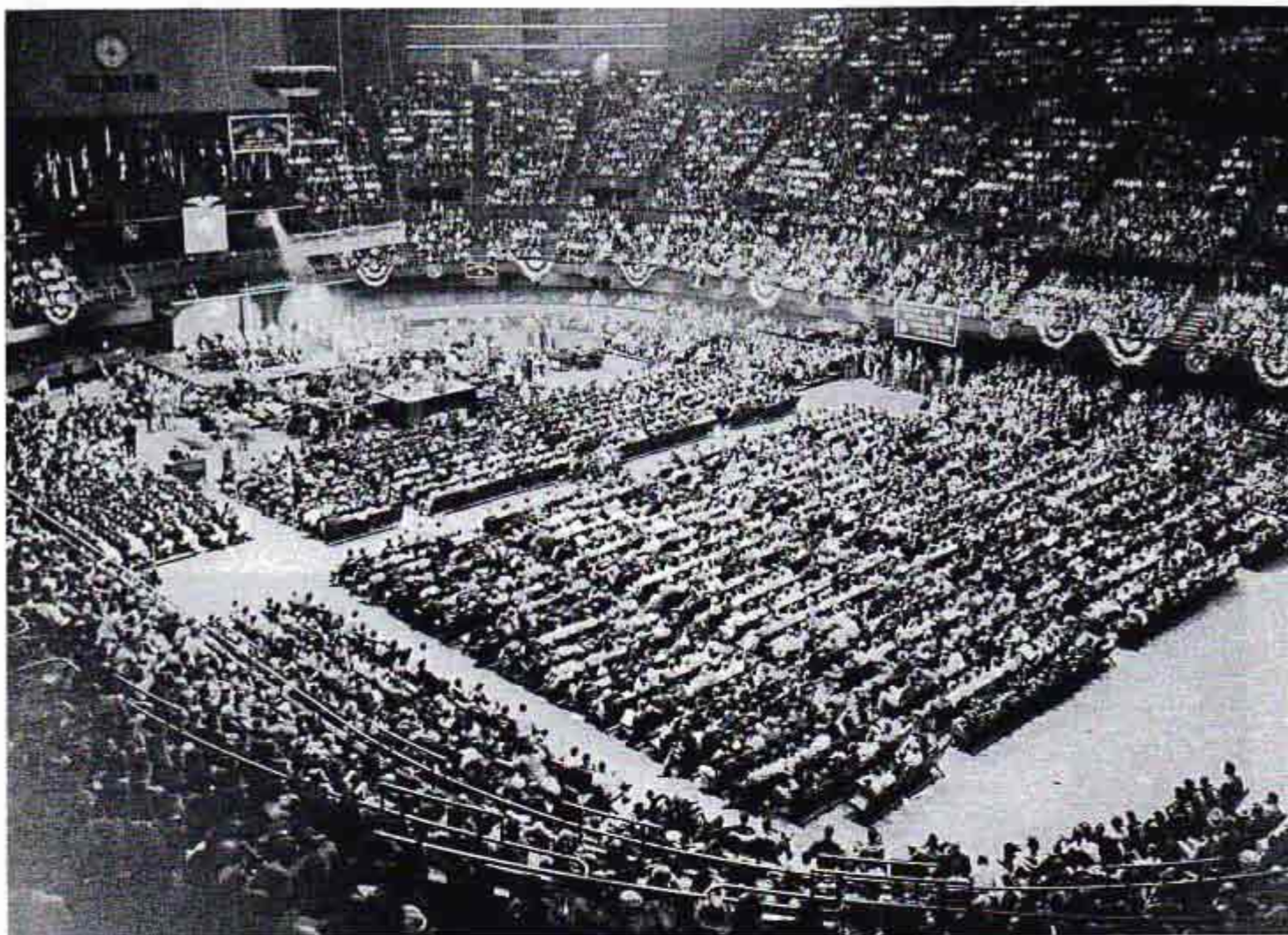
Another change placed the nomination of American Farmers on a basis of one boy per 1,000 (or major fraction thereof), members in a state, eliminating the previous stipulation that no more than 75 American Farmers might be elected each year.

A movie titled "FFA Celebrates at Ten," sponsored by the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., was made by the organization during the convention and prints were distributed throughout the country for use by chapters and state associations.

The delegates to the 1937 convention took official action toward the establishment of a national FFA camp by designating the Board of Trustees as a committee to determine the advisability and opportunity for a camp and leadership training school in the Washington, D.C. area. (Please refer to the chapter on The Development of the National FFA Center.)



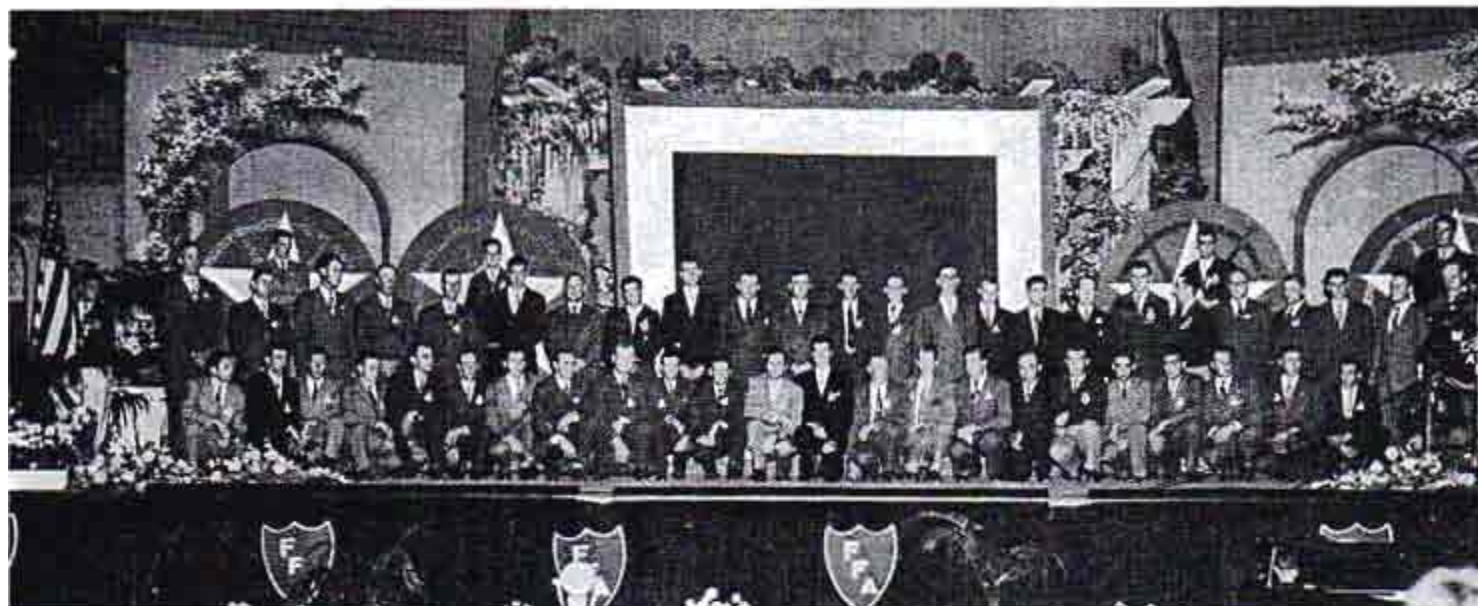
During World War II the National Convention was scaled down because of difficulties of travel and the need to put all resources into the war effort. In 1945 delegates held the National Convention in the Little Theater of the Municipal Auditorium.



By 1953 the nation was back to normal and FFA members were eager to travel. That year the Convention set an attendance record as more than 12,000 FFA members and adults came to Kansas City to hear President Eisenhower speak to convention participants.



In 1957 former President Harry Truman addressed the National FFA Convention. He was presented the Honorary American Farmer Degree by National President Johnny Haid Jr.



At the 1948 National Convention, National Officers held a reunion and were invited to the stage.



Indian members of the Browning, Montana, FFA Chapter presented a Buffalo Grass Dance at the Silver Anniversary FFA Convention in 1953.



This was the scene as FFA members from every state lined up to register their attendance at the 1952 National FFA Convention.



These were scenes of special activities at the Silver Anniversary National FFA Convention held in 1953.



In a pageant at the Silver Anniversary National Convention, FFA members recreated the history of agriculture in America to show the role of education in the development of U.S. agriculture.



In 1960 National officers were guests in the home of Raymond Firestone, one of the Founders and long-time supporters of the National FFA Foundation.



The FFA Pageant, "Story of Old Glory" written and produced by National FFA Executive Secretary Wm. Paul Gray and presented by FFA members at the 1966 National FFA Convention, won an American Freedom Foundation Award.



Vice President Hubert Humphrey was a keynote speaker at the 40th National FFA Convention in 1967.



In 1966 National FFA President Howard Williams cut the ribbon opening the first Agricultural Career Show for members held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention.



Three of the five National Advisors who have served the FFA Organization were together at the 1968 National FFA Convention. They are Dr. W. T. Spanton, H. N. Hunsicker and Dr. A. W. Tenney.



A special feature of several National FFA Conventions was the Building of the Flag. Presidents of each state association pinned a star on the flag in the order in which their association was chartered.



In 1974 President Gerald R. Ford addressed the National FFA Convention. His WIN (Whip Inflation Now) speech was delivered before a nationwide television audience from the National FFA Convention only a few weeks after taking office as President of the United States.



In 1975 Jimmy Carter addressed the National FFA Convention when he was still a little known candidate in the Presidential primaries. He told FFA members that "I got my start in politics when I was elected secretary of the Plains FFA Chapter." When he took office in 1977 Carter became the first former FFA member to be President of the United States.

Steady Growth of FFA

In 1938 the sum of \$6,000 was set aside at the convention for the purpose of starting the national camp. Provision was made for FFA participation, through a 60-foot exhibit, in the 1939 World's Poultry Congress at Cleveland, Ohio. An official chapter scrapbook was adopted and steps were taken to have the organization's emblem registered as a trademark.

At the 1939 convention the delegates set aside \$12,000 for the purchase of additional land for the national camp, making approximately 35 acres in total, and for initial development of the camp.



National FFA Camp

The National FFA Center started as a National FFA Camp to house members who visited the Nation's Capital. The barracks buildings were equipped with bunks and eating facilities. Later the buildings became headquarters for the National FFA Supply Service.

During that year a trend was started by local chapters and state associations to adopt the Danish System of awards whereby state association and chapter contest awards were placed on a classification basis rather than designating individual numerical placings. The system was extended to national FFA judging contests in 1947.

In 1939 an informational pamphlet entitled "FFA, What it is and Does," was published, which with revisions, is still used widely to help tell the story of FFA.

During this period organizations for agricultural youth,



Twin brothers Albert and Arthur Lacy of Hondo, Texas, each had such an outstanding farming program that judges named both of them Star Farmers of America. They are the only two young men ever to share the Star Farmer of America Award.

patterned after the FFA, were being established in Greece, Albania, and Bulgaria. These were forerunners of many similar organizations which were to be developed throughout the world.

More than 6,000 persons attended the eleventh national FFA convention. When the judges started to select the 1939 Star Farmers, they were confronted with identical twins whose records were almost alike. Both were ahead of the other candidates in the southern region. So, Albert and Arthur Lacy of Hondo, Texas became the only boys ever to share a Regional Star Farmer award.

In 1941 Mr. Linke retired as Chief of the Agricultural Education Service and National FFA Advisor. He was succeeded by Dr. W. T. Spanton, Regional Agent for the Pacific states. Mr. Groseclose resigned as treasurer, because of ill health, and Dowell J. Howard of Virginia was elected to that post.

The new national camp was opened on June 1, 1941. That same year the Virginia Conservation Commission started restoring the old George Washington grist mill, which is located on property which adjoined the FFA camp property. The FFA was given authority by the Commission to keep the mill open to the public. For many years the FFA kept a caretaker at the mill so that visitors might see this historical building.

The national convention in 1941 was attended by 8,000 members and friends. It was announced that the national membership had reached 240,972. Delegates were enthusiastic and set a goal of 250,000 for 1942. The members did not know that it would be seven long years before that goal was reached, for in less than two months' time their country would be involved in a global war.



In 1957 National FFA President Dan Dunham (second from right) and National FFA Executive Secretary A. W. Tenney were invited to travel to Japan with Future Farmers of Japan President Takaaki Kurihara and Assistant Secretary General of the FFJ Hideto Shishido. During their travels they stopped in Hawaii where they were greeted by R. Furdun (left), Advisor of the Hawaii FFA Association.



In 1958 National FFA Secretary Norman Brown traveled to Thailand where he was a guest of Thai Future Farmers.



During their travels in Thailand National Secretary Norman Brown and FFA Executive Secretary Wm. Paul Gray had several opportunities to address Thai vocational agriculture students.



Many state FFA associations have outstanding camps or leadership facilities like this dining hall at the Georgia FFA Camp.

FFA During the War Years

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the country started to mobilize. Vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of America were ready to help. The organization attained a new high in membership of 245,830 in 1942 in the 7,542 local chapters. Many of the instructors were volunteering for service in the armed forces and the war industries. It was necessary to close many of the vocational agriculture departments for the duration of the war. A gradual decline took place in FFA membership and in the number of chapters. By 1945 there were 196,253 FFA members in 6,030 chapters.

During the war years the national conventions were streamlined affairs. Only delegates and award winners attended, to economize on expenses and to make it possible for other members to participate in the war effort. The 1942 convention was attended by only 217 persons. The delegates revised the membership rules so that time in the armed forces would not count in determining a member's period of eligibility following graduation or leaving high school.

Future Farmers were active in their communities collecting scrap metal, rubber, and paper and were buying war bonds and helping sell additional bonds. Everywhere they were producing food, fiber and other agricultural products which were so urgently needed by their country and its allies.

Many of the older FFA members were in the armed forces. Eight former members were with General Wainwright when Bataan fell. One former member, William Gentry of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, was credited with leading the first tank battle on U.S. soil when ten U.S. tanks destroyed six Japanese tanks (December 31, 1941). Melvin Jordan of Oklahoma, Robert Gray of Texas, and Travis Hoover of California, all former FFA members, were with General Jimmy Doolittle and participated in the famous raid on Tokyo, April 18, 1942.

Future Farmer chapters that remained active during the war years had a big job to do and their record of achievement was outstanding. One of their major accomplishments was to build many thousands of pieces of farm



Many FFA members served in World War II. Captain Travis Hoover of California was with General Doolittle on the bombing of Tokyo in April 1942.



When the war was over the FFA paid tribute to war veterans in a special program at the Victory FFA Convention in 1946. Each of the Armed Services was represented by military personnel who had been members of the Shawnee-Mission, Kansas, FFA Chapter.



Patriotism and love for the nation have always been important to FFA members. Special ceremonies and pageants at the National FFA Convention have often been based on these patriotic themes.

equipment and machinery, and to repair countless farm machines that would have remained idle if there had not been vocational agriculture departments and FFA members to help.

In 1943, W. A. Ross resigned as National Executive Secretary to assume another position in the Office of Education. S. C. Huslander served in his place from January to July, then returned to Pennsylvania. A. W. Tenney was called from Florida to serve as National Executive Secretary on July 7, 1943.

The conventions of 1943 and 1944 were also limited in size, with only the delegates and award winners present. After the surrender of Japan the delegates to the 1945 convention made plans for a Victory Celebration to be held in 1946.

The Future Farmers of America Foundation, Incorporated, was formed in 1944 to provide funds for a comprehensive award program for FFA members and chapters. (Please refer to the chapter on the Foundation.) During the same year the delegates at the national FFA convention approved a budget of \$10,000 to employ a director of public relations and information for the national office, and to pay his secretarial and travel expenses.

DeWitt C. Wing served as Director of Public Relations for about six months, and was succeeded by William J. Huff. When Huff left in the spring of 1947 he was replaced by John Farrar, FFA Executive Secretary in Oklahoma.

The FFA service flag unveiled at the 17th National FFA Convention in 1944 showed the number of FFA members serving in the Armed Services in World War II.



The 1946 National FFA Convention was a jubilant occasion as Future Farmers gathered in Kansas City for the Victory Convention. So many attended that a "folding cot hotel" was created on the exhibition hall floor of the Municipal Auditorium to house members.



Victory Celebration Convention

With restriction on attendance eliminated there was great interest throughout the nation on attendance at the big Victory Convention in 1946. When more than 12,500 FFA members and their friends arrived in Kansas City it was necessary to make special housing arrangements. Cots were set up in empty warehouses and in other buildings to provide sleeping space for many FFA members. A special cafeteria was set up near the auditorium to help feed the big crowd.

It was announced at the convention that the FFA was again increasing in membership and was back to 206,104. A memorial program, honoring former members who served in the armed forces, was featured at the convention. As participants in the program marched to the platform they were preceded by a color guard, which was followed by each of the state FFA presidents bearing their state flag. The flags were used to form a background for the stage. Since that convention this flag ceremony has been used annually during the Star Farmer ceremony. Four representatives from each of the armed forces were on the platform and these former FFA members were saluted by the Pennsylvania State FFA Band and the Missouri State FFA Chorus.

A special report on the contributions of FFA members to the war effort for the five year period 1941 to 1946 was made by the executive secretary. The following items were included in that report:

1. Maturity value of War and Victory Bonds purchased by state associations	\$97,861
2. Maturity value of War and Victory Bonds and Stamps purchased by chapters and members	17,023,566
3. Maturity value of War and Victory Bonds and Stamps sold by chapters and members	18,415,126

4. Pounds of scrap metal collected by chapters	352,885,162
5. Pounds of paper collected by chapters	65,187,206
6. Bushels of rags collected by chapters	5,884,630
7. Number of burlap bags collected by chapters	1,694,767
8. Pounds of rubber collected by chapters	6,394,766
9. Members who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces	7,188
10. Acreage of victory gardens grown by members	111,261
11. Number of farm machines repaired by FFA members	621,900
12. Number of pieces of farm equipment constructed	292,369
13. Number of food conservation centers constructed and equipped with assistance of FFA Chapters	2,352
14. Number of No. 2 cans of food processed by chapters	12,233,033

The Victory Celebration Convention was a fitting climax to the distinguished service rendered by FFA members on the home front and throughout the world during the war years. The recognition of the services rendered by FFA can perhaps best be summarized by including a quotation from a telegram received at the 1943 national FFA convention:

The White House, Washington, D.C.
 "Congratulations to Future Farmers of America. Your work on the farm front is vital to our success on the battle-fronts of the world."

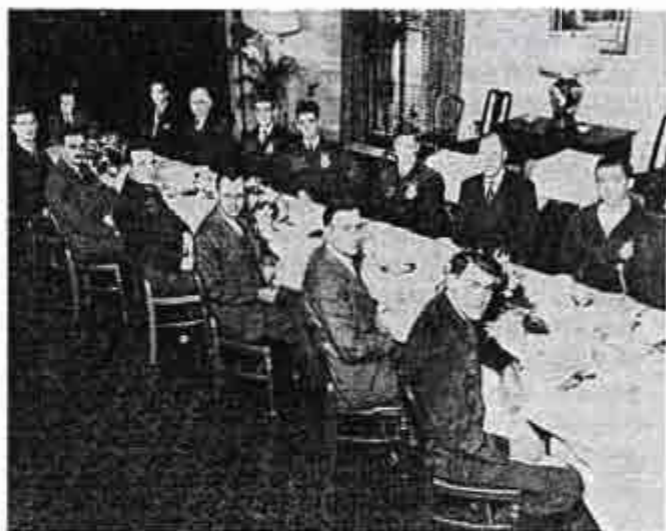
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Return to Peacetime Activities

In August 1946, Congress approved the George-Barden Act, which authorized an increase in Federal funds for the further development of vocational education. This Act made it possible for many new schools to offer vocational agriculture. The year 1946-47 was one of expansion for the FFA. A shortage of qualified teachers slowed down the expansion program, but FFA membership increased in 1947 to 238,269, and to a record high of 260,300 in 1948.

In 1947 the national FFA officers went on the first good-will tour, visiting business and industrial firms and organizations in the east and mid-west. This tour, which has become an annual event of national and many state officers, was started at the request of leaders in business and industry who wanted their associates to become acquainted with the national officers of the FFA and the program of the organization. The tours also proved to be most informative and helpful to the FFA officers. George Lewis, National FFA President, 1949-50, while addressing officials of a large corporation, on the good-will tour said:

"Three things have surprised me on this tour. The first is that I have learned that large corporations are sincerely interested in the welfare of the farmer. The second is that so many things are being done or planned that will make life richer on the farm. The third is that the top officials of companies such as yours are as common and easy to talk with as dad is back on the farm."



In 1947 National FFA Officers made the first major effort to visit National FFA Foundation Sponsors. The visits, which became known as the "FFA Good-Will Tour," have become a major part of national officer responsibilities.



During the Good-Will Tour National Officers visit many FFA Foundation Sponsors to thank them for their support and to become better acquainted with business and industry as it relates to agriculture/agribusiness.

Renewal of National Judging Contests

Due to the restrictions on travel during the war years national judging contests for vocational agriculture students, which had been held annually from 1926 to 1941, were discontinued. In 1946, with the war over, there was a universal demand to renew the contests and to improve their educational value.

A committee of state supervisors met with E. J. Johnson, of the Office of Education, at St. Louis, Missouri, on December 11, 1946, and recommended that national judging contests be resumed the following year. They also requested that the Danish system of awards be used, placing teams and individuals in gold, silver, and bronze emblem classifications, instead of giving numerical placings as had been done in the past.



Early FFA meats judging and identification contests were held in cooperation with the American Royal and the Swift Packing Co.

The St. Louis meeting led to the appointment of a special study committee composed of one state supervisor and one teacher educator from each of the four regions, with Mr. Johnson as chairman. The committee met in Washington, D.C. in January 1947, and developed plans for livestock and meats judging contests in Kansas City and dairy cattle, dairy products, and poultry contests at Waterloo, Iowa.



Even before 1928 Future Farmers were using the American Royal Livestock Arena as the site of the National Livestock Judging Contest for vocational agriculture students



Dairy cattle are brought to Kansas City specially to provide national competition in Dairy Cattle Judging for FFA members.

To improve the educational value of the contests they made plans to judge dairy cattle on the basis of type and production, instead of type alone. They improved livestock contests by adding classes of steers to be graded according to commercial standards. Later, performance pedigrees and performance records were added to the dairy cattle contest and production records were introduced in swine judging. Horse and mule judging contests, which had been popular features for years, were discontinued.

The FFA Foundation budgeted \$3,000 to be divided equally among the gold emblem teams in all five contests, \$5,000 to be divided equally among the gold emblem individuals, and \$2,000 for plaques and certificates. In later years the plan was changed to provide cash travel awards to all teams; plaques to gold, silver and bronze emblem teams; medals to gold, silver and bronze individuals; and certificates to honorable mention and participation teams and individuals.

The first national FFA judging contests after the war were held in the fall of 1947. Twenty-eight states participated in the dairy and poultry contests held at the National Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo, Iowa, and 34 states competed in judging livestock and meats at the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show, held at the time of the national FFA convention in Kansas City, Missouri. (For more detailed information please refer to the chapter on Awards and Contests.)



Elmer J. Johnson, Program Specialist, U.S. Office of Education, was one of the pioneers in the operation of National FFA Contests. Under his direction the National Contests were reestablished after World War II and participation in them was expanded. He also provided leadership in vocational agricultural education in the Western states.

Future Farmers Supply Service

In the early years members of the FFA and their advisors had great difficulty obtaining quality merchandise bearing the emblem of the organization. It was necessary for them to write to many companies to obtain supplies and the service was usually poor.

To help correct this situation, delegates to the 1947 FFA convention approved the establishment of a Future Farmers Supply Service, where members and chapters could obtain various official items of quality merchandise, such as banners, ties, shirts, jackets and jewelry. A budget of \$10,000 was approved for use in developing the Supply Service. The Service began operating at the National FFA Camp in February 1948. (For additional information please refer to the chapter on the Future Farmers Supply Service.)

National FFA Magazine

As early as 1929 delegates to the national FFA convention discussed the possibility of publishing a national FFA magazine. The proposition was referred to the Board of Trustees. It was agreed that there was need for a magazine but the young organization did not have the financial resources to publish a magazine. Members and convention delegates never lost interest in a national magazine and the subject was brought up at most national FFA conventions.



Lano Barron was the first Editor of The National *Future Farmer* magazine.

A pictorial brochure, "FFA in Action," was prepared by the National Executive Secretary, A. W. Tenney, in 1945, using pictures of FFA members to describe the work of the organization. More than 400,000 copies of the brochure were printed and distributed. "FFA in Action" became a top-notch promotional device for the organization. A second edition was printed in 1947 and more than 100,000 copies were distributed. "FFA in Action" served as a forerunner for the national FFA magazine, which became a reality when the first issue of *The National Future Farmer* magazine was published in 1952. (For a complete history of the magazine please refer to the chapter on *The National Future Farmer* magazine.)

Twentieth Anniversary Convention

Big plans were made for the twentieth anniversary celebration. A slogan was used, "20,000 for the twentieth anniversary." The dates for the convention were set one month later than usual, to avoid competition for housing space with the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show. Fortunately only about half that number attended the convention. It was necessary to set up a folding-cot hotel in the basement of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City to help house those who attended.

At the 1947 convention delegates voted to change the celebration of National FFA Week to the week of George Washington's birthday. A change was made from celebrating FFA Day during the national convention to FFA Week, to be held during the week of George Washington's birthday.

The delegates to the convention took action on the first major international activity by the FFA, by approving a plan to establish an annual exchange program between the FFA and the Young Farmers of Great Britain. Four FFA members went to Britain in 1949 and four British Young Farmers came to this country. Bill Carlin of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, Joe Espey of Maryville, Missouri, Eugene Hansen of East Garland, Utah, and Tom Lindsay of Hazen, Alabama, were the FFA members

who took part in the first exchange trip.

One of the highlights of the 1948 convention was a special program which featured a recounting of the history of the development of the Star American Farmer awards which had been presented by the *Weekly Kansas City Star*. John Collins, editor of the paper, made the 20th anniversary presentation. All other national awards were being made by the FFA Foundation, so in 1949 the *Star* relinquished its sponsorship of the Star Farmer awards and became a donor to the Foundation, which has since sponsored the awards.

Important Actions at National FFA Conventions

An important event took place at the 1949 national convention when Rhode Island was accepted as a state association in the FFA. For many years Rhode Island had been the only state without an FFA program. There were only five chapters and 82 members, but the FFA could now say that it covered the nation.



In 1949 the Rhode Island FFA Association was presented a charter by the National FFA Organization.

Another important change was made in 1949 in the scheduling of the FFA convention in Kansas City during the week preceding the American Royal. The plan avoided the housing problems created by running both shows at the same time, but still made it possible to use American Royal facilities for the FFA judging contests and gave an opportunity for the national FFA band, Star Farmer and national officers to participate in the big American Royal parade on the Saturday following the

convention. For many years the American Royal held a ball in the Municipal Auditorium prior to the opening of the Royal show. The national FFA band and chorus were invited to perform for several years at the ball. The band formed the letters AR and FFA during the presentation. At the first appearance of the FFA chorus at the ball the members were grouped on the floor of the auditorium in the dark and started singing, "This is My Country," as the lights were slowly turned on. The beautiful music and the impressive sight of 125 youth dressed in blue jackets and white trousers made such a great impression on the people from Kansas City that they broke into great applause before the song was finished.

The 1949 convention was most unusual in that there were no guest speakers. Alben Barkley, Vice President of the United States; Albert Goss, Master of the National Grange; and Clifford R. Hope, U.S. Representative from Kansas, were all scheduled to address the convention but at the last minute all three were forced to cancel their engagements when a hot fight on agricultural appropriations developed in Washington.

A Federal Charter for The FFA

From the beginning, FFA members and advisors tried to protect the name and emblem of the organization. Delegates to national conventions adopted rules and regulations to govern the use of the emblem. Resolutions were passed to regulate the use of the emblem by companies and individuals without authority from the organization.

Friends of the FFA suggested that the organization should obtain a charter of incorporation from Congress. A charter would give legal stability to the organization and would give additional prestige to the FFA. It was decided to incorporate into one bill a Federal Charter, protecting the name and emblem and clarifying the relationship between FFA and the Office of Education.

In 1949, Senator Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma, on behalf of the Oklahoma State FFA Association, introduced a bill in the U.S. Senate to protect the FFA name and emblem. When it was decided to try to get a Federal

Charter he let his bill die in committee, then became one of the sponsors of a new bill, introduced on January 17, 1950, designed to protect the emblem and give the FFA a Federal Charter. Other sponsors of the charter bill were Senator Harry Darby of Kansas, Senator Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma, and Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas.

The bill was discussed at the regional conferences, and there was some objection because of the section which would have placed administration of the FFA under a Board of Directors composed of seven members of the staff of the Agricultural Education Service in the U.S. Office of Education, four state supervisors of vocational agriculture, the treasurer, and the national FFA president of the preceding year.

The state administrators thought that the board should be the same as the Advisory Council that was in operation at the time, consisting of five members of the Agricultural Education Service and four state supervisors.

The bill was amended as requested, then it was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives without opposition. President Truman signed the bill on August 30, 1950, and it became Public Law 740, 81st Congress.

In October 1950, delegates at the national FFA convention adopted a resolution dissolving the old Virginia corporation and transferring the FFA, with its assets to the new corporation chartered by Congress.

It was the intent of the new charter to protect the emblem but actually it weakened much of the national organization's control. Section 16 of the law stated: "the corporation, and its duly authorized chapters and associations of chapters, shall have sole and exclusive right to use the name of the Future Farmers of America and its initials FFA as representing an agricultural organization and such seals, emblems, and badges as the corporation may legally adopt."

It was not long until a private supply company entered into an agreement with a state association to manufacture FFA jackets for members in that state.

This problem was thoroughly discussed by the Board of Directors, the Board of Student Officers and the delegates at the national FFA convention. The company was asked to stop this operation and when it refused to do so the national organization, upon the recommendations of

the national boards and delegates, filed suit, charging that the company could not use the emblem or letters FFA without authorization of the national organization. The court, however, ruled that any state association or local chapter did have the right to authorize others to manufacture items bearing the FFA emblem, but only for their own use. A court of appeals later sustained this decision.

The emblem of the FFA was given additional protection in 1975 by the passage of the Lanham Act which protects the emblem in interstate commerce.

The state associations and local chapters have assisted the national organization in the protection of the name and emblem. For additional information concerning the policies which have been developed by the organization for the protection of the name and emblem one should refer to the official Manual.

A Code of Ethics Adopted

National FFA officers, members and advisors recognized the need for a guide which could be used by members as they conducted the affairs of the organization. The delegates to the 1952 national convention adopted a "Code of Ethics" to serve with the Creed as guiding principles for the conduct of FFA members. The Code adopted follows:

"We will conduct ourselves at all times in order to be a credit to our organization, chapter, school, and community by:

1. Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
2. Showing respect for the rights of others and being courteous at all times.
3. Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others.
4. Respecting property of others.
5. Refraining from loud, boisterous talk, swearing, and horseplay.
6. Demonstrating sportsmanship in the show ring, judging contests and meetings. Modest in winning and generous in defeat.

7. Attending meetings promptly and respecting the opinions of others during discussion.
8. Taking pride in our organization; in our activities; in our farming programs; in our exhibits, and the occupations of farming and ranching.
9. Sharing with others experiences and knowledge gained by attending national and state meetings."

The Code, which has been revised from time to time, has had a wholesome influence on members of FFA.

Special FFA Stamp Issued

As the FFA approached its 25th birthday, friends of the FFA suggested that it would be appropriate for the Post Office Department to issue a special stamp in honor of FFA's Silver Anniversary. National officers visited President Truman on February 10, 1952, and asked him to



The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating the FFA's 25th Anniversary in 1952.

assist in getting the special stamp. The National Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association and the American Vocational Association assisted in the campaign by having hundreds of letters written to the Post Office Department, and to senators and representatives, asking for their help in obtaining a special stamp.

Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas introduced a bill in the Senate requesting that approval be given to the issuance of an FFA commemorative stamp.

Former Senator Harry Darby of Kansas, another long-time friend of the FFA, joined Senator Carlson and Assistant Secretary of Defense Roger M. Kyes, who in 1951 served as chairman of the sponsoring committee of the Future Farmers of America Foundation, in their efforts to obtain the stamp.

The Post Office Department announced in March 1953, that it had approved the issue of a special stamp to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the FFA. It was agreed that the first stamps would be issued in Kansas City on October 13, during the sessions of the Silver Anniversary Convention.

The presentation of the commemorative stamp by Assistant Postmaster General Albert J. Robertson, helped make the 25th Anniversary National FFA Convention one of the most memorable.

Silver Anniversary Convention

The 25th Anniversary Convention was a fitting climax to the growth and achievement of FFA during its first quarter century. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was the featured speaker of the convention. Other guest speakers included Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of the newly created Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture.

The national FFA band and national FFA chorus played an active role in the convention. The band greeted President Eisenhower when he arrived in the city and provided music at the American Royal Live Stock and Horse Show when the President appeared there. The band later led the great American Royal parade in

Kansas City. In addition to providing music during the convention, the band and chorus were featured on a nationwide Mutual Broadcasting System radio program. The FFA chorus also participated in the program of the American Royal Ball.

The program on the second day featured the unveiling and presentation of the FFA commemorative postage stamp, presentation of awards in the national chapter contest, conferring of American Farmer and Honorary American Farmer degrees and the presentation of Star American Farmers for 1953.

An impressive pageant was presented on Wednesday morning. More than 600 FFA members acted out scenes which illustrated the growth and achievements of the organization during the past 25 years. The pageant ended with the presentation of a birthday cake 22 feet in diameter. Inside were 25 members of the Shawnee Mission, Kansas FFA Chapter wearing special caps which served as candles signifying 25 years of FFA. The pageant closed with the FFA chorus leading the audience in singing "Happy Birthday FFA."

Thursday, the closing day of the convention, was a significant one for the FFA. A brief business session was held then greetings were extended by representatives of the Future Homemakers of America, Boy Scouts and 4-H Clubs and a major address was presented by Secretary of Agriculture Benson. The FFA chapter from Browning, Montana, whose membership was made up of American Indian students, presented the dramatic Buffalo Grass Dance, complete with teepees on the stage and priceless ceremonial costumes borrowed from the Plains Indian Museum.

Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of HEW, addressed the convention during the afternoon program. There was great interest and excitement in the appearance of the President at the FFA convention. Hundreds of members lined up by the doors two hours prior to the opening at 6:45 so they could get good seats. The auditorium was soon packed. They were entertained by the national FFA band and chorus, FFA string bands and by movie stars Duncan Renaldo and Leo Carillo (Cisco Kid and Poncho).

After the opening ceremony at 7:30, the distinguished platform guests were introduced: Secretaries Benson and

Hobby; former Senator from Kansas, Harry Darby, who assisted in the arrangements for the visit of the President; Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas, who received the Honorary American Farmer degree during the convention for his help in obtaining the commemorative stamp; Senator Andrew F. Shoenkel of Kansas; and the governors of fourteen states.

President Eisenhower arrived promptly at 8:00 when retiring president Jimmy Dillon made this simple introduction: "Fellow Future Farmers, Ladies and Gentlemen—The President of the United States."

The President was given a standing ovation by the audience. The band played as President Eisenhower went forward to shake hands with Jimmy Dillon and accept the Honorary American Farmer degree from him. The event was recorded by hundreds of photographers. And then began the first address ever delivered by a President of the United States before a convention of the Future Farmers of America.



National FFA President Jimmy Dillon conferred the Honorary American Farmer Degree on President Dwight D. Eisenhower when he addressed the National Convention in 1953.

In this major address President Eisenhower said:

"In this developing society in which you are speedily to take a leading part, you must never permit your government to indulge in the fanciful notion that work for the individual is a thing of the past. If ever this should become true, all fun in living will disappear. Your own property, your own security, your own opportunity, your own liberties, must be earned—they cannot be bestowed."

Later, he spoke on opportunities in the future for young people.

"I foresee no limits to your future. It is truly boundless. Anyone my age who deeply believes in America sincerely congratulates you as you start the exciting and challenging journey through life, even though he cannot see and experience what you are going to see and experience. But he does know that the whole adventure will be more fascinating, more spectacular, more stimulating, and more rewarding than the events my generation has witnessed."

This was how the Future Farmers of America celebrated their 25th birthday. The Silver Anniversary Convention was a fitting tribute to the students and their advisors who met in a hotel a few blocks from the municipal auditorium in 1928 and organized the Future Farmers of America. It was also sound evidence of the constructive work done by FFA members, teachers of vocational agriculture, teacher educators, supervisors and others to serve youth more effectively and improve the broad field of agriculture.

The FFA at 25

The FFA at 25 was a growing, dynamic organization that was serving youth and agriculture effectively. It had the largest membership in the history of the organization, 363,369 in 8,569 local chapters. It had an income from membership dues and royalties from the sale of official FFA merchandise of \$80,408.51 for the year ending June 30, 1953. It had assets of \$131,227.61.

It had created the Future Farmers Supply Service, which had been operating successfully for five years. *The National Future Farmer*, the official magazine of the FFA, was launched in 1952 and paid circulation climbed to 150,000 within a year after the publication was started.

The FFA owned 28½ acres of valuable land which was purchased for use as a national FFA camp and which would later be used as the site for the National FFA Center.

The FFA Foundation had been in operation for nine years and had provided \$650,850 in prizes and awards for FFA and NFA members.

The FFA was participating in an International Youth Exchange with the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs of Great Britain and was cooperating with youth organizations in other nations which were patterned after the FFA, such as the Future Farmers of Japan and the Future Farmers of the Philippines.

The FFA was operating under a Federal Charter, which was approved by Congress and signed by President Truman on August 30, 1950.

Local chapters, state associations and the national organization had developed constructive programs of work. Their achievements were significant.

Continued Growth of FFA

Membership increased to 371,592 in 1954 and to 383,219 in 1955. The FFA did not pass the 400,000 goal until 1964 when there were 401,468 members in 8,300 local chapters. During the '50s and '60s the FFA experienced a reduction in numbers of chapters although the number of teachers and members continued to increase. This was due to the large number of school consolidations that took place in rural areas in those years.

One of the highlights of the 27th national convention was the address given by Honorable A. D. P. Heeney, Ambassador from Canada. Greetings from the Future Farmers of Canada were presented at that time.

The Rocky Gap, Virginia, FFA chapter presented a speaker's stand to the convention, which was made of 38 species of wood native to the state of Virginia. The distinctive wooden speakers' stand continues to be used in current FFA conventions.

The FFA received broad publicity in 1955 when Joe Moore from Tennessee, who was named Star Farmer at



National Officers uncover the plaque at the front door to the National FFA Center during dedication ceremonies in 1958.

the 28th national FFA convention, was honored by having his picture on the cover of *Time* magazine. The following spring officials of that magazine gave a luncheon for Joe and the national FFA officers while they were in New York City. The officials from *Time* were asked about the reaction to the use of a picture of a farm boy on the cover of the magazine. They replied that there had been a most wholesome reaction. They had received favorable comment from all over the world. A missionary in a foreign land wrote and commended the use of Joe's picture and said that such illustrations presented a wholesome picture of youth in the United States.

One feature of the FFA convention in 1955 was a great pageant which emphasized patriotism. Special entertainment was provided during the convention by movie stars Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher, whose romance and marriage had been played up by the Hollywood press.

Jerry Litton, an FFA member from Chillicothe, Missouri, started early dreaming big dreams and making ambitious plans for the future. Jerry set three major goals. He wanted to serve as a national FFA officer, become a successful breeder of Charolais cattle and be elected to Congress while he was still a young man. In



Congressman Jerry Litton

1955 Jerry competed in the national FFA Public Speaking Contest and his topic was Farming, A Challenge and an Opportunity. He was elected National Student Secretary in 1956, became one of the outstanding breeders of Charlois cattle and was elected to Congress while he was still in his thirties. Jerry proved that FFA members can make big dreams come true. Unfortunately Litton, his wife and children were killed in a tragic airplane accident on August 3, 1976 on the eve of Jerry's victory in the primary for the Missouri Senate seat.

The National Board of Student Officers and the National Board of Directors of the FFA gave approval for the construction of a headquarters building on land owned by the FFA near Mount Vernon. The new building was designed to house the staffs of the FFA Supply Service and *The National Future Farmer* magazine. Plans for the construction of the new building were presented to the delegates at the national FFA convention in 1955. They recommended that the building be constructed and dedicated during the summer of 1958, and that each state FFA association be invited to send representatives to this dedication. Invitations were also to be sent to Future Farmer organizations throughout the world requesting that they send representatives to the dedication.

FFA members were honored to have many distinguished visitors from other nations at the national FFA convention in 1956. Major-General R. F. Cornwall, General Secretary of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs of Great Britain and four exchangees from that organization were honored at the convention. The Department of State invited the FFA and the Future Farmers of Japan to participate in an international exchange. Takaaki Kurihara, National President and Hideto Shishido, Assistant Secretary General, Future

Farmers of Japan, came to the United States as guests of the FFA. They visited Future Farmers in many states and participated in the national FFA convention. Later that year the FFA sent retiring National FFA President, Dan Dunham and Executive Secretary, A. W. Tenney to Japan to visit members of the FFJ throughout the nation and to attend the national convention of the Future Farmers of Japan. This exchange was continued, under the sponsorship of the Department of State for three years.

Former President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, addressed FFA members at their 30th national convention. In 1950 President Truman had signed Public Law 740 granting a Federal Charter to the FFA. He had retired to his home in nearby Independence, Missouri, and served as a gracious host to many FFA members who visited the Truman Library. During his address to the convention he said:

"What I would like to bring home to young men who are interested in being future farmers is that if you will study the history of the United States you will find that nearly all the leaders and the Presidents of the United States got their origin on the farm.

"Now you young farm people have a chance that no other generation has ever had in the history of the world. I am urging you to inform yourselves so you can take advantage of that chance and keep this country the greatest Republic that the sun has ever shone on. It is up to you to do it. I hope you will."

Dr. A. W. Tenney resigned as National Executive Secretary of the FFA in 1957 so he could work full time as Program Specialist in Agricultural Education in the Central Region and was replaced by Wm. Paul Gray from Colorado.

Paul Gray was employed by the U.S. Office of Education in June 1957 and was appointed to serve as National FFA Executive Secretary under provisions of Public Law 740, the FFA Organization's Federal Charter. A native of Colorado, Mr. Gray had served earlier as assistant professor of Agricultural Education at Colorado State University from 1953-1957 and held positions as vocational agriculture instructor prior to that.

He earned his B.S. Degree in Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Education from Colorado State in 1936. Later he did graduate work there and at Michigan State

University. Mr. Gray taught Vocational Agriculture in high school at Hillsdale, Wyoming, Saguache and Eaton, Colorado. During the war he served as a flight instructor for army glider pilots followed by a stint as a pilot instructor for United Airlines.

During the nearly 20 years he served as National FFA Executive Secretary Mr. Gray led the way in broadening and expanding FFA membership and programs. Membership in the organization grew from 379,396 in 1957 to over half a million in 1976. During his administration, the FFA Foundation has more than tripled the amount of funds available for FFA incentive awards. Personnel to administer FFA programs also expanded from three persons in 1957 to a staff of 10. Mr. Gray organized and directed the first National FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., which by 1976 grew to involve nearly 1,000 FFA chapter officers from across the nation. He also organized and conducted the FFA Fellowship Program for six years. "Graduates" of this program include two State FFA Executive Secretaries, two University Teacher Educators, and two members of the present FFA staff.



William Paul Gray

In the field of international education, Mr. Gray actively promoted efforts to establish Future Farmer organizations in Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, and Colombia. In nearly 20 years of work with these groups he helped them organize and carry on effective programs

in agriculture training and leader development in their nations.

Over the years, Mr. Gray became well known for his leadership in planning and directing the National FFA Convention. Since 1957 attendance at the convention escalated from 11,500 members and guests to over 20,000 in 1976. Under his direction a number of innovations were adopted including new staging techniques, pageants, the FFA Career Show and use of multi-screen visuals, all of which are designed to make the convention program more interesting as well as more educational for members.

During his tenure as National FFA Executive Secretary, Mr. Gray traveled thousands of miles across the nation and around the world to represent the FFA. He conducted conferences, met with state and national leaders in agricultural education and worked closely with the National FFA Officers and FFA Board of Directors to advance the cause of vocational agriculture/agribusiness education and the FFA. In 1976 he was recognized by the National Safety Congress which presented him the Distinguished Service Award for serving seven years as a member of the NSC Board of Directors.

Lano Barron, Editor of *The National Future Farmer* magazine, resigned and Wilson Carnes became Editor in 1958.

Sotero Lasap Jr., a national officer of the Future Farmers of the Philippines, attended the 31st national FFA convention in 1958 and extended greetings from the FFP.

The national FFA convention was improved that year by the addition of an FFA Courtesy Corps and Ushers. These FFA members greeted members and guests, answered questions, escorted members and guests to their seats, distributed program materials and helped maintain order in the auditorium and on the streets of Kansas City. They served so well that they were given a special commendation by the delegates.

The delegates to the convention recommended that a National Leadership Training Conference be held in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the dedication of the National FFA Building.

National Leadership Training Conference

The first National Leadership Training Conference was held at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., July 20-24, 1959, with 250 state FFA officers in attendance. During the week the officers participated in leadership training sessions, committee meetings, listened to guest speakers, and visited points of interest in the city. A highlight of the conference was the dedication of the National FFA Building, which was located on the property owned by the FFA south of Alexandria, Virginia. Many distinguished leaders in government participated in the dedication including, U.S. Senator Frank Carlson, Commissioner of Education Lawrence G. Derthick, and Arthur S. Flemming, of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The dedication ceremonies featured the presentation of a special stone and soil sample from the home state of each State Officer.

The delegates to the leadership conference gathered in the White House Rose Garden and were addressed by President Dwight Eisenhower.

The members of FFA who participated in the first National Leadership Training Conference were so pleased with the conference that the delegates to the following national FFA convention recommended that the conference be held annually in Washington, D.C.

National FFA Building Constructed

Ground was broken for the FFA building on July 24th, 1956. Three years later the new building was dedicated on July 24th, 1959. Six months later the debt on this \$350,000 building was paid in full. This beautiful brick building of Colonial architecture is located on 33 acres of land that once was part of George Washington's estate. The building is used by the Future Farmers Supply Service, *The National Future Farmer* magazine staff and by other employees of the FFA. (For more information about the FFA Building refer to the chapter on the National FFA Center.)

FFA International Exchange Programs

During the fall of 1959 Norman Brown, National FFA Secretary, and Wm. Paul Gray, National Executive Secretary, represented the FFA and the Department of State on a goodwill tour of the Far East where they participated in the tenth Annual Convention of the Future Farmers of Japan. They met with youth in Taiwan, visited the Future Farmers of the Philippines and students of vocational agriculture in Thailand, which the following year organized the Future Farmers of Thailand. Enroute home they stopped for visits with two FFA chapters in Guam.

Vice President Joe Hughes represented the FFA at the U.S. Information Agency's Exhibition on American Youth in West Berlin, Germany, in September 1960. He told German youth about the FFA and American agriculture.



P.F.C. Dan Dunham returned to the new National FFA Center in 1959 to join FFA President Adin Hester in dedication ceremonies for the new facility. Dunham, who was FFA President in 1956, had conducted the ground breaking ceremonies three years earlier.

At the national FFA convention that fall international guests were present from China, Iraq, Nepal, Jordan, Philippines, Thailand, British Guinea, Panama, India, Norway and Surinam.

The FFA participates annually in training programs for representatives from foreign countries. Adult advisors from Japan, Thailand, Philippines, Panama, Taiwan, Brazil, Colombia and Guatemala have been served by these programs.

Changes in National Leadership

On November 1, 1961, Dr. William T. Spanton retired as Director of the Agricultural Education Branch in the U.S. Office of Education and as National Advisor of the FFA. He had served as National Advisor since April 1, 1941. Dr. A. Webster Tenney was appointed Director of the Agricultural Education Branch and became National Advisor of the Future Farmers of America. Dr. Tenney came to the U.S. Office of Education in 1943 from Florida and served until 1957 as National Executive Secretary of the FFA. Under the direction of Dr. Spanton he helped organize the Future Farmers of America Foundation, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Future Farmers Supply and *The National Future Farmer* magazine. For eight years while he was serving as Executive Secretary of the FFA he also served as Program Specialist in Agricultural Education for the 13 states in the Central Region.

Dr. Henry S. Brunner, who had served as Director of the National FFA Band retired during the 34th national convention in 1961.

National FFA Activities

The National FFA Office, in cooperation with Massey-Ferguson, launched a cooperative program in 1962 to provide apprenticeship training for four outstanding teachers of vocational agriculture in preparation for state FFA staff employment.

Mr. A. R. Ninnis, Director of Agricultural Education, Adelaide, South Australia, extended greetings at the 35th national FFA convention, in 1962, from the Future Farmers of South Australia.

Delegates to that convention recommended to the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors that the FFA cooperate with the Peace Corps to assist in the establishment of programs for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in developing countries throughout the world. During the summer of 1962 board members met with Sargent Shriver, Director of the Peace Corps, and tentative plans were made for the FFA to assist the Peace Corps by sponsoring an international project.

In 1963 the FFA agreed to sponsor an FFA Peace Corps project in West Pakistan. The FFA employed Lloyd Wiggins, a former teacher of vocational agriculture in Oklahoma, to administer the project. A total of 34 volunteers went to West Pakistan and helped in the development of agriculture, the improvement of home life, the upgrading of health for rural people and the development of rural leadership. At the request of the Peace Corps, Dr. Tenney, National FFA Advisor, visited the volunteers in West Pakistan and conferred with leaders in agriculture and agricultural education in Thailand, the Philippines and Japan.

The FFA celebrated its 35th anniversary in 1963. That year there were 8,368 local chapters of the FFA with a membership of 395,812. *The National Future Farmer* magazine reported a paid circulation of 283,704 in 1963 and 938 chapters participated in the official FFA calendar program. The Future Farmers Supply Service sold nearly \$1.5 million worth of official merchandise that year and the National Treasurer announced that the FFA Foundation, since it was incorporated, had provided over two million dollars in incentive awards to FFA and NFA members.

An addition to the FFA Building was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$90,000. This additional space was used as storage for the Supply Service and for office and working space.

NFA Members Become Future Farmers

For many years Black students of vocational agriculture in several states belonged to the New Farmers of America. For several years leaders of both organizations had been working together to merge the New Farmers of America and the Future Farmers of America. (For a full report please refer to the chapter on the History of the NFA.)

Their goal became a reality when the NFA actually became a part of the FFA in October 1965 at the national FFA convention. The National NFA Chorus made its last official appearance at the convention. At the first concert given at the convention by the chorus the thousands of FFA members gave the chorus a long and enthusiastic standing ovation.

In an impressive ceremony the national officers of the NFA presented the emblems of their office to be placed in the archives of the FFA. The last presentation was made by Rudolph Pinson, National President of the NFA, when he took off his official NFA jacket and gave it to Kenneth Kennedy, National President of the FFA, to be placed in the archives. Kenneth then presented Rudolph an official FFA jacket. This act symbolized the transfer of NFA members to the FFA. Rudolph Pinson said:

"In this merging the New Farmers of America with the FFA we are pleased to bring to the Future Farmers of America more than 52,000 students of vocational agriculture who believe in the dignity of farm work and that we shall prosper in proportion as we put knowledge and skill in agricultural occupations."

New National FFA Advisor

Dr. A. W. Tenney, National Advisor of the FFA from November 1961 to November 1965, was named Director of Organizational Relations for the Division of Vocational and Technical Education, in the U.S. Office of Education. Since he was asked to serve the entire field of vocational and technical education he resigned as National Advisor of the FFA.

H. Neville Hunsicker, newly appointed Chief of Agricultural Education, U.S. Office of Education, was named National FFA Advisor at the 38th national FFA convention in 1965. Mr. Hunsicker was the first National Advisor who was a former student of vocational agriculture and FFA member.

A graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the Ohio State University, Hunsicker taught vocational agriculture from 1931 to 1935 in West Virginia, and served as State FFA Executive Secretary in West Virginia for 11 years. In 1946 he became the head State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in West Virginia and served in that capacity until 1952 when he became a member of the staff of the Division of Vocational and Technical Education of the U.S. Office of Education, as Program Specialist in Agricultural Education for the North Atlantic Region.

National FFA Activities

During the summer of 1965 the National FFA Officers met with President Lyndon Johnson, Vice President Humphrey and other national leaders. Mr. Humphrey accepted an invitation to address the national FFA convention in October. When it was impossible for him to be present at the convention, he talked to those in attendance at the convention by long distance telephone from Washington.

The delegates to the 36th national FFA convention in 1965 voted to raise the national FFA dues from ten to fifty cents so each member could receive *The National Future Farmer* magazine. The number of subscriptions to the magazine had been increasing annually and many state FFA associations were already submitting funds so that each member could receive the magazine. When the official FFA magazine began mailing to all members of the organization it marked the achievement of a long time goal of the FFA.

Nels Ackerson, National FFA President 1963-64, made a report on the FFA exchange program with the Future Farmers of Mexico and introduced representatives of the FFM.

Elmer J. Johnson, an employee of the U.S. Office of

Education who, since 1947 served as superintendent of the National FFA Judging Contests in Kansas City announced his retirement in 1963. Johnson, who was one of the pioneers in teaching vocational agriculture and serving as a chapter advisor, was honored for his service to vocational education and the FFA in the presentation of a special plaque at the 1965 National FFA Convention. Even after his retirement Mr. Johnson continued his active involvement in the FFA through his involvement in gathering and cataloging historic information and memorabilia on the FFA to start an FFA Archives. As a result of his voluntary efforts, the FFA has a system for collecting and cataloging information about the founding and development of the organization.

For a number of years increased emphasis had been given in vocational agriculture to the various agricultural occupations. People began to realize, however, that agriculture was more than just farming. At the 1966 National FFA Convention the delegates recommended that a special committee be appointed to study the possibility of establishing new national FFA awards for members achieving excellence in related fields of agriculture. As a result of the committee's work the FFA developed many new awards for members involved in these occupations.

One of the significant additions to the national FFA conventions took place in 1966 when "Careers in Agriculture" exhibits were placed in the basement of the auditorium. These educational exhibits were so popular that they became a regular part of the annual national conventions.



The Agricultural Career Show which opened for the first time in 1966 has become a popular attraction at the National FFA Conventions.

An appropriate significant feature of the 40th national FFA convention in October 1967, was a pageant entitled "Fifty Golden Years." This pageant gave recognition to the fifty years of vocational agriculture. It depicted in many colorful scenes, the history of vocational agriculture, the beginning of FFA and the broad program of instruction in agriculture.

One of the speakers at the convention was Honorable Hubert Humphrey, Vice President of the United States. Mr. Humphrey said:

"I have had the privilege this morning in this vast auditorium of talking to people who have the qualities of greatness, if they but will it.

"May you give of yourself to this country and may you give of yourself to this world that needs your help so much. But, above all, make something of yourself. Be a man! And remember that in so doing you fulfill the promise of America."

For the first time all of the major youth organizations in vocational and technical education were represented at the national FFA convention. These organizations included the Future Homemakers of America, Distributive Education Clubs of America, the Office Education Association, and the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America. The representatives extended greetings to the FFA.

Plans were made for the development of appropriate FFA archives at the National FFA Center. Mr. E. J. Johnson, former Program Specialist, Agricultural Education, was employed by the FFA to catalogue documents, reports and artifacts. The states were asked to cooperate by providing information and items that should be displayed or kept in the archives.

The FFA Foundation continued to grow. The Foundation started providing new Agricultural Proficiency Awards in Natural Resources Development, Agribusiness and Placement in Agricultural Production. The FFA employed John Foltz formerly of *The National Future Farmer* magazine staff as coordinator for the Foundation.

The FFA was host to 85 Young Farmers from West Germany in the spring of 1967. The state associations were invited to return the visit. As a result 65 FFA members and adults visited agricultural groups, farms, and agricultural industry and lived with farm people in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, and West Germany in June 1968.

Several thousand brochures, "FFA, What it is and Does," were translated and printed in Spanish, German and Portuguese.

The Handbook for National Officer Training was expanded and revised and was made available for use in training state and local officers.

Seven sub-regional leadership conferences were held during the year that involved state officers from 45 state associations.

The 40th anniversary of the FFA was celebrated at the national FFA convention in October 1968. More than 13,000 members and friends were present. It was reported that there were 443,041 members in 8,592 chapters. Richard M. Nixon, candidate for President of the United States, was introduced and extended greetings. Mr. Nixon said:

"Looking to America's future, I know of no group that has in their hands more strength, the power, not only to feed America, and clothe America, but to lead America, than the Future Farmers of America."

Gary Swan, National FFA President 1966-1967, represented the organization in Brazil during the summer.

For several years there had been a large increase in enrollment of students in vocational agriculture who were preparing for agricultural careers other than farming. At the National Outlook Seminar on Agricultural Education in 1968 it was recommended that greater emphasis be given to the name FFA rather than the Future Farmers of America. FFA was believed to be more acceptable to those students in agribusiness areas yet was also satisfactory for those preparing for careers in production agriculture.

In 1969 an important change was made in the FFA Constitution when delegates to the 42nd national FFA convention voted to strike out the word "Associate" and insert the word "Alumni" to Article III, Sections A and C. This became the foundation for the launching of the FFA Alumni Association.

Another significant change was made in the Constitution by amending Article IV, Section B, by striking out the word "male." Now girls were officially members of the FFA and could benefit from all the rights and privileges of membership. This brought the Constitution up to date since many girls were enrolling in vocational agriculture



to prepare for careers in agriculture and were joining the FFA.

In 1969 Dan Reuwee from Ohio was employed by the FFA as Director of Information. Reuwee replaced John Farrar who had been in the position since April 1947.

A delegation, representing the Future Farmers of Colombia, attended the national FFA convention in 1970, and presented a gold plate to the FFA in appreciation of the youth of their country for assistance in the forming of Future Farmers of Colombia.

The Agricultural Career Exhibits at the national FFA conventions continued to grow in numbers and service to FFA members. Thirty-two exhibitors from associations and professional societies were present at the 43rd national FFA convention in 1970.

Donald M. McDowell, formerly Secretary of Agriculture in Wisconsin and a former vocational agriculture teacher, was employed by the Foundation in 1969 to serve as Executive Director of the National FFA Founda-

tion Sponsoring Committee. Robert Seefeldt, a vocational agriculture instructor in Minnesota and participant in the FFA Fellowship program, was employed that year as Manager of Contests and Awards of FFA.

A contemporary and challenging educational community improvement program was launched by FFA in 1971. The program called Building Our American Communities (BOAC) was designed to encourage FFA chapters to get involved in action projects to make their communities better places in which to live and work. The BOAC award program came about at a time when the Federal Government was emphasizing the development of rural communities. The goal was to make rural communities more attractive places in which to live and work and reduce the flow of population from rural to urban areas.

The BOAC program provided new opportunities for FFA chapters to organize for action and to serve their communities. The first BOAC awards were given to chapters at the national FFA convention in 1971. Chapters were rated National Gold, Silver and Bronze. Four regional winners were selected and honored at the national convention, and one was chosen national winner. These top FFA chapters were:

Berrien Chapter, Nashville, Georgia, National Winner
Big Walnut Chapter, Sunbury, Ohio, Central Regional Winner

Silverton Chapter, Silverton, Oregon, Pacific Regional Winner

Newbury Chapter, Newbury, Vermont, North Atlantic Regional Winner

In April 1971, H. N. Hunsicker, National FFA Advisor, announced new responsibilities for FFA leaders. Wm. Paul Gray, National Executive Secretary, was assigned broader FFA responsibilities and was asked to provide guidance in new FFA programs, in addition to planning and coordinating the national FFA convention held annually in Kansas City, Missouri. C. Coleman Harris, FFA Program Specialist, was assigned responsibility for coordinating activities of the national FFA officers including the annual good-will tour, in addition to his continuing responsibilities for national and regional FFA leadership conferences and the National FFA Community Development Program.



Edward J. Hawkins



Harry Andrews

Edward J. Hawkins, Manager of the FFA Supply Service, was named Administrative Director of the FFA in 1971 and Harry Andrews was appointed Manager of the Supply Service and Stan Allan was named comptroller.

A new informative and popular feature was added to the program in 1972 at the national convention. By the use of three screens a visual slide program was presented which featured new FFA developments.

In March 1972 the FFA Organization began laying the groundwork for a new communications effort to establish better contact with state associations, teacher educators and local FFA chapters. More than 100 state supervisory personnel, teacher educators, teachers and the six national FFA officers were in Washington, D. C. as participants in an Update Seminar. The four day meeting brought FFA leaders together to discuss FFA activities underway in the BOAC program and other FFA contest and award programs. Participants were also involved in making recommendations for the course of the FFA for the '70s and how the organization could more closely tie in with the instructional program.

The seminar resulted in the following goals for the Operation Update communications program:

- Every teacher prepared to use the FFA
- Every student an active member
- Every chapter a superior chapter and
- Every community with a united alumni thrust

Using these guidelines the FFA program staff set about preparing an informational program that would achieve these goals.

In July and August 1972 FFA Program Staff and National Officers traveled to several locations throughout the nation to present the Operation Update program to State FFA Officers, State Vocational Education Department staffs and teacher educators. The content of Operation Update Programs included information about FFA programs and ideas for using FFA awards and activities more effectively to benefit students.

The FFA *Chapter Guide* was introduced in the Operation Update program as a new, more organized system of providing FFA chapters the materials they needed to participate in national FFA programs and activities.

Operation Update marked the beginning of a renewed effort by the National FFA organization to communicate more closely with teacher educators, teachers and students enrolled in teacher education. It was also the beginning of an increased emphasis in FFA award programs in non-production areas of agriculture. An effort was made to encourage FFA chapters to upgrade their chapter programs of activities and to increase the membership and involvement in FFA.

Operation Update proved so effective and was so well accepted that a similar, more refined program communi-



Tim Burke, National FFA President, 1971-72, accepts a wood carving of the Great Seal of Jamaica from the Honorable Gerald Groves, Jamaican Consul-General, in recognition of the Iowa FFA Association's efforts to help Jamaica initiate a pig chain among agriculture students.

cations effort called "Thrust '75" was conducted in the spring of 1975 and the FFA organization made plans to conduct similar programs on a three year rotational basis.

In 1972 Tim Burke, National FFA President and Lennie Gamage, Director of International Programs, visited the Youth Development Agency and Youth Clubs of Jamaica. One outcome of this visit was the development of an FFA-Jamaican Pig Chain Project. Under the leadership of Tim Burke more than 100 FFA chapters in Iowa cooperated with the national FFA organization in sending twelve registered bred gilts and two boars to Jamaica for use in starting a National Youth Pig Chain there.

FFA Alumni Association

A National FFA Alumni Association was organized on May 12, 1972, in Chicago, Illinois, with representatives from 33 states present. The idea of an FFA Alumni Association was not new. National FFA convention proceedings in the early 1930s contain committee reports which recommended objectives for an alumni organization. Gus R. Douglas, Commissioner of Agriculture in West Virginia, and former National President of the FFA, was elected chairman and presided at the organizational meeting.

The first annual meeting was held in October 1972, in the Music Hall of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri.

The growth and influence of this organization has steadily increased. Jay Benham, a teacher of vocational agriculture in Ohio, was selected in 1971 to serve as Administrative Secretary of the Association. (For a complete report on the FFA Alumni refer to the chapter on this organization.)

The 46th national FFA convention, held in October 1973, set another attendance record with more than 15,000 in attendance. Julie Nixon Eisenhower addressed the convention as one of the featured speakers.

Two new national FFA contests were recommended by delegates to the convention. They proposed the starting of a parliamentary procedure contest at the 1974 na-

tional FFA convention. The other contest recommended was horse judging, to be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The administrative structure of the National FFA Center was reorganized in 1973 into five major divisions which were designed to serve chapters, state associations and promote FFA and vocational agriculture. These divisions were FFA Supply Service, *The National Future Farmer* magazine, Program Planning and Development, the FFA Alumni Association and Fiscal and Accounting.

In 1973 the FFA Building Our American Communities program had been in operation for three years and already some significant achievements had been made as a result of FFA interest in community development. A film produced in 1971 in cooperation with the Farmers Home Administration of the USDA titled "Build Our American Communities" was widely used and inspired many chapters to participate in BOAC activities. As a result of the active participation in BOAC by FFA chapters and the interest of the USDA in the vocational agriculture program a new Rural Youth Loan program was implemented to enable young people to obtain loans from the Farmers Home Administration for income-producing projects in connection with their participation in FFA activities. It was hoped that these loans would encourage more young people to remain on farms and in rural areas.

Efforts by FFA chapters to improve and beautify their communities through participation in the BOAC program were further enhanced in 1972 when the first Rural Rehabilitation Trust Funds were made available in some states. By 1977 the Rural Rehabilitation Trust fund, a program created during the Depression to help build rural areas, had provided over \$111,000 in five states for chapter community improvement projects.

The FFA magazine published and mailed six issues in 1973, totaling 2,700,000 copies. The magazine went to every member and a growing number of subscribers with a special interest in FFA.

It was reported at the 1973 National FFA Convention that the FFA Alumni Association was growing in a satisfactory manner. There were 44 chartered State FFA Alumni Associations. An FFA Alumni emblem was adopted and membership pins and other FFA Alumni supplies were made available from the FFA Supply Serv-

ice.

William Kuhfuss, President, American Farm Bureau Federation; Orion Samuelson, Farm Service Director, WGN Radio and TV; and the Honorable Jerry Litton, U.S. Congressman from Missouri, were recipients of the first FFA Alumni "Outstanding Achievement Award," for their contributions and service to American agriculture which reflected honor upon the FFA and programs of vocational agriculture. These awards were presented at the national FFA convention in 1974.

President Ford Attended 47th National FFA Convention

Through the years the FFA held many important national conventions. These included the Victory Convention Celebration and the Silver Anniversary Convention, which was attended by President Dwight Eisenhower. A new milestone was reached in 1974 when 17,422 members, advisors and guests attended the 47th national FFA convention in Kansas City, Missouri. It was the biggest and many who attended said it was one of the best FFA conventions ever held.

There was an aura of excitement in the packed Municipal Auditorium as members and news photographers readied their cameras and recorders and television crews hurriedly prepared for the big moment. FFA state presidents were seated on the stage. This was the kickoff session of the national convention and the guest speaker was President Gerald R. Ford. A last minute decision was made to carry the speech live from the National FFA Convention on network television.

The President had chosen the FFA convention to make a major address on the economy. The speech, which elaborated on his WIN (Whip Inflation Now) campaign, was broadcast live to millions of American television viewers. President Ford borrowed from the FFA creed in asking Future Farmers to have confidence in themselves, our government and our free competitive society.

"It is my observation and view that the American people are hungry for some tough stuff to chew on in this (inflation) crisis," the President said. "I don't know of any better place to look to the future of America than right here in the 13,000 faces of the Future Farmers of America," the President added.

Following the President's speech, FFA President Mark Mayfield awarded him the Honorary American Farmer Degree.

Another guest speaker at the convention, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, titled his remarks in the form of a challenge, "Become Hunger Fighters." Butz urged FFA members to join the all-out effort to produce food for export around the world as well as for use in the United States.

Randy Harris of Clovis, New Mexico, won the national FFA Public Speaking Contest. His topic was "The Coming Famine."

The delegates to the convention, after thorough discussion, voted to increase annual dues for FFA members to \$1.50. Another significant item of business was passed by the delegates, the redesigning and renaming of the four regions of the National FFA Organization. North Carolina, Virginia and Ohio were added to the North Atlantic Region, which was renamed the Eastern Region. Oklahoma and Texas were added to the former Pacific Region and was renamed the Western Region. The other regions retained their names.

It was announced at the convention that the FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee had exceeded its goal of \$554,000 for 1974. At convention time, cash and pledges totaled \$569,000, a new record in Foundation contributions.

It was another outstanding FFA convention and the reaction of the public to the convention and to the FFA was gratifying. One of the most complimentary letters received by President Ford at the White House, concerning his address to the Future Farmers of America, was from Jane Marie Murray of West Palm Beach, Florida. She said:

"I feel compelled to express to you the sheer delight and overwhelming pride which I received while viewing your audience that evening, to-wit: that handsome group of American youth, the Future Farmers of America. I honest-

ly cannot remember when I last saw that many outstanding young people in one gathering! It was a pleasure, and I only wish you might have made mention of the same at that time because I feel such a group deserves quite a round of applause. Each and every one presented the clean-cut, intelligent, alert, eager, and conscientious appearance the "model" young American citizen should project."



Thrust '75

The success of the "Update" program in 1972 led to a continued effort by FFA staff to establish better communications with state associations and teacher educators. In 1975 FFA Staff and National Officers once again presented an extensive communications program "Thrust '75" with the idea of increasing awareness of FFA programs and activities and encouraging chapters and members to participate more actively. Thrust '75 meetings were held in 25 locations and over 1,000 state officers, teachers, teacher educators and state vocational agriculture/FFA personnel attended.

Food for America Program

The FFA, in cooperation with a number of donors to the FFA Foundation, launched a Food For America Program in 1975 introducing the program during the Thrust '75 workshops. It was a program to involve vocational agriculture students in communicating to elementary school children the story of how food gets from farm to consumer. The program was an expansion of the work previously done by FFA chapters, such as operating



FFA TELLS THE STORY

children's barnyards and providing information on agriculture to children in the elementary schools. The main purpose of the Food For America Program was to provide an organized approach, including specially designed reference materials, to help teachers and FFA members communicate more effectively with elementary students.

The program involved introductory discussions, visual presentations, field trips, demonstrations or exhibits and follow-up discussions by FFA members and instructors.

The FFA provided complete Food For America kits for use in this important informational program.

National and International Activities

Alpha Trivette, National FFA President, accompanied Vice President Nelson Rockefeller on a visit to London, England, in 1975 to participate in the dedication of the opening of a Bicentennial exhibit called "The World of Franklin and Jefferson."

Final approval was given by the National FFA Board of Directors, at their July 1975, meeting, for a new Farm Business Management contest. The first contest was to be held in 1976 and was to be designed to provide new challenges and incentives for farm management instruction in vocational agriculture classes. The contest grew out of the need of students to become more knowledgeable in economics as well as in the technical aspects of production agriculture.

In 1975 Dr. F. David Matthews was appointed Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He was the first Cabinet member who was a former student of vocational agriculture and member of the FFA. Dr. Matthews was a member of the Grove Hill, Alabama, FFA chapter and participated in many activities of the chapter, including public speaking.

History was made at the national FFA convention in 1975, when Jim and Amy Etgen, from the Buckeye Valley Chapter, Delaware, Ohio, both received their American Farmer degrees. They were the first married couple to claim that dual distinction. Both of these members distinguished themselves in agricultural production and FFA leadership. They met while Jim was chapter president and Amy was serving as secretary.

In 1973 the FFA was invited for the first time to send a Dairy Cattle Judging Team to the International Dairy Judging competition in Builth, Wales. The invitation was forwarded to the team which won the National FFA Dairy Cattle Judging Competition at the most recent National FFA Convention in Kansas City. The 1972 winner was the Owatona FFA Chapter team from Owatona, Minnesota. Since 1973 five FFA Dairy Judging Teams have represented the FFA in the International Contest. They were:

- Owatona, Minnesota 1973
- Kuna, Idaho 1974
- San Luis Obispo, California 1975
- Austin, Minnesota 1976
- Pleasant Hope, Missouri 1977

The Pleasant Hope, Missouri team which participated in the contest in 1977 was the only team to win first place honors in the international competition in the first five years the FFA participated in the contest.

The Honorable Jimmy Carter, a former member of the Plains, Georgia FFA Chapter and one time Governor of Georgia addressed the 1975 National FFA Convention. At that time Carter was a little known candidate for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Presidency. Many who attended the convention had never even heard of Carter. In his address to FFA members Carter told how the first elected office he ever held was that of FFA Chapter Secretary. He went on to win the Democratic Nomi-

nation and became President of the United States.

The Honorable John Connelly, former Governor of Texas extended greetings to those in attendance at the convention. The auditorium was filled with FFA members and guests to hear Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller deliver a major address, in which he paid tribute to vocational agriculture and the FFA for their great contribution to the production of food and fiber. He challenged FFA members to take advantage of their training, to become outstanding leaders and to develop qualities of responsible citizenship.

The FFA made plans at the National FFA Convention in 1976 to host the First World Conference in Agricultural Education for Youth and Adult Leaders. It was agreed to feature seminars on agricultural education and to hold the first International Agricultural Olympics competition. The conference was made possible by a grant from the FFA Foundation, which was provided by Massey-Ferguson, Inc.



FFA members present the Food For America program to elementary school children.

Four former members of the FFA took part in the first agricultural youth exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union. The four were part of a 15-member group under the auspices of the 4-H International Program and spent three months studying and working on state and collective farms in Russia. The four were Dale Posthumus, Michigan; Neil Bock, Iowa; Joseph Ortner, Colorado; and Alan Zeithamer, North Dakota.

Robert W. Cox, a native of Kentucky, was employed in 1976 as Administrative Secretary of the National FFA Alumni Association to replace Jay Benham. A former vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor, Cox left the position of Executive Secretary of the Kentucky FFA Association to assume his new duties.

The nation's bicentennial year, 1976, saw FFA chapters across the nation involved in community activities to celebrate the nation's 200th birthday. The National FFA Organization, through its *Celebrate '76* program sought to recognize chapters for participation in special events and activities.

One major event in which the FFA was involved was Farmfest '76 at Lake Crystal, Minnesota. Billed as the nation's Bicentennial Salute to Agriculture, the week-long Farmfest show drew nearly a million people from across the nation. Hundreds of exhibits of farm equipment were on display and field demonstrations were conducted on the 1,000 acres of cropland. The FFA was invited to



FFA members from across the nation participated in Farm Fest '76 at Lake Crystal, Minnesota.

participate by sending State Officers from all 50 states to operate the Turn of the Century farm which was reconstructed on the Farmfest Grounds. FFA members dressed in bib overalls, straw hats and long dresses hosted visitors to the farm in a tour of the farm house and outbuildings.

FFA chapters that actively participated in Farmfest and other FFA programs through the bicentennial year were given special recognition at the National FFA Convention. Certificates of participation were presented to over 500 chapters in recognition of their efforts to conduct FFA activities which helped celebrate the Bicentennial.

Agriculture students from around the world joined FFA members at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City to participate in the First World Conference in Agricultural Education for Youth and Adult leaders in November 1976. Two hundred adult and student leaders from 30 countries participated in the World Conference and International Ag Olympics, a series of agricultural contests, which was held in conjunction with the conference.

Attendance at the First World Conference in Agricultural Education was far greater than expected. The keynote speaker at the Conference was Dr. Robert Spitzer, Director of the Agency for International Development Food for Peace Program. Delegates to the Conference appointed a Planning Committee to begin work on a second World Conference for Youth and Adult Leaders to be held in 1979 or 1980.

Alaska became the last of the 50 states to become a chartered FFA Association. The presentation of the Alaska charter at the 1976 Convention was the first new charter granted since 1950 when Rhode Island was recognized as part of the National FFA Organization.

Convention delegates paid special memorial tribute to Congressman Jerry Litton and his family. Litton, who had been National FFA Secretary in 1956-57 was killed with his family in a tragic plane accident in August 1976 on the eve of his nomination as a candidate for U.S. Senate. The memorial ceremony included presentation of a portrait of Congressman Litton to the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

In 1977 the FFA responded to an invitation from the Soviet Union for an exchange of Youth by arranging for



President Carter accepts an FFA Alumni Life membership plaque from 1977 Georgia FFA President Glenn B. Smith.

a visit to the USSR by four National Officers. The officers who made the journey in May were Bruce Maloch, National Secretary, Julie Smiley, Western Region Vice President, Rick McDaniel, Eastern Region Vice President and Sam Brownback, Central Region Vice President. In return the Soviet Union sent a delegation of four Russian members of the Communist Youth Organization to visit the United States with the FFA as their host.

The FFA Washington Conference program for chapter officers which began in 1969 set a new record of participation by FFA Chapter Officers in 1977. More than 1,000 Chapter Officers and their advisors participated in the week-long leadership and personal development program in 1977.

In July 1977 State Presidents once again traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the annual State Presidents' conference. The officers met and visited with one of the most famous former FFA members who is a life member of the FFA Alumni Association—President Jimmy Carter. President Carter recalled his background

in the FFA and told them how participation in the organization had helped mold his life.

"I began to learn about organizational structure and I began to learn about competition (in the FFA). I began to learn how to make a speech. And I began to learn how to work with other people. I also learned the value of agriculture farm families, stability, commitment, idealism, hope, truth, hard work and patriotism from the FFA."

President Carter said he was proud to be "part of one of the finest organizations on earth. It's never lost its pride of what has been and its vision of what can be in the future."

Following President Carter's comments to the State Officers, National FFA President James Bode thanked the President and presented him the first commemorative medallion produced to mark the FFA organization's Golden Anniversary year in 1978. Georgia FFA President Glen B. Smith also recognized the President and his support of the FFA by presenting him a life membership in the FFA Alumni Association.

In Summary

Yes, a lot has happened to the FFA over the past 50 years. And if one thing is certain, it is that the FFA will continue to change in the next 50 years. The history of vocational agriculture and the FFA is a story of change. It parallels the changes in agriculture in this nation. Just as education of our nation's farmers has changed their way of doing things, education itself has had to change and adapt to meet the new demands of educated farmers and ranchers who seek even more knowledge to increase their productivity.

The FFA began as an organization for farm boys to educate them in improved farm practices. As farm practices did indeed improve and farmers became more efficient, people were able to move from the farm to cities where they worked in other parts of the nation's industrial complex. Over the years farming became more dependent on outside inputs from what we have come to call "agribusiness," the businesses and industries that supply feed, seed, fertilizer and machinery and process, handle and market the goods produced by farmers. This has meant an increased number of people employed in the

agribusiness sector and a completely new challenge for agricultural education and the FFA. Today the job of vocational agriculture and the FFA is not just to educate farmers but also to prepare young men and women for careers in a whole variety of jobs both on the farm and in agribusiness.

In its first fifty years the FFA has met the challenge of change. Change has not come easy at times because traditions change slowly and new ideas must stand the test of time. As the FFA celebrates its 50th year the National FFA Foundation will make available to FFA members and chapters nearly one million dollars in incentive awards and other programs to enrich their educational program. In this 50th year FFA members have available to them more and better references in the form of handbooks, films and audio visual programs than at any time in the organization's history. National FFA Officers travel and meet with more FFA members across the nation than at any time in the history of the FFA organization. And the FFA organization itself, with over half a million members, has reached a new peak in membership. As the largest of the student vocational organizations the FFA has indeed established itself as a leading organization for young people interested in becoming leaders in the field of agriculture.



Administration of FFA

Before the FFA was organized in 1928 it was the responsibility of the states and local school systems to administer the agricultural clubs, which were composed of students of vocational agriculture and were operated under the direction of teachers of vocational agriculture and state supervisors of agricultural education.

Since most of the activities of these clubs were local in nature, few serious administrative problems were encountered. When the national organization was formed, serious questions were raised by educational administrators and government attorneys concerning the propriety of employees of the Federal and state governments and local school boards devoting official time to the administration of FFA, which was chartered as a private organization.

Were the activities of the FFA an integral part of the regular vocational agriculture program? Was the FFA a youth organization which was to be conducted and administered entirely by youth? What was the official and legal relationship between FFA members and their advisors? What was the responsibility of local teachers, state supervisors and the employees of the Federal Board for Vocational Education in the administration of the affairs of FFA?

As the FFA programs increased in numbers and scope, chapters became involved in buying and selling and other money-raising activities, such as crop and livestock production on a fairly large scale. It was determined that minors could not be held legally responsible for such activities and that adults must accept the legal responsibility. School administrators asked questions concerning the liability of the school and the local school board for the business activities of the FFA. State and national leaders in agriculture did not have adequate answers to many of these legal questions.

When the first FFA constitution was written no adequate provision was made for the administration of FFA. Local chapters, state associations and the national organization could elect anyone they saw fit to be local advisor, state advisor or national advisor. At the request of the state supervisors of agricultural education the national officers at the 1929 convention appointed a national committee of adults to study the problem of the administration of the organization.

The committee appointed consisted of A. K. Getman of New York, representing the North Atlantic Region; E. E. Gallup of Michigan, representing the North Central Region; William Kerr of Idaho, representing the Pacific Region; Paul Chapman of Georgia, representing the Southern Region; and C. H. Lane, Chief of the Agricultural Education Service, Federal Board for Vocational Education, chairman.

The appointment of this committee was a major step in finding solutions to the administrative problems faced by the new organization of youth enrolled in vocational agriculture.

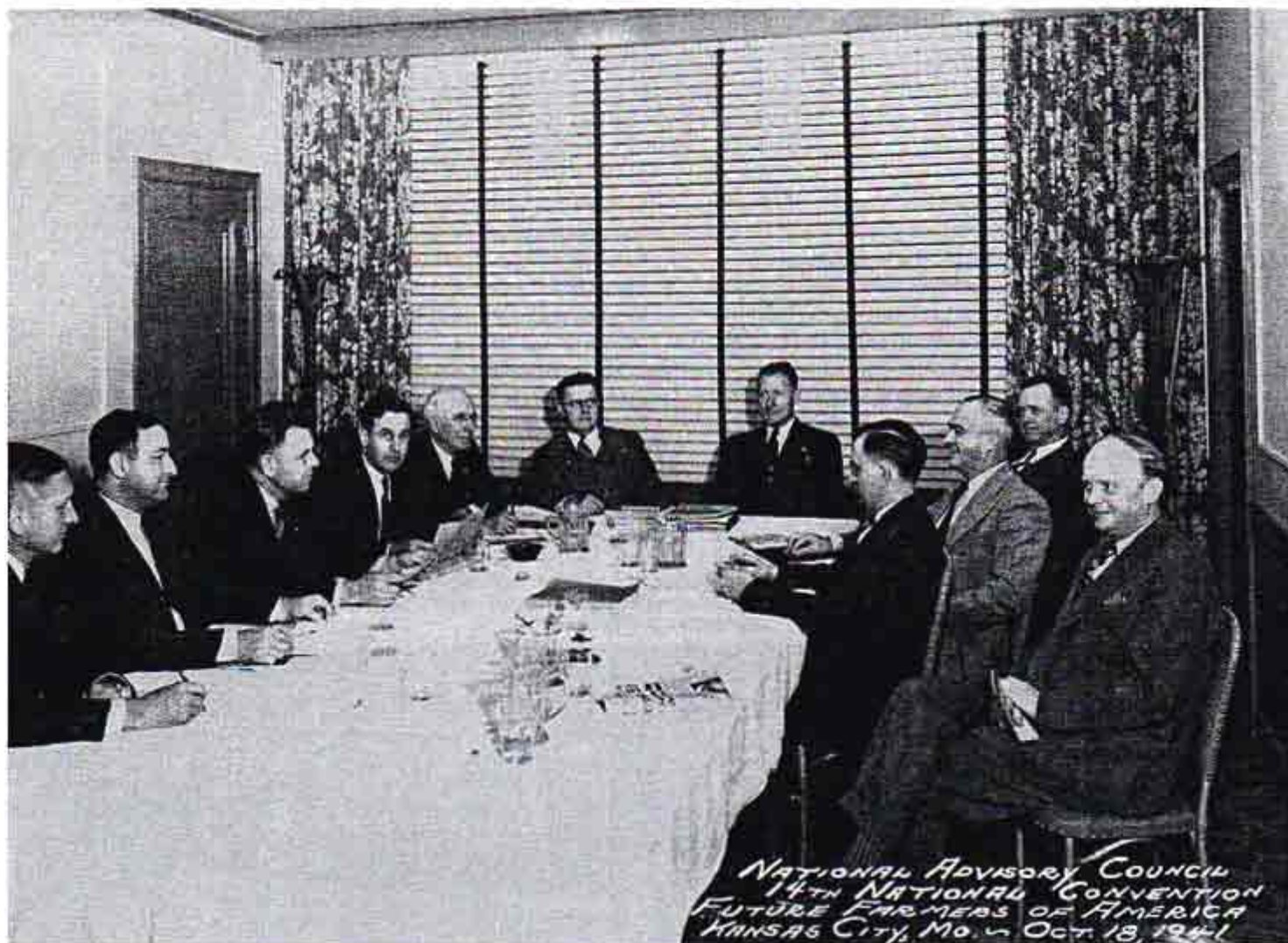
The problem was complicated because of the relationships of the Federal and state governments and the local school boards in the administration of the Smith-Hughes Act, which was passed in 1917. Education historically had been a primary responsibility of the states, but education which increases the productive capacity of the Nation makes it necessary for the Federal government to define its role and determine how it will participate.

The following are excerpts from the report of that committee to J. C. Wright, Director, Federal Board for Vocational Education:

" . . . The original premise upon which we base our recommendation is that the program of the Future Farmers of America is an integral part of and should be inextricably linked with vocational education. As such, it merits the guidance and leadership of teachers in communities, of supervisors in states, and of your agricultural education service for the Nation . . . the committee makes the following recommendation:

"(1) That the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board assume the administrative direction and leadership of the Future Farmers of America by the designation of a member of the staff to devote part time to such activities . . .

"(3) That proper administrative relationships and responsibilities be established and maintained between the Agricultural Education Service of the Federal Board, the trustees of the Future Farmers of America, the state supervisors of agricultural education, and local teachers and advisors. To accomplish this we recommend that the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service, as national advisor of the Future Farmers of America, appoint annually, a committee of four state advisors—one representing each region— . . . and the committee be made advisory members of the national board of trustees of the organization.



A National Advisory Council helped give direction to the FFA Organization prior to the passage of Public Law 740 which created a National FFA Board of Directors. Members of the National Advisory Council which met in October 1941 included (l to r) H. C. Fetterolf, S. M. Jackson, D. J. Howard, D. M. Clements, C. H. Lane, W. T. Spanton, W. A. Ross, Hampton T. Hall, W. P. Beard, J. H. Pearson, and Sam Hitchcock.

It is imperative that such advisory members possess the veto power, but not a voting privilege, in the action of the national board of trustees and the delegates at the national convention."

The recommendations of the national committee came before the Federal Board for Vocational Education on June 18 and September 18, 1930. The consideration of this problem by the Board resulted in concurrence in the general principle involved. The Board asked for the opinion of the Comptroller General on the legality of use of Federal funds in the administration and supervision of the Future Farmers of America.

The Comptroller's opinion was as follows:

Washington, September 12, 1930

"... If it is administratively determined that the co-operation of the Federal Board for Vocational Education with the organization known as 'The Future Farmers of America,' as outlined above, is a necessary expense connected with the execution and administration of the Act of February 23, 1917 (The Smith-Hughes Act) ... the appropriations for salaries and expenses of the Board will be available for the compensation of the personnel necessary to carry out the suggested plan."

(Signed) J. K. McCarl
Comptroller General of the United States

The ruling of the Federal Board for Vocational Education and the opinion of J. K. McCarl, Comptroller General of the United States provided the legal foundation for the operation of the Future Farmers of America under the Smith-Hughes Act until this problem was further clarified by Congress in 1950 when it granted a Federal Charter to the FFA. (Public Law 740, 81st Congress)

Many major changes were made in the national FFA constitution and bylaws after the rulings by the Federal Board and the Comptroller General. The first FFA constitution provided for the election by the delegates of the national advisor and secretary-treasurer. In order to provide a national headquarters in the Agricultural Educa-

tion Service of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, the constitution was amended to specify that the national advisor should be the Chief of the Agricultural Education Service and that the executive secretary should be a member of his staff. The separate job of treasurer was added.

The constitution provided for a board of trustees made up of the six national student officers, the advisor, executive secretary and treasurer. Since the majority of the members of the board of trustees were youth it was believed advisable to create an advisory council composed of four state supervisors of agricultural education, with the national advisor as chairman. The chairman was

Public Law 740 created a Board of Directors and National Officers made up of four regional program officers from the Office of Education, four State Supervisors of Vocational Agriculture representing each of the four regions of the U.S., the National Advisor who serves as Chairman of the Board, and the six National FFA Officers.



given the power of approval at all times for actions of the board of trustees and delegates. The constitution was amended to include the advisory council.

The members of the first advisory council, elected in the spring of 1931, were J. A. Guitteau of Washington, E. E. Gallup of Michigan, D. M. Clements of Tennessee and W. J. Weaver of New York.

The changes made in the constitution provided for a definite and clear relationship between the FFA and vocational agriculture on the national and state levels. Provision was made for closer adult guidance and supervision of the activities of the FFA. On a regional basis states were also given representation on the advisory council. These representatives helped develop important policies for the organization.

It was necessary to further clarify the relationship of the FFA to the teacher of vocational agriculture and the state supervisor of agricultural education so it was included in the national FFA constitution that the state supervisor of agricultural education shall be the state advisor and the local teacher of vocational agriculture shall be local advisor.

The George-Barden Act, Public Law 586, which was passed by Congress in 1946, strengthened the legal standing of the FFA by recognizing the organization as a part of the program of agricultural education in the United States.

Even though the FFA had been incorporated as a private youth organization for students of vocational agriculture under the laws of the state of Virginia in 1928 and



Six National FFA Officers serve a one-year term. They work closely with the National FFA Executive Secretary and other FFA program staff.

many other things had been done to strengthen the legal standing of the organization there was need for further authorization by the Federal Government to safeguard the new developments that were under way.

When an announcement was made that the FFA would launch a national FFA Supply Service and start publishing a *National Future Farmer* magazine Federal attorneys suggested that a stronger legal relationship be established between the FFA and the Federal Government. They offered to assist in drafting legislation to obtain a Federal Charter for the FFA. Friends in Congress volunteered to sponsor legislation to obtain the Charter. In 1950 the 81st Congress passed Public Law 740, which was signed by President Harry S. Truman.

The Act incorporated the Future Farmers of America. It specified that:

"The United States Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the Federal Security Administrator, is authorized to make available personnel, services, and facilities of the Office of Education requested by the board of directors of the corporation to administer or assist in the administration of the business and activities of the corporation . . . The Commissioner, with the approval of the Administrator, is also authorized to cooperate with the state boards for vocational education to assist in the promotion of the activities of the corporation."

The legislation provided for the national student FFA officers to comprise a board of student officers with the duty to advise and make recommendations to the board of directors with respect to the conduct of the activities and business of the corporation.

The Act specified that the governing body of the corporation shall be a board of directors composed of: (1) The Chief of the Agricultural Education Service, Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, who shall act as chairman; (2) Four staff members in the Agricultural Education Service; and (3) Four State Supervisors of Agricultural Education.

Authority was granted in the Act to publish a magazine, to operate a supply service and to do the other things which were necessary to carry out the purposes of the corporation.

The Attorney General in certain states questioned the legal status of the FFA in the state. Legal questions were



This was the 1957-58 Board of Directors and National Officers.

also asked about the activities and relationships of the local chapters to the public school system. Many local advisors clarified that relationship by submitting the program of activities of the chapter to the school administrators, including the local school board, for approval. (For further information on Public Law 740 please refer to the Appendix.)

The various state associations and local chapters of FFA are administered under the provisions of Public Law 740. Their constitutions and bylaws include specific information concerning administration.



National FFA Staff hold regular meetings to discuss FFA programs and to plan activities.



This was the National Officer team right after their election in Kansas City in 1973. The officers serve a one-year term during which they travel almost constantly visiting FFA chapters, participating in conventions and promoting FFA activities. The National Officers' travel is paid by the National Organization and each receives a scholarship at the end of his or her term of office.



The FFA Board of Directors and National Officers in 1973 included (front row l to r) H. N. Hunsicker, Bruce Erath, Robert Hinton, Jerry Goolsby, Dwight Seegmiller, Tim Dougherty, Zane Hansen, and Wm. Paul Gray; (back row l to r) Byron Rawls, James Warren, Gordon Galbraith, John Lacey, Philip Haight, Gerald Barton, Ralph Dreessen, Julian Campbell and Horner Edwards.

Administration of FFA Funds

From 1928 through 1965 the national FFA dues were 10¢ per member. Until 1966 the maximum amount of revenue received from annual dues was about \$45,000. The remainder of the income came from royalties on merchandise bearing the FFA emblem, rent on the FFA building, which housed the FFA Supply Service and *The National Future Farmer* magazine, and interest on investments.

A separate account was established for the FFA Supply Service when it was opened for business in 1948. The Supply Service began with an original investment loan of \$10,000 from FFA, which was repaid in 1949. A separate account was also established in 1952 for *The National Future Farmer* magazine. An initial loan investment of about \$35,000 from FFA was also later repaid.

In 1957, a \$202,075 building fund was established using grants from the FFA Supply Service and transfers from the general fund reserves. The fund was to be used to construct the FFA headquarters building at Alexandria, Virginia.

Effective July 1, 1966, the National FFA dues were increased to 50¢ per member, which included a subscription to *The National Future Farmer* magazine.

In 1969 national FFA dues were increased to \$1 per member, including the FFA magazine subscription. At the 47th national convention in 1975 national dues were set at \$1.50.

When the FFA Foundation was organized in 1944 provisions were made in the Articles of Incorporation for the national FFA treasurer to serve as treasurer of the Foundation. The national FFA treasurer has continued to serve in this capacity, but funds and accounting are kept completely separate from FFA organizational accounts.

In 1970 it became apparent to the Board of Directors that the different FFA operations had grown to the point that control of funds, personnel, business activities, and budgets needed to be centralized for efficiency. A Finance Committee was appointed by the Board of Direc-

tors to develop an administrative reorganization plan with assistance from the FFA auditors. A plan which involved the integration of all FFA funds into one checking account, central accounting, personnel and purchasing was recommended covering the operating divisions: Supply Service, Magazine, Program Activities, Alumni, Building and Grounds, and Financial Management.

The plan was recommended to and adopted by the Board of Directors in January 1971. Edward J. Hawkins, Manager of the Supply Service, was appointed Administrative Director to supervise the reorganization and administer the centralized operations.

FFA accounts are audited annually by certified public accountants and copies of these audits are presented to the National Board of Student Officers and Board of Directors for review. A copy of the audit is also submitted to the Congress of the United States, as required by law.

The Future Farmers of America Foundation

Development of The Foundation

The Future Farmers of America Foundation was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia on March 29, 1944. The development of the National Foundation was a logical outcome of the contest and award programs of the FFA.

When students of vocational agriculture started to participate in livestock judging, crop production and other contests it became appropriate to recognize the winners by giving them recognition and awards. After the FFA was founded in 1928 competitive activities increased and additional opportunities became available for the presentation of awards to recognize outstanding achievements by members and chapters. Many individuals, organizations and business firms offered appropriate prizes and awards.

The Star Farmer awards, provided by the *Weekly Kansas City Star*, were the best known of these. Other awards included those for the national public speaking contest, the judging contests and the national chapter contest. The FFA soon found that it was becoming too involved in award programs that were sponsored by organizations and business and industry. Many donors requested the privilege of presenting awards at the national FFA convention at the time winners in the various national contests were announced. This required much time and created problems because some donors requested exclusive rights to provide awards for certain winners. As more firms became interested in the work of FFA the organization realized that it would become necessary to accept awards from some companies and reject awards from other potential sponsors.

Some of the leaders in agricultural education became fearful that too many awards might influence instruction in vocational agriculture by encouraging students to work for awards instead of developing a well-rounded program in agriculture.

As the FFA grew in membership and became well known nationally many of the large business and indus-

trial firms became interested in providing stimulating awards. During the 1940s a foundation offered \$25,000 for a national FFA award program and a business firm offered the same amount for an award program which would be sponsored by that company. In 1943 two competing companies came to the national FFA office during the same week and both offered to provide \$10,000 annually for an award program in their respective areas of interest, which they specified must bear the company name. National and state FFA leaders realized that action must be taken to make it possible for more organizations and business firms to contribute, yet keep the number of awards within reasonable limits.

Administration of The Foundation

Dr. W. T. Spanton, then National FFA Advisor, and the staff of the Agricultural Education Service consulted with business leaders, state FFA advisors and others to develop a plan that would allow business and industrial firms to contribute to an FFA foundation with "no strings attached." It was agreed that the trustees of such a foundation would implement an award program and awards would be presented in the name of the foundation rather than being exclusively sponsored by individual firms and organizations.

It was believed that a board of trustees, composed of persons working in the field of vocational agriculture, would assure that awards offered by the foundation would be compatible with the instructional program provided by teachers of vocational agriculture. It was agreed that the board should be composed of four state supervisors of agricultural education, four others who might be either state supervisors or head teacher trainers, the four regional representatives of the Agricultural Education Service of the Office of Education, the National Advisor, National Treasurer, and the National Executive Secretary of the FFA. Provisions were also made for an advisory committee, composed entirely of representatives of the donors, whose function was to advise and make recommendations to the board of trustees.



Representatives of FFA Foundation sponsoring business organizations select the Star Farmer of America in 1957.

The Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc., which was incorporated in 1944, included the provisions previously mentioned. Bylaws were adopted by the Board of Directors and Student Officers. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees, which was attended by all the members, was held in Kansas City in October 1944. The bylaws were revised and re-adopted.

Prior to the meeting in Kansas City a meeting was held in Chicago on May 11, 1944, where the plans developed for the Foundation were discussed by a group composed of six magazine editors and representatives of 10 business firms and organizations. Recommendations were obtained from the group concerning the plans which should be followed in raising money for the Foundation so an effective award program might be established for FFA members and chapters.

The structure and objectives of the Foundation were worthy but the plans to raise money were incomplete. The first contribution to the Foundation, a check for \$1,000, was presented by *Country Gentleman* magazine. In the year ending June 30, 1945, 15 donors contributed \$40,931.72.

The list of donors during the first year includes *Better Farming Methods* magazine of Mount Morris, Illinois; Consumers Cooperative Association of Kansas City; *Country Gentleman* magazine, Philadelphia; Deere and Company, Moline, Illinois; *Farm Journal* magazine, Philadelphia; Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio; General Electric Company, Schenectady,

New York; General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis; Harry Ferguson Foundation, Detroit; International Harvester Company, Chicago; Maltby Foundation, Atlanta; Meredith Publishing Company, Des Moines, Iowa; Mid-States Steel and Wire Company, Crawfordsville, Indiana; Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Pittsburgh; and an individual donor, Ray Cuff of Kansas City.

Funds contributed during the first year were used to provide awards for state and national public speaking contests, star state farmers, farm mechanics, farm and home electrification and American Farmers travel to the National FFA Convention. During 1945-46 awards provided by the Foundation included \$6,150 for state and national awards in public speaking; \$4,500 for awards of \$25 each to American Farmers, and \$14,700 to provide state awards of \$100 each for star state farmers, farm mechanics, and farm and home electrification. State associations were given \$12,500 for projects conducted by those associations and \$15,505.14 was set aside for a guaranteed loan fund to provide loans to former FFA members to help them get established in farming.

One of the objectives of the Foundation was: "To financially assist deserving students of vocational agriculture and young farmers under 30 years of age who are former students of vocational agriculture, through loans or grants, in becoming satisfactorily established in a farming occupation." Many believed that the guaranteed loan fund would be one of the constructive programs of the Foundation but it was never used and in later years it was dropped from the program of the Foundation.

It was necessary to establish many policies for the Foundation during the first few years. Policies, such as how donors might publicize their relationship to the Foundation and the FFA and the reservation of the right of the Foundation to reject contributions from certain donors because of the potential detrimental influence of the donor on FFA members, were needed at once. Since the Board of Trustees was made up of state and Federal employees, it was not believed to be advisable for them to engage in campaigns to solicit funds for the Foundation. The Foundation was set up to receive funds that might be donated but a policy was needed concerning the plan that should be followed to obtain funds.

Fortunately most of the first donors to the FFA Foundation were companies and organizations that had been supporting and promoting the FFA for many years. It was found that when donors started participating in the FFA Foundation their interest in the FFA and vocational agriculture increased. This interest led to many donors finding other ways in which they could assist FFA and agricultural education. Educational pamphlets, visual aids, samples and farm machinery were made available for use by FFA members. One large national donor notified all their units in the states and local communities of their interest in the FFA and asked a representative to get acquainted with the local teacher of agriculture to find out if there were ways their company could be of assistance. When the contributors learned more about the FFA member and recognized him as a potential customer, interest increased in the use of *The National Future Farmer* magazine as a means to reach members by advertising.

Raising Funds for Foundation

Leaders of the Foundation and donors realized the need for a program to inform other companies and organizations about the award program of the FFA and the Foundation.

This problem was solved by the donors by organizing a committee to solicit funds for the Foundation. The committee was organized in 1946 and was composed of representatives of the original donors. The committee named H. D. Millhone of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company as its first chairman, and William Huff, FFA Director of Public Relations and Information, secretary.

After thorough study and discussion the committee decided that the best approach to soliciting funds for the Foundation would be through letters written by an officer of one of the donors. The sponsors believed that a letter from a company officer would be read by the official to whom it was addressed while a letter signed by an unknown committee member might receive little attention.

One member of the committee, who took an active

part in the meetings of the sponsoring committee, was Frank W. Jenks, Vice-President of the International Harvester Company. Mr. Jenks had participated in fund raising campaigns for the Chicago Community Chest and had many constructive ideas how funds might be raised for the Foundation. The sponsoring committee asked Mr. Jenks to become chairman of the committee and conduct the first solicitation campaign. Mr. Jenks accepted and began in early 1949 a campaign of making direct contacts with potential donors.

This new approach proved to be quite successful and during the year the number of donors to the Foundation increased to 68 and the contributions to \$102,706.

The following year John H. Kraft, President, Kraft Foods Company, accepted an invitation from the sponsoring committee to serve as chairman for 1950. He was followed in successive years by Raymond Firestone, Vice-President, Firestone Tire & Rubber Company and Roger Kyes, Vice-President, General Motors Corporation. The sound procedure which was established by the first sponsoring committee has been followed through the years. Distinguished leaders from business and industry have continued to serve as chairmen of the Foundation sponsoring committee and have solicited funds for the Foundation. A list of all of the persons who have served as chairmen is included in this chapter.

The list of the chairmen of the sponsoring committee, which includes presidents, vice-presidents, and chairmen of the boards of many of the nation's major corporations, reads like a "Who's Who" in American business. Through their efforts, the FFA Foundation has grown from 15 donors who contributed \$40,931.72 in 1945 to 1,446 sponsors who gave \$838,541.02 in 1976.

As contributions to the Foundation increased, additional awards were provided for the Future Farmers of America and the New Farmers of America. (For additional information refer to the chapter on Awards and Contests.) The Foundation began providing awards for the national FFA judging contests. Soil and Water Management, Dairy Farming and Farm Safety awards were added. The funds for American Farmer awards and for state initiated awards were also increased substantially.

Special Foundation Projects

Consideration was given to ways in which the Foundation might offer awards to members of local chapters to recognize achievement and motivate them to higher attainment. In 1950 the Foundation started providing medals for chapter winners in seven award categories including Farm Mechanics, Farm and Home Electrification, Dairy Production, Soil and Water Management, Public Speaking, Chapter Safety and Star Chapter Farmer. These coveted awards were usually presented at the annual FFA chapter banquet.

At the close of the 25th year of the FFA the Foundation had completed nine years of providing funds for national and state awards. During that period the Foundation made available \$596,932.32 for recognition and awards. The reserve fund had grown to \$120,208.98 by that date.

The FFA Foundation, as it was set up in 1944, ran so smoothly that few changes had to be made. Donations to the Foundation increased annually and each year new companies and organizations joined the list of donors. As the number of donors grew and the amount of money handled increased, it became evident that eventually changes would have to be made to meet the growing needs of the expanding FFA program.

Consideration was given by the Board of Trustees in 1957 to the advisability of employing a full-time director for the Foundation. Finally in 1966, money was budgeted for employing an executive secretary for the Foundation but no action was taken.

As the Foundation grew, it became increasingly clear that a full-time employee was needed to assist the National Chairman. Although the Foundation received generous support in time and effort from its volunteer chairmen, it was observed that business executives did not have the time or resources to carry on the extensive fund-raising campaign needed to reach all potential FFA Foundation investors.

In 1966 FFA Foundation Chairman Byron Nichols of Chrysler Corporation recommended that a full-time em-

ployee be hired to coordinate FFA Foundation activities. A committee including the National FFA Advisor H. N. Hunsicker, National FFA President Howard Williams; David Crandall, Public Relations Director of Chrysler Corporation; and National FFA Executive Secretary Wm. Paul Gray, met with Mr. Nichols and agreed to recommend to the Board of Trustees that a person be employed to coordinate FFA Foundation activities.

The recommendation of the committee was accepted and John Foltz of *The National Future Farmer* magazine staff was employed as coordinator of the Foundation.

In 1967 L. W. Davis of Allis-Chalmers became Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee. In a meeting to discuss ways and means of increasing contributions to the Foundation, Mr. Davis suggested that the only way to obtain "real money" in the form of large investments would be to allow companies and organizations to sponsor "special projects" of \$10,000 or more. Under Mr. Davis' proposal sponsorship of an FFA program would give sponsoring companies the right to be identified as the program sponsor. In July 1968, the Foundation Board of Trustees approved the idea of a Special Project concept.

About the same time Congressman Donald Rumsfeld of Illinois leveled charges that the FFA was operating illegally by using the Office of Education facilities. An effort was made to separate the FFA from the Office of Education. The FFA's Federal Charter, P.L. 740, however, clearly stated that the FFA was an integral part of education and the FFA to this day continues to maintain close ties to the U.S. Office of Education. The action did result, however, in the Office of Education forcing the FFA to move its program operations to the National FFA Center near Alexandria, Virginia.

In 1969 Mr. Foltz resigned his position with the FFA Foundation and Donald McDowell, then Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture, was employed as Executive Director of the Foundation sponsoring committee and began work in April 1969. Mr. McDowell assists the Chairman of the Foundation sponsoring committee in the solicitation of funds for the Foundation.

The FFA Foundation was subsequently reorganized, new articles of incorporation were drawn, and new guidelines and policies for operating the FFA Foundation were submitted.



Each year FFA members recognize FFA Foundation Sponsors prior to the Stars Over America Pageant. At the 40th National FFA Convention Foundation Sponsors nearly filled the stage.

The Foundation articles of incorporation and bylaws were changed to improve the effectiveness of the organization. One of the most significant changes in the bylaws was in the composition of the Board of Trustees. Originally, the Board was composed of four state supervisors, four others who either were state supervisors or head teacher trainers and four regional representatives of the Agricultural Education Service of the Office of Education, plus the National Advisor, National Treasurer and the National Executive Secretary. The changes in the articles provided for a Board of Trustees composed of three persons representing Foundation sponsors, chosen by the Governing Council of the Foundation Sponsoring Committee, two teachers of agriculture, two teacher educators, two state FFA executive secretaries, four state supervisors of agricultural education and two persons who are members of the Office of Education staff having responsibilities in agricultural education. The National Advisor, the National Treasurer, the National Executive Secretary and the National FFA President were also named to serve on the Board.

Another amendment to the bylaws changed the designation of contributors to the Foundation from "Donors" to "Sponsors". The Board of Trustees gave careful consideration to "Special Projects" so the sponsorship of these projects would not lead to a reduction in contribu-

tions to the general fund of the Foundation. These projects were to be fully funded by the sponsor and credited to the sponsoring organization.



A reception and banquet prior to the Thursday evening session gives sponsors and FFA members an opportunity to meet informally.

The number of special projects increased rapidly. In 1977 the following special projects were being conducted:

Proficiency Award Programs

	Year Sponsorship Began
Agricultural Electrification	(1972)
Agricultural Mechanics	(1972)
Agricultural Processing	(1975)
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	(1973)
Beef Production	(1974)
Crop Production	(1971)
Dairy Production	(1972)
Diversified Livestock Production	(1976)
Poultry Production	(1976)
Outdoor Recreation	(1976)
Sheep Production	(1974)
Forest Management	(1975)
Home and Farmstead Improvement	(1974)
Fish and Wildlife Management	(1971)
Horse Proficiency	(1974)
Placement in Agricultural Production	(1975)
Soil and Water Management	(1973)
Swine Production	(1974)
Turf and Landscape Management	(1977)
Nursery Operations	(1977)
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production	(1977)
Floriculture	(1977)

Contests

Agricultural Mechanics	(1972)
Dairy Cattle Judging	(1971)
Livestock Judging	(1972)
Farm Business Management	(1976)
Poultry	(1976)
Milk Quality and Dairy Foods	(1970)
Horticulture	(1974)
Meats Judging	(1971)

Other Special Projects

Food for America	(1974)
Building Our American Communities	(1971)
FFA Instructional Program	(1975)
World Conference and Agricultural Olympics	(1975)
Stars Over America Films	(1972)
Golden Anniversary Films	(1976)
National Safety	(1972)
State Presidents' National Conference	(1972)
FFA Student Handbook	(1976)
FFA Advisor's Handbook	(1974)

Other special projects were being planned by the Board of Trustees of the FFA Foundation.

The Foundation established the following membership categories to identify sponsor participation:

	Star Sponsor	\$5,000 or more
	Gold Sponsor	2,000 to 4,999
	Silver Sponsor	500 to 1,999
	Bronze Sponsor	100 to 499
(Individual)	Executive Sponsor	100 or more
	Contributor	Under \$100

In 1975 a study was made of the sponsors of the FFA Foundation. The following comparisons show the major sources of funds for the Foundation, by categories:

	Companies or Individuals	Dollars Contri- buted	Star (39) Sponsors	Special (28) Projects
1975				
Agri-Chemicals	56	\$197,910	10	8
Farm Equipment	69	129,000	10	9
Feed and Seed	81	53,740	3	4
Food (Including meat)	45	50,465	5	3
Petroleum	11	12,575	1	0
Banking Institutions	345	19,273	0	0
Farm Cooperatives	261	40,925	2	2
Personal	126	13,600	0	0
Total	994	\$517,488	31	26
% of Grand Total	71	82	79	93

**FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM SPONSORS BY YEARS**

1944	Organized	1961	\$168,994.51
1945	\$ 40,931.72	1962	191,846.39
1946	50,772.00	1963	201,534.93
1947	72,310.55	1964	211,497.00
1948	71,778.00	1965	221,415.68
1949	101,177.00	1966	221,260.00
1950	111,977.10	1967	224,980.00
1951	120,771.50	1968	240,026.45
1952	193,853.00	1969	250,486.00
1953	174,529.00	1970	276,304.50
1954	161,119.00	1971	335,225.00
1955	179,058.00	1972	427,885.00
1956	181,374.00	1973	477,110.00
1957	186,078.00	1974	576,114.94
1958	183,417.89	1975	680,148.11
1959	184,010.21	1976	836,000.00
1960	163,557.19		

The FFA has undergone many changes since it was founded in 1928. As agriculture and America changed, the FFA adapted its program to keep up to date. In the beginning the FFA served farm youth and tried to help them become better farmers and leaders. While many of its programs are still directed toward young men and women in production agriculture, the FFA has expanded in the areas of agribusiness and is thus reaching into urban areas. Likewise the FFA Foundation has expanded the awards programs to include awards in many new areas, such as forestry, recreation, horticulture, and conservation.

In 1969, the Board of Trustees allocated foundation funds to provide for a complete study of the 13 agricultural proficiency awards then being offered. Consultants representing teachers, teacher educators, supervisors, industry and agricultural associations were called to Washington, D.C. to make their recommendations for improving this program. As a result new awards were added to the proficiency awards. These new awards were designed to be more compatible with classroom instruction and offer more opportunities to students interested in careers in agribusiness and production agriculture.

In 1969, the FFA Foundation, recognizing the importance of agribusiness, initiated the Star Agribusiness-

man Award to provide recognition to the growing number of students studying agribusiness. The Star Agribusinessman Award, which parallels the Star Farmer of America Award, is given to the student who has made outstanding accomplishments in a business that supports production agriculture. The first Star Agribusinessman winner was named at the 1969 national FFA convention. The winner was Ken Dunagan from Wilcox, Arizona.

The above summary, which represents one year of contributions to the FFA Foundation, shows the broad support which is provided by business and industry.

Since 1969 the work of the Sponsoring Committee has expanded greatly. The Executive Council of the Sponsoring Committee is composed of the chairman, two vice chairmen and the past chairman. They appoint the state chairmen. This improved structure has resulted in a large increase in the number of sponsors and increased contributions to the Foundation. In 1976 1,446 sponsors contributed \$838,541.02 to the Foundation. When this amount is compared to the \$40,931.72 contributed in 1945, during the first year of the Foundation, one can see the great progress made. The following table shows the dramatic success of the FFA Foundation in raising funds for FFA incentive awards.

In 1977 funds were allocated by the Foundation for incentive awards and special activities as follows:

Establishment in Agriculture Awards	\$82,200
Agricultural Proficiency Awards	250,988
Special Recognition	3,000
National Chapter Award Program	15,500
Post-Secondary Program	27,720
National Chapter Safety Award Program	10,080
International Program	2,520
National Contests	104,199
State Presidents' Leadership Conference	22,447
State Initiated Program for Improving	
Agricultural Leadership	31,800
Building Our American Communities	39,480
FFA Golden Anniversary Film	25,000
Stars Over America Film	40,000
Food For America	32,000
FFA Student Handbook	6,720
FFA Concept Film	17,375

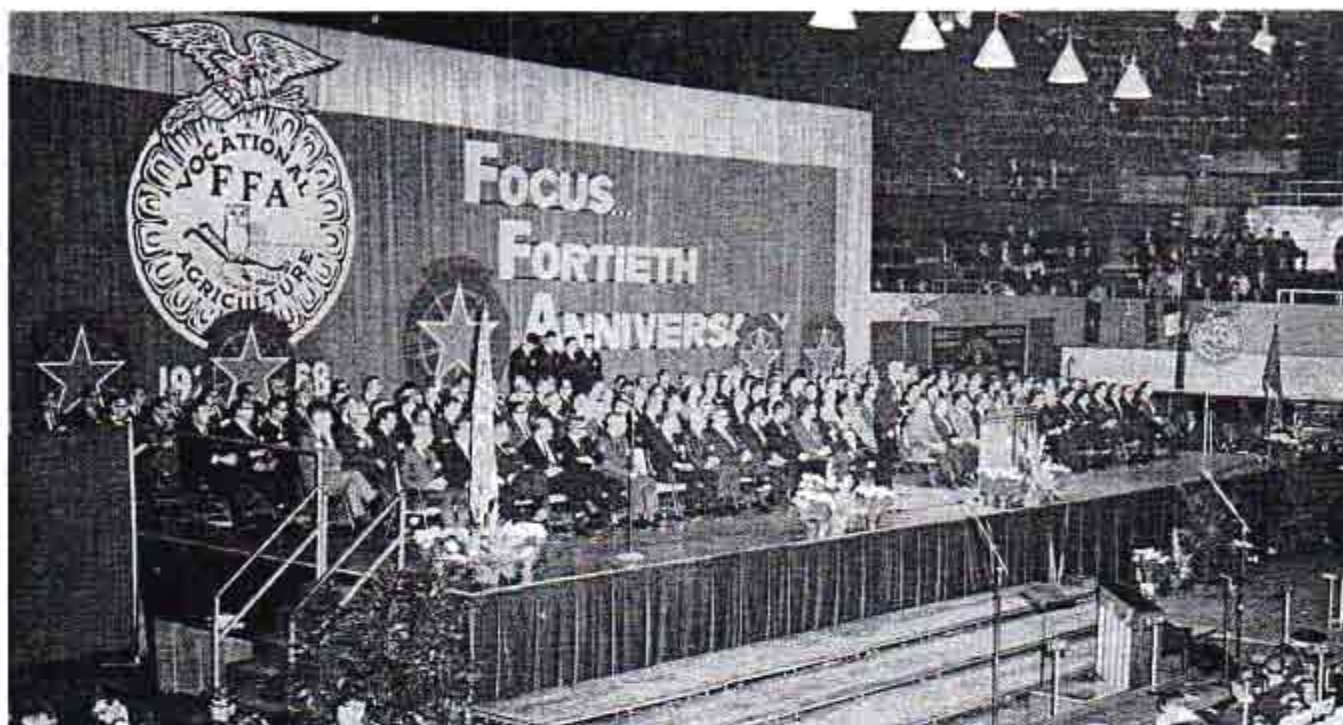
Complete and detailed information on the use made of funds contributed to the FFA Foundation is available in the Annual Reports of the Foundation.

Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairmen

1947-48	Horace D. Millhone, Manager, Farm Tire Sales, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company	1966	Byron J. Nichols, Vice-President and General Manager, Dodge Division, Chrysler Motors Corporation
1949	Frank W. Jenks, Vice-President, International Harvester Company	1967	M. G. O'Neil, President, General Tire and Rubber Company
1950	John H. Kraft, Chairman of the Board, Kraft Foods Company	1968	L. W. Davis, Vice-President, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company
1951	Raymond C. Firestone, Vice-President, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company	1969	Donald Danforth Jr., Executive Vice President, Ralston Purina Company
1952	Robert M. Kyes, Vice-President, General Motors Corporation	1970	S. W. White Jr., Vice President, White Motor Company
1953	Chester H. Lang, Vice-President, General Electric Company	1971	Fred Stines, Publisher, <i>Successful Farmer</i>
1954	W. A. Roberts, President, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company	1972	John E. Streetman, Vice-President, Allied Mills, Inc.
1955	A. F. Davis, Secretary, The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation	1973	A. Malcolm McVie, President, Elanco Products Company
1956	Clark W. Davis, General Manager, Grasselli Chemicals Department, E. I. duPont deNemours & Company	1974	Robert L. Walston, Vice-President, Funk Seeds International, Inc.
1957	John L. McCaffrey, Chairman of the Board, International Harvester Company	1975	Edward F. Carter, Executive Vice-President, Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
1958	(Jan. - May) Hugo Reimer, President, Nitrogen Division, Allied Chemical Corporation	1976	Robert W. Engle, Vice-President and General Manager, AVCO—New Idea Farm Equipment Division
1958	(June-Dec.) Glenn B. Miller, President, Allied Chemical Corporation	1977	David A. Phillipson, DVM, Vice-President and General Manager, The Upjohn Company, Agricultural Division
1959	Merritt D. Hill, Vice-President and General Manager, Tractor and Implement Division, Ford Motor Company	1978	Clarke A. Nelson, Group Vice President, Carnation Company
1960	Russell DeYoung, President, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company		
1961	John C. Denton, President, Spencer Chemical Company		
1962	Bruce Lourie, Vice-President, Deere & Company		
1963	J. W. Keener, President, B. F. Goodrich Company		
1964	Curry W. Stoup, President, New Idea Division, AVCO Corporation		
1965	L. W. Moore, President, American Oil Company		

After the FFA Foundation had been in operation for a number of years many state FFA associations and local chapters developed foundations. Most of these foundations followed the pattern set by the National FFA Foundation and have been quite successful.

Since the Future Farmers of America Foundation was incorporated in 1944 it has served as a source of great strength to the FFA by providing a structure where leaders in agricultural education, business, industry and organizations can work together in making available awards designed to encourage and motivate FFA members and chapters. It has played a significant role during the first 50 years of the FFA and it is expected to render even greater service to the FFA during the next 50 years.



National FFA Foundation sponsors are given special recognition each year at the National Convention.



U.S. Rubber Corp. was host to National Officers when this photo was made during the 1960 Good-Will Tour. Visits by National Officers to sponsors helps business and industry stay in touch with the FFA organization and gives the FFA an opportunity to express appreciation for sponsor support.

The FFA Supply Service

After the Future Farmers of America was organized at Kansas City, Missouri, in 1928, there was a growing demand for items bearing the FFA emblem. This led to the development, over a number of years, of many official items for members of the organization.

In the beginning the organization selected certain items bearing the FFA emblem and authorized companies to produce and sell these items direct to FFA members. The organization approved the quality of the merchandise and received a small royalty on all sales. These items included jewelry, clothing, awards, emblems and other similar appropriate materials.

When Dr. A. W. Tenney became National Executive Secretary in 1943, he found that it was necessary for a teacher to write to 16 different companies to obtain all the official FFA merchandise. Service was extremely poor from some of the companies. This was partially due to the fact that companies were not guaranteed that there would be a demand for a specific number of the items sold and as a result frequently did not manufacture the product until an order was received. It was not uncommon for items such as plaques to require as much as three months for manufacture and delivery. This situation was studied carefully in order to improve the service to FFA members. Visits were made to some of the large retail chain stores that were handling merchandise for youth organizations, such as the Boy Scouts of America. A visit was made to the Scout headquarters to study their supply service. After careful study it became apparent that the FFA would have to establish a supply service if official FFA supplies were to be made readily available to all FFA members and chapters.

Over the years the proceedings of national FFA conventions contain many references to delegate action concerning the adoption of various items of official supplies and of attempts made to keep unauthorized persons from using the official FFA emblem. The problems faced in connection with making the official FFA supplies available to members was thoroughly discussed by the National FFA Board of Trustees in Washington, D.C. on July 18, 1946, and a motion was passed, "That the Board of Trustees recommend the organization of an FFA supply service as soon as conditions permit." At the 1947 national FFA convention a report of the committee

on official merchandise was adopted by the delegates recommending that the Board of Trustees establish a supply service for the FFA.

The delegates agreed that a supply service should be established for the following reasons:

1. To make all items of official FFA merchandise available from one source.
2. To insure uniformity in official FFA merchandise.
3. To give members the advantage of high quality official merchandise at the lowest possible cost.

A poll was taken of the states that year to determine the advisability of establishing a central supply service for the FFA. The states voted in favor of starting a supply service.

The delegates at the 1947 national FFA convention authorized a loan of \$10,000 from the FFA treasury to start the supply service.

Attorneys advised against setting up the supply service under the FFA's Virginia corporate charter. They pointed out that the FFA Foundation charter was broad enough to cover such a business and recommended that it be established as a branch of the Foundation. The FFA Supply Service was then organized under the Foundation charter. After the FFA received a Federal Charter of Incorporation, the Supply Service was transferred from the Foundation to the FFA organization in 1952.

The Supply Service opened for business in February, 1948. After careful investigation a decision was made to use the facilities of the National FFA Camp to start the Supply Service. W. A. O'Brien was employed as the first manager and he was provided one full-time secretary. E. D. Tyler, Camp Manager, also devoted about one-half his time to the Supply Service. The staff was gradually expanded.

A small folder was prepared showing the official FFA items that were to be made available during the first year by the Supply Service. Six items were advertised for sale: the now famous blue corduroy jacket, a blue sport shirt, a white T-shirt and a softball uniform consisting of cap, jersey and pants. When this folder was mailed to FFA chapters throughout the Nation, hundreds of orders were sent in immediately. There was not enough staff to process these orders quickly. Some of the orders were

not opened and acknowledged for four to six weeks. There was little criticism because service in the past on most FFA items from other companies had been poor. The staff was gradually increased and the service improved.

In order to have the Supply Service operated in a sound business manner an auditing firm was employed to set up the record system. At the close of the first year of operation another auditing firm was employed to audit the records and to analyze the operation of the business. From the very beginning sound business practices were followed in the operation and management of the Supply Service.

The first year the Supply Service sold \$238,549.56 worth of merchandise. Even though there was a low mark-up on the official merchandise the Supply Service earned a net profit of \$26,397.67 during the first year of operation. The original \$10,000 loan was repaid to the FFA treasury in 1949. From the beginning the FFA Supply Service was financially quite successful.

The Supply Service expanded each year and the service was improved. The FFA jacket was one of the major sources of income. Jewelry items were manufactured and sold under contract by the L. G. Balfour Company until 1955, when these items were taken over by the Supply Service. Much difficulty was encountered in the

processing of items such as jackets, plaques and keys which required special lettering. When the Supply Service was first launched, factories did not have separate lettering facilities for FFA. Orders from chapters, therefore, competed with orders from bowling alleys and others who requested this type of service. Manufacturers were requested to provide a special lettering department to process orders from FFA. This made possible faster deliveries of merchandise ordered by chapters and members.

A sincere dedicated attempt was made to provide service to members. The business was always operated under the theory that the customer is always right. This added service paid off annually by a greatly increased volume of business. Orders were frequently placed for items during the season of the year when the factory was not busy and thus the items were purchased at a lower cost. Storing large inventories was always a problem at the Supply Service. This was partially solved by requiring the manufacturer to deliver items as needed, at a price previously agreed upon. This made it necessary for the factories to hold much of the inventory which had been ordered since it was necessary to order large quantities of certain merchandise in order to buy at a low price. When banquet supplies were first made available by the Supply Service it was necessary to order several hundred thou-



sand napkins, place mats, cups and place cards bearing the FFA emblem without specific information concerning the demand for such supplies. Within six weeks the entire supply was sold and it was necessary to send a rush order to the factories for more banquet supplies.

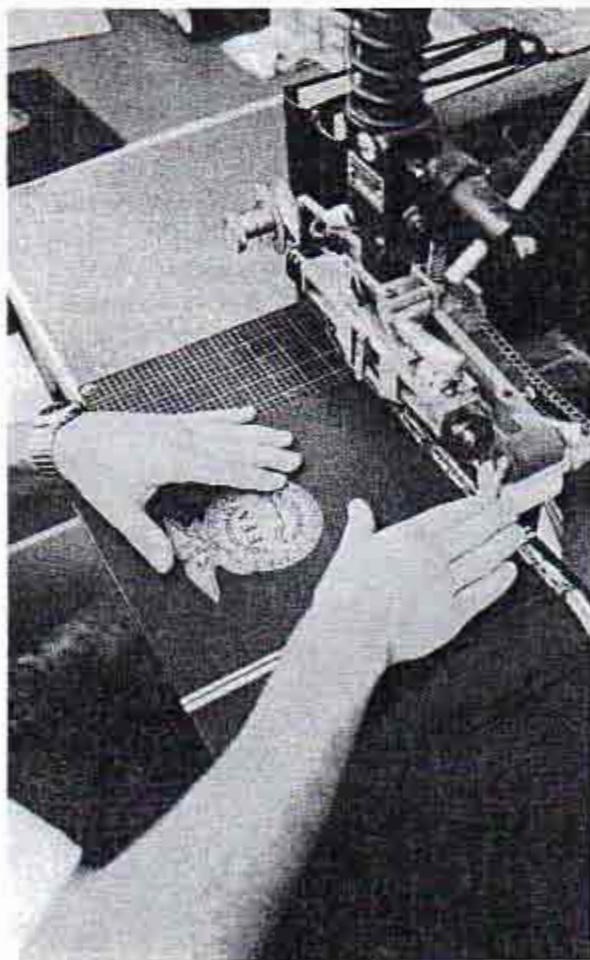
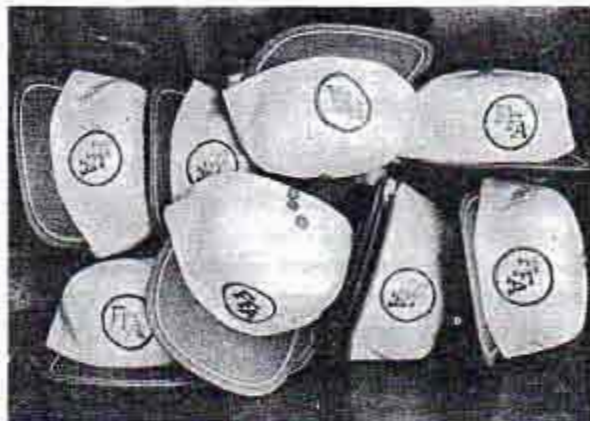
All items sold at the Supply Service have the approval of the National Board of Directors and National Officers. Most items sold have been requested by local chapters or state associations.

The Supply Service has always obtained competitive bids to get the lowest possible price, high quality and satisfactory service. The bids are opened by the manager in the presence of one or more FFA officials. Effort is made to be fair to the suppliers as well as to members of the FFA.

As FFA Chapters became more familiar with the Supply Service there were many emergency orders for jackets, plaques, keys and other items that could not be met by the suppliers. As a result, a lettering department was started at the Supply Service for jackets, jewelry and other items. These services were started in a small way, but it was soon found that lettering could be profitable on certain items and the Supply Service could still sell at a reduced price. The new department made possible deliveries to members on an emergency basis. For special emergency orders it became possible to process and deliver the merchandise to the post office the day the order was received. Each improved service led to increased business and true appreciation of the Supply Service.

The Post Office Department sent representatives to the Supply Service to show the shipping department how to wrap packages for safe delivery. In the beginning packages were insured but the loss of merchandise in the mails was so low that it was decided that the Supply Service would accept the responsibility for the delivery of the merchandise.

There were serious problems, however. The heavy demand for FFA jackets and other items in September and October taxed the facilities of the Supply Service as attempts were made to give prompt delivery. To help solve this problem the lettering department during the summer months lettered state names on jackets, basing the number on the quantities ordered in previous years. This made possible faster deliveries during the fall rush



season.

There were a few serious mistakes. During one Christmas season hundreds of jackets and other personalized items were ordered by parents and members for presents. The Supply Service received a large amount of mail protesting because the orders had not arrived in time for Christmas. The Post Office traced the shipments and a mail car filled with FFA packages was found parked on a side track out west. One thoughtful mother clipped the shipping date from the package and mailed it to the manager. The package had been in transit for six weeks.

There were amusing incidents. A teacher ordered jackets for all chapter members. One member was growing rapidly and when the jackets arrived he could not close the front of the garment. The harried teacher wrote to the manager of the Supply Service: "What am I going to do? I ordered a jacket one size too small for Bill. He has a big mouth and talks about his jacket every day. Will you sell me another jacket at a reduced price so I can shut his big mouth?" The manager solved the problem for the teacher by sending another jacket complimentary.

Many new items which had never been available to FFA members were gradually developed and stocked, as authorized by the official boards. These included, in addition to banquet supplies, items for girls, new awards, wearing apparel, new emblems and other merchandise.

The New Farmers of America requested the FFA Supply Service to sell NFA supplies. This request was approved and all official NFA supplies were distributed by the Supply Service until NFA members became members of the FFA and the NFA Charter was rescinded.

The old camp buildings were used for a number of years by the Supply Service. The buildings were not designed for the operation of such a business. They were poorly heated in the winter and were hot in the summer. The success of the Supply Service made it possible to develop a large, modern National FFA Center to house the Supply Service, the staff of *The National Future Farmer* magazine and the administrative staff of the FFA. A large, attractive brick building was constructed. As the Supply Service and other national organization services continued to grow additions have been added to this building to provide needed space for storage of inven-

tory, the development of FFA Archives and additional office space.

The success of the Supply Service enabled the FFA to build financial reserves that made possible the launching of *The National Future Farmer* magazine and helped to make possible a greatly expanded program by the FFA in the United States and throughout the world. The official boards of the FFA continue to make careful studies of operating costs, prices, percentage of profit and the disposal of the income.

The FFA is a non-profit corporation. By this it is meant that none of the profit can accrue to an individual. For a number of years grants were made to state associations based on the volume of business done by members and chapters in the state with the Supply Service. When the national and international programs expanded to the place where all of the profits from the Supply Service were needed on the national level the National Board of Directors authorized the discontinuance of grants to the states.

W. A. O'Brien served as Manager until 1951. Harry Andrews served as Acting Manager from May to October 1951, when Edward J. Hawkins, who was a business



executive in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was employed as Manager of this growing enterprise. He continued to serve in that capacity until 1971, when he was promoted by the Board of Directors to serve as Administrative Director of the FFA. Mr. Andrews replaced him as Manager.

Representatives of the Supply Service were sent to many of the state FFA conventions to make merchandise immediately available and to obtain comments from teachers and members concerning the supplies and service rendered.

The popular blue corduroy jacket has always been the best seller of all the official items sold by the Supply Service. From five to six thousand jackets were the most that had been purchased by the FFA before the Supply Service was started in 1948. About 30,000 jackets were ordered from the Supply Service during the year 1948-49. The number of jackets sold increased dramatically through the years. The one-millionth FFA jacket was sold in 1964 to Eddie Wiederstein from Audubon, Iowa. The two-millionth jacket was purchased by Johnny Bowman

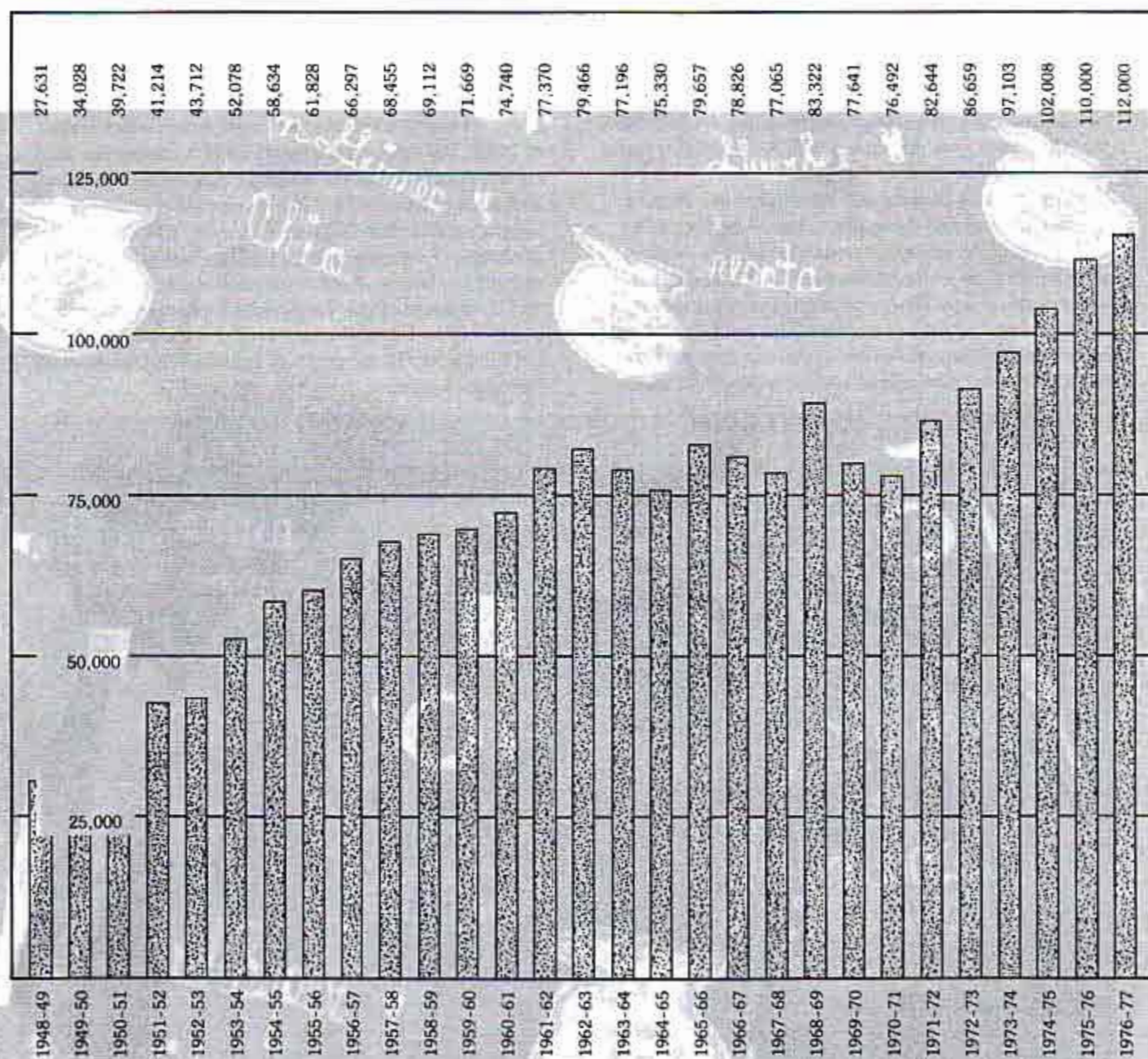
of Aurora, Missouri, in October 1976. During the year 1976-77 111,946 jackets were sold. (See the record of jacket sales by years.) The jacket was not the only item that was in great demand. During that year more than 50,000 plaques and trophies, 45,000 caps, and 20,000 T-shirts were sold.

The staff of the Supply Service, which ranges in number from 30 to 45, is divided into a number of different departments. These include Order Processing, Production, Lettering, Inventory and Shipping.

The Future Farmers Supply Service has continued to expand rapidly in items sold and volume of business. According to the report of the auditor, in 1977 the Supply Service had a net worth of approximately \$2,000,000. Total sales for that year were almost \$4,000,000. Each year some income from the Supply Service sales is added to the FFA organization budget to help defray other costs of the FFA. (Refer to the bar graph of gross sales of the Future Farmers Supply Service by years.)



OFFICIAL BLUE CORDUROY JACKET SALES
NATIONAL FFA SUPPLY SERVICE



The National Future Farmer Magazine

A longtime dream of the members of FFA became a reality in October 1952, when the first issue of *The National Future Farmer* was printed and mailed to about 50,000 members who had submitted their subscriptions by mail without ever seeing a sample copy. An additional 50,000 copies were distributed to FFA chapters so members could review their new magazine.

Members were pleased with their magazine. It had a four-color cover and the entire content was directed to FFA members. It contained features that were interesting to them, such as articles about the FFA, feature stories about youth in agriculture, cartoons, many pictures and even the latest jokes. Former members and friends from other organizations and business and industry were also interested in this new official magazine published by the

FFA. Circulation increased rapidly to 150,000 in less than two years and advertisers began to include the new magazine in their advertising budgets.

FFA members and their advisors had wanted a national magazine soon after the organization was founded in 1928. The delegates to the 1929 FFA convention discussed the possibilities of starting a magazine. The members were enthusiastic but funds were not available to launch a publication that would be a credit to the organization. Fortunately some publicity was given to FFA activities by farm and youth magazines and by weekly and daily newspapers. The space allocated by the news media to the FFA was helpful and genuinely appreciated but it did not fulfill the needs of members and advisors for their own magazine.



In 1953 National Officers visited President Dwight D. Eisenhower and presented him a copy of *The National Future Farmer* magazine. The officers were accompanied by Roger M. Kyes, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Federal Security Administrator and Senator Frank Carlson (Kansas)

The need for and possibilities of starting a magazine were discussed at most national FFA conventions prior to 1952. Members wanted a magazine that would be mailed to each member so they could read it and show it to their families and friends. They desired the latest information about successful local and state FFA activities, inspirational stories about youth, new developments in agriculture and opportunities for youth in the broad field of agriculture and rural America. They also wanted a magazine that could be used to inform others about the constructive work being done by members and chapters throughout the country.

Each time when requests were made for the launching of a magazine for the organization, plans were stymied because funds were not available to pay the cost of production and distribution. Members and advisors wanted only a top quality publication. After careful investigation it was found that many thousands of dollars would be required to employ a staff, pay printing costs and mail copies to all members. Members were willing to pay a subscription price and it was believed that advertising revenue could help pay for the cost of printing and distribution. It was realized that it would require a few years for the magazine to earn enough money so it could operate in the black. The organization did not have adequate financial reserves to launch such a venture.

As the FFA grew in numbers, strength and popularity, demands increased for a national magazine. The possibilities of a national magazine were discussed by local chapters, state associations, conferences of teachers and by state and national leaders. By 1946 the convention delegates were insisting that a national FFA magazine be started. The national FFA office was instructed by the National Board of Trustees and National Advisory Council to start publishing a magazine as soon as possible. Extensive surveys were made of state FFA associations to find out the desires of members and advisors, and among business establishments to determine the advertising potential. The National Executive Secretary attended each of the regional conferences in agricultural education and obtained the counsel of the state leaders concerning the launching of the publication. It was agreed that the only major problem to be solved was that of how to finance the magazine.

A large printing firm, which was doing some work for the FFA, submitted a proposal to the national FFA office to finance and print the new FFA magazine on a profit sharing basis, with the FFA to have complete editorial control.



Right from the start in 1952 Future Farmers have found *The National Future Farmer* magazine fascinating reading.

This proposal was considered carefully by the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Council and was tentatively approved. The proposal was also endorsed by the delegates to the national FFA convention in 1948. Before a contract was signed the company employed a consultant to determine the potential success of the magazine. When an adverse report was received by the company the proposal to the FFA was withdrawn. Nothing was done after that to start the magazine for about three years.

During this period the FFA began accumulating financial reserves which were necessary before a magazine could be launched.

In 1949 the organization gave approval for the publishing of a national FFA calendar. This new venture served as an excellent promotional tool and also earned money for the FFA. Membership in the organization was increasing annually, thus providing additional funds from annual dues. During the war years the FFA had invested in a number of bonds. The FFA Supply Service was earning money. The organization was gradually becoming financially secure.

The National Officers and Board of Directors at a meeting in Kansas City in October 1951, requested the Executive Secretary to poll the states again to determine the advisability of starting publication of *The National Future Farmer* magazine.

The poll was made that fall and again it was found that there was enthusiastic support for the magazine. At the meeting of the National Officers and Board of Directors in Washington during January 1952, it was agreed that the FFA was financially capable of launching a magazine.

From the beginning it had been recommended by members, state associations and national leaders that when a magazine was started it should be attractive, with a four-color cover, and should be written for the members.

Motions were passed specifying that the magazine be started, that it be issued four times a year, that it be mailed directly to the homes of the members and that the subscription price be \$.25 per year or five years for \$1.00. The name *The National Future Farmer* was officially approved. The national office was authorized to employ an editor, and assist him in the selection of a staff, engaging a printer, selling advertising, and performing the many other activities which were required in the launching of the magazine.

After a careful consideration of persons qualified to serve as editor, Lano Barron, former teacher of vocational agriculture and State Advisor of the FFA in Texas, was employed. It was decided that the offices for the magazine staff should be located with the Future Farmers Supply Service at the national FFA camp south of Alexandria, Virginia.

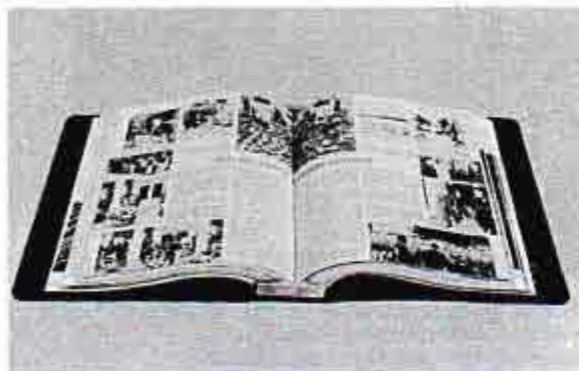
Mr. Barron was given an interesting and challenging assignment when he arrived in Washington in April 1952, to design, write and distribute the first issue of *The National Future Farmer* by October of that year. Naturally there were many problems to be faced. A staff of seven persons was employed, advertisements were sold, subscriptions were obtained and during the first week of October 1952, the first issue was mailed to subscribers. The new magazine pleased and surprised everyone with its appearance, the quality of the stories and editorials and general excellence. Members were enthusiastic about their new magazine and advertisers were satisfied with the responses received from their advertisements.

The magazine actually sold itself so effectively that 100 percent of the members of many state FFA associations subscribed. Traditionally advertisers take a wait-and-see attitude toward any new magazines but this did not happen to *The National Future Farmer*. Many companies bought space in the first edition and continued to use the magazine to advertise their products.

Many policies had to be established in connection with advertising and editorial content. The National Officers and the National Board of Directors established the necessary policies so the magazine could serve FFA members most effectively. For example a policy was established that no liquor, patented medicines or smoking advertisements would be accepted for use in the magazine.

It was expected that it would require many years for the magazine to be self-supporting. The first year it was necessary for the FFA to provide about \$35,000 to pay for the difference between expenditures and income. The following year \$28,500 was budgeted by the FFA to support the new magazine. After 1953, magazine subscriptions and advertisements brought in enough income so it was not necessary for the FFA to provide additional money to pay publishing costs. The magazine has been self-supporting since that date, receiving its income from two sources: the sale of advertising and subscriptions. On July 28, 1966, the magazine returned to the general treasury of the FFA a check for \$44,500, which was the total of funds advanced to the magazine before the publication could pay its way.

Beginning with the February-March issue in 1956, the



The National Future Farmer editorial policy is to provide members a well-rounded content of subject matter. In selecting articles for the magazine, editors try for a mix of 50 percent about FFA, 25 percent about agriculture and 25 percent general youth interest.

frequency of issues was changed from a quarterly to a bi-monthly basis, or an issue every two months. Even though subscribers started receiving two additional copies each year, the change was made without an increase in the subscription price.

Lano Barron resigned as editor in 1958 and was replaced by Wilson Carnes, a former member of the FFA from Alabama, who had been associate editor for three years, and was FFA and Vo-Ag Editor in Alabama for two years before joining the magazine staff. Over the years many other former FFA members have been employed by the magazine to sell advertising and to prepare news stories.

In 1957 the National FFA Officers and the Board of Directors decided it was in the best interests of the organization to take over the operation of the FFA calendar program. The official FFA calendar had been handled by a commercial calendar company from 1950 to 1957. The staff of *The National Future Farmer* was instructed and authorized to include the administration, promotion, and handling of the official FFA calendar as part of the magazine operations. (See Chapter on Official FFA Calendars.)

The calendar program was first started to inform the public about the FFA. It proved to be a strong asset in the public relations program of the organization. It was also an excellent source of income for the FFA.

In 1967, the responsibility of coordinating FFA Week was transferred to the magazine, and John Pitzer assumed the responsibility for this program, which consisted of the development and distribution of materials for use by state associations and local chapters during FFA Week.

When *The National Future Farmer* was started subscriptions were entirely voluntary on the part of state associations, local chapters and individual members. The first issue in 1952 had a circulation of less than 100,000, but circulation continued to increase over the years until 1965 when subscriptions totaled 280,000. Because of increasing publishing costs, it was necessary to increase the subscription price of the magazine to 50 cents, as authorized by the National Officers and Board of Directors at their January 1962 meeting.

Members and local, state and national advisors wanted each member to receive a copy of the magazine. It was valuable to the FFA to have the magazine mailed to the members at their homes. Research studies conducted by the magazine staff showed that the magazine was read by members, parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, Foundation sponsors, Alumni, and frequently by friends. It was found that each magazine was read by an average of 3.7 persons.

At the 1965 national FFA convention, the delegates voted to combine magazine subscriptions with the national dues and to send the magazine to every FFA member. They set the national dues at 50 cents. This increased the circulation substantially during the year 1966, and it reached a total of about 452,000 by the fall of 1967. Circulation passed the half million mark with the February-March 1975 issue, which totaled 501,500 copies.

The circulation of the FFA magazine exceeds the FFA membership because of vocational agriculture teachers and other workers in agricultural education who receive the magazine and because of the gift subscriptions that many FFA chapters provide for their local supporters and a few subscriptions that come in direct from people who simply want to receive *The National Future Farmer*. This number has at times exceeded 20,000 subscriptions per year.

Circulation fulfillment was converted to a computer

maintenance system in the fall of 1965. This was done to improve the maintenance of mailing lists by use of computers and the advent of zip codes required by the post office for mailing under the second-class mailing permit. The conversion also made it possible to provide the organization with an accurate record of official membership at the chapter, state, and national levels for use in checking a member's eligibility for contests and awards, to provide an official membership count for distributing Foundation funds, to establish degree quotas, to provide a mailing list for the magazine and similar uses. In 1967, *The National Future Farmer* requested membership in the Audit Bureau of Circulation and was accepted. This was done so the magazine could show the advertisers proof of circulation when they purchased advertising in *The National Future Farmer*.

It had been suggested by many people that *The National Future Farmer* was an excellent way to keep the members of the FFA Alumni Association informed as to what was going on in the FFA. Various plans and suggestions were discussed as to how this might be accomplished. Finally the Alumni Association made the decision to give a life subscription to *The National Future Farmer* with each life membership purchased. This was started in March 1975. Many other Alumni members do receive copies of *The National Future Farmer* and subscribe or receive subscriptions through regular organizational channels.

National FFA dues were increased to \$1.00 in 1968 and to \$1.50 in 1974. A portion of these increases provided some additional funds for *The National Future Farmer*, which were needed because of the increases in costs of publishing the magazine. Those who are not members of FFA pay \$1.00 for a one-year subscription.

The early decision to sell advertising in *The National Future Farmer* proved to be a wise one. The additional income derived from the sale of advertising has enabled FFA members to receive a magazine at a much lower price than they would have to pay were advertising not sold. It also has meant that members have been kept informed on many developments through informative ads of some of the major corporations in America.

Under the direction of Glenn Luedke, advertising manager, the advertising department conducts their own sur-



In 1977 *The National Future Farmer* magazine staff included Advertising Manager, Glen Luedke; Editor, Wilson Carnes; Associate Editor, Jack Pitzer; Regional Advertising Manager, Richard C. Waitley; Associate Editor, K. Elliot Nowles and Regional Advertising Manager, Carlton Gabel.

veys and other research to develop sales data and consequently has developed considerable information about the purchasing and buying habits of FFA members. For a long time the farm equipment industry and other farm advertisers provided a major source of advertising revenue for *The National Future Farmer*. However, in the late '60s and early '70s as farms became larger and more specialized and as vocational agriculture and the FFA expanded to include those students and members who were interested in agribusiness careers as well, the number of advertisers from the farm field dropped considerably. This trend was reversed in the early mid-seventies as the scarcity of food created more interest in farmers and farming, farm income improved and consequently resulted in some of the old line farm advertisers returning to the pages of *The National Future Farmer*. Fortunately at a time when the farm advertising was dropping off, the all-volunteer military service program became established and this provided a major source of revenue since *The National Future Farmer* reached the type of individual the military services would like to attract. Another trend in the early '70s that provided a source of advertising income included the Western wear and apparel field, with the amount of income from this advertising source increasing considerably.

Another development in advertising sales is that of regional editions. They were first offered in the rate card dated January 1, 1965, and initially were three major editions. Later, August 1, 1972, this was changed to four

editions. This enabled an advertiser to purchase a group of states without having to buy national circulation. In those states where the advertisement does not run, editorial material is substituted for the advertisement.

From May 5, 1968, until August 1, 1971, the magazine operated an advertising sales office in the Kemper Insurance Building, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago. This did not prove satisfactory, however, so the two salesmen were transferred to the Alexandria office.

The National Future Farmer attempts to follow the trends of the organization in its editorial coverage of FFA. In the early days, when most of the members were in production agriculture, the editorial content was strongly production oriented. As the membership expanded to include those students interested in agribusiness, *The National Future Farmer* attempted to include this area in their articles and information. The same was true when girls were admitted to the organization. Articles about them began to appear in the magazine pages and on the cover as they participated in organizational activities.

Another service provided by *The National Future Farmer* magazine is that of publishing a newsletter for FFA chapter advisors. It was first published in the late '50s but not on a regular schedule. Later it was published six times a year on alternate months between issues of the magazine and was called *Between Furrows*. This name was later changed to *Between Issues*. The newsletter's major purpose became one of informing FFA advisors of news and developments in FFA as well as agricultural

education information. In addition to local FFA advisors the newsletter goes to state supervisors and teacher educators.

The launching of *The National Future Farmer* magazine in 1952 was a major achievement for the FFA. It has rendered distinguished service to members and friends for 25 years.

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to measure the editorial impact of *The National Future Farmer*. Thousands of Future Farmers have been inspired by articles in the magazine, motivated to greater achievement, or found new ideas to start them on their way to success. It has helped strengthen the ties between the local, state and national levels of the FFA, while revealing to the general public, as well as those in the FFA and vocational agriculture, the progress and activities of the organization and its members. At the same time, an effort has been made to keep FFA members informed about agricultural progress and provide them entertainment by including jokes, cartoons, and articles they will enjoy reading. The advertisements which appear in each issue of the magazine have helped to keep members aware of the new products which are being developed to serve the broad field of agriculture.

The National Future Farmer magazine has had a wholesome and solid impact on the FFA during its first fifty years. It is expected that it will have even greater influence during the years ahead.



Official National FFA Calendar Program

Members and advisors of the FFA observed the attractive calendars which were distributed by other organizations and recognized a need for a calendar which would feature the FFA. This idea was discussed informally for many years but nothing was done to develop a calendar until 1947. During that year a bank in Virginia submitted a request for permission to feature the FFA on a calendar which the bank wanted to purchase for distribution in the community. This request served as motivation for a complete review of the advisability of developing official FFA calendars. The subject was discussed with the National FFA Board of Trustees and the National Advisory Council. The National Executive Secretary was requested to obtain information from companies that published calendars concerning the possibility of producing a calendar for the FFA.

A number of companies were contacted and a sound proposal was submitted to the FFA by the Osborne Company of Clifton, New Jersey. Before final approval was given for the development of FFA calendars the proposal was reviewed with the various state FFA associations and with the delegates at the national FFA

convention. Unanimous approval was given for the development of official FFA calendars.

In 1949 the Osborne Company was given a contract by the FFA to develop and sell calendars bearing the name and emblem of the FFA on a royalty basis. According to the contract the calendars would be sold by salesmen employed by that company who called upon business firms. It was suggested that these salesmen encourage businesses in communities where there was a chapter of FFA to sponsor a calendar for members and friends of the chapter.

The first calendar, which was published in 1949, had twelve different scenic farm paintings for monthly illustrations. The cover featured pictures of FFA members.

For the 1951 calendar, Osborne commissioned well-known artist, Harold Anderson, to paint a cover illustration to convey an FFA theme. This was the start of a tradition which led to the production of many beautiful paintings which gave wide publicity to the FFA. FFA now owns the complete collection of original paintings done for use on the calendars. The Osborne Company presented the original paintings which they had produced to the FFA. They also gave a matted proof from the large calendars to each state FFA office for framing.

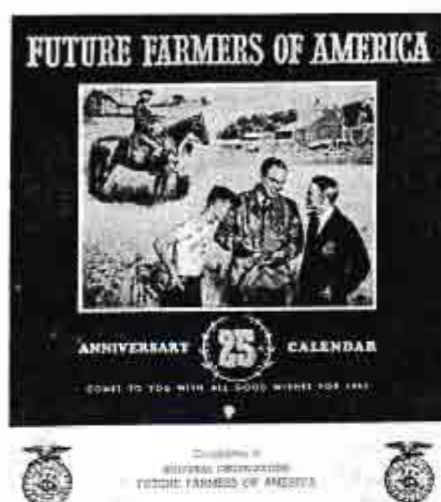
To make the calendars more meaning to the FFA, the monthly pictures for 1951 were full color photographs of FFA members at work and play.



The 1978 FFA Calendar calls attention to the organization's 50th anniversary. It features a montage of paintings from FFA calendars of the past 28 years.



The FFA vinyl wallet style calendar/calling card was introduced in 1972.



The FFA Calendar for 1953 celebrated 25 years of growth of the FFA in producing agricultural leaders.

The FFA calendar program was successful from the start. Only 49,000 copies of the 1949 FFA calendars were sold, but distribution increased rapidly during the following years, and more than 250,000 copies of the 1953 calendars were sold. Three different styles of FFA calendars were produced that year: a full color FFA "Indoor Billboard;" a Home Calendar with full color pictures for each month and a Roll calendar for farms, homes and offices.

The calendar program was also successful from a financial standpoint. Local chapters received a small royalty payment on the calendars sold in their community and the national organization also received annual royalty payments on all calendars sold.

In early 1955, the staff of *The National Future Farmer* magazine began investigating the advisability of taking over production, sales and operation of the FFA calendar program. After careful study, the National Officers and the Board of Directors at the July 1955 meeting, authorized the magazine to take over the official FFA calendars, which has been sold by the Osborne Company.

It was believed that by assigning this responsibility to the FFA magazine the calendars would appropriately serve as companions in promotional effort for circulation, that there would be a sharing in costs for engravings for covers and color photos, salesmen might promote both

the calendars and the magazine and that the calendars would help provide needed finance by the magazine.

The National Future Farmer took over operation of the calendar program with the production of the 1958 edition. Associate magazine editor, Cedric Lafley, was given responsibility for the program. The FFA contracted with the Baumgarth Calendar Company for production and drop shipment of the calendars to chapters and sponsors. The FFA commissioned Harold Anderson to continue painting the central illustration.

New features included a 25 percent commission on gross sales to each chapter that cooperated and the production of a home and office style and indoor poster calendars.

Mr. Lafley died in 1958 and Howard Carter was named Associate Editor in 1959 and assumed responsibility for the calendar. During that year the FFA contracted with the Louis F. Dow Company to print the calendars. Dow printed the calendars through 1968.

During the early 1960s, a program of using an extensive direct mail sales campaign, to encourage local chapters to purchase FFA calendars, was inaugurated by FFA. A desk style calendar was added in 1962.

The National Future Farmer paid the national organization a percentage royalty, in lieu of the royalty paid by the Osborne Company. The magazine gave each state a small commission because of their help. In 1964 the national and state commissions were eliminated and prices to chapters were lowered.

A staff artist at the Dow Company was used to paint the central illustration for the '64, '65, and '66 editions. Then in 1967 the FFA commissioned artist Arthur Sarnoff to do these illustrations. Sarnoff painted all of the central illustrations through the 1978 Anniversary edition, which features all of his works.

Most of the original calendar paintings are located in the National FFA Center. These valuable paintings have been used for many other purposes. Some of them have been reproduced and distributed throughout the Nation by the FFA Supply Service. The 1960 "Worshipping Together" painting was featured as a church program insert and was sold by the Supply Service for many years. Transparencies of all of the oil paintings are on file in the National Center.

In 1966, John M. Pitzer was named Associate Editor, in charge of the calendar program replacing Mr. Carter who had resigned. In 1968 the calendars were printed by Osborne Kemper Thomas Company which has continued to be the printer although they are now called OKT/Colson.

In 1972 a vinyl wallet style calendar/calling card was added. It has increased rapidly in popularity. It has the special feature of also serving as an FFA calling card for chapter, state and national officers and adult leaders.

The growth of the FFA calendar program is shown in the Report of Growth in Participation by Local Chapters and State Associations.

One constructive value of the calendar program is the 25 percent sales commission paid to local chapters. This amount averages about \$20,000 per year. This commission is a feature of the fund raising option available in the program.

The number of participating chapters is growing each year. The high was 1,445 in 1977. During the same year the number of calendars distributed by local chapters also reached a new high:

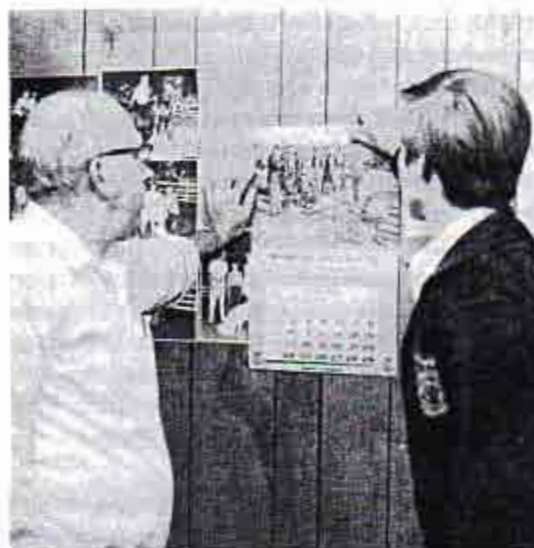
Home and Office	179,015
Desk	25,163
Poster	38,994
Wallet	335,769

It is interesting to note that calendar sales have increased from 49,000 in 1949 to 578,941 in 1977.

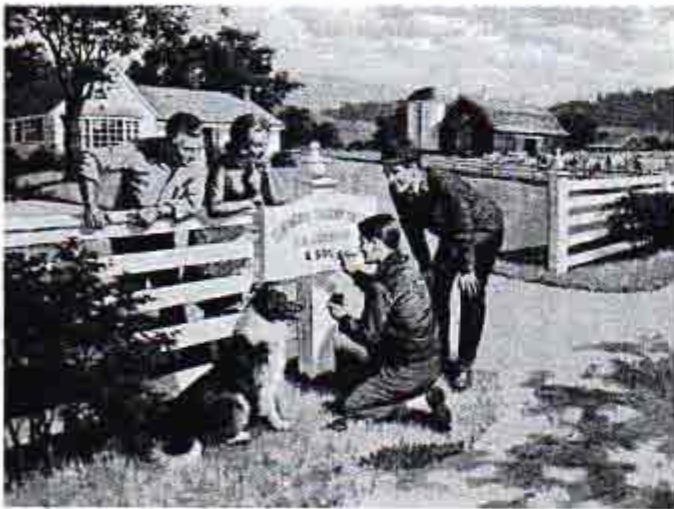
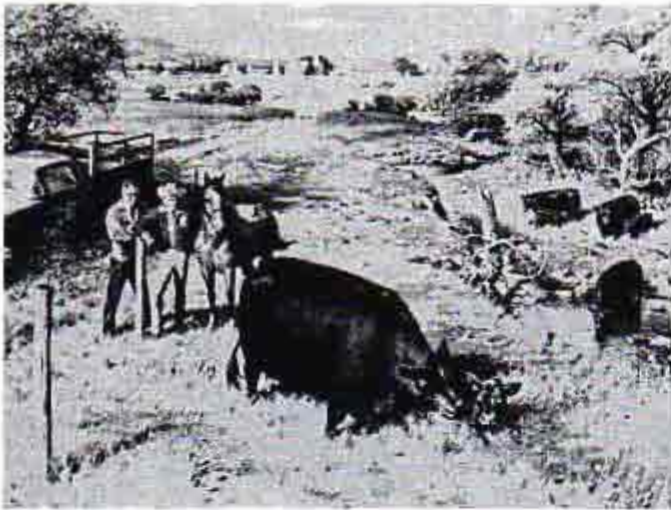
Since the calendar program was first launched in 1949 it has developed into an effective public relations program for the FFA and has earned money which is helping finance constructive FFA programs on local, state and national levels.

GROWTH IN PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL CHAPTERS AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS IN FFA CALENDAR PROGRAM

Year	Chapters	Associations
1958	402	0
1959	495	0
1960	631	3
1961	714	12
1962	782	26
1963	893	18
1964	972	26
1965	1,052	28
1966	1,069	30
1967	972	32
1968	967	34
1969	1,040	31
1970	1,054	36
1971	1,062	38
1972	1,082	36
1973	1,076	40
1974	1,134	43
1975	1,260	44
1976	1,405	45
1977	1,445	43



The FFA calendar program began in 1949 and has since become one of the most widely used FFA public relations activities.



FFA Calendar paintings over the last 28 years portray vocational agricultural education and show typical scenes of members at work and play.

Leadership Training



The highly successful Washington Conference Program held each summer in Alexandria, Virginia, now involves nearly 1000 students each summer in week-long leadership and citizenship activities. Participants in this conference in 1976 included international students participating in the FFA Work Experience Abroad Program.

In the early days of vocational agriculture ours was a nation of farmers living in isolated rural communities. Farm youth, because of their isolation, did not have the opportunities for social contact they have today. When a farm boy entered high school he often found himself in a completely new environment surrounded by people of a different social background. He felt inadequate and unsure of himself in social situations. Consequently he was reluctant to participate extensively in school activities.

When they enrolled in vocational agriculture farm youth found that most of their classmates were also from farms. They had common interests and felt a common bond. Many of them had superior mental ability, drive and potential to become capable leaders. It was also noted that some of them had inferiority complexes, did not appreciate or understand their rich rural heritage and did not know or understand themselves. Realizing the need to help their students be a part of the main-

stream of school activities, wise vocational agriculture instructors began working with students to help them hurdle the cultural barrier that separated the "farmers" from the "city youth."

They were given instruction in personal grooming, how to dress properly, elementary etiquette, courtesy, how to preside at meetings and how to speak effectively in public.

Teachers soon learned that one of the greatest confidence builders was public speaking. When the FFA was founded, leaders of the organization saw that it would be an excellent laboratory for training in public speaking and in rural and agricultural leadership. They spelled this objective out in the Aim and Purposes of the FFA, "To develop competent, aggressive, rural and agricultural leadership."

Members and their leaders recognized the needs of youth for common objectives, in a challenging creed and appropriate contests which would provide opportunities

for youth to develop proper understandings about agriculture and essential leadership abilities.

Thoughtful instructors began providing leadership training on a group basis for their students, before the FFA was organized. When local agricultural clubs were first organized teachers began giving instruction to students on how to preside at club meetings, how to plan activities for the club, how to obtain needed funds, how to keep financial records, how to keep minutes of meetings, how to delegate responsibilities to others while performing the activities of the club, how to organize a committee and how to inform others about the activities of the club.

The development of FFA, the approval of a challenging creed and the writing of the Aim and Purposes of the FFA provided for rural and agricultural youth new opportunities, sound philosophy and a pride in their rural heritage. These developments also had a motivating influence on members to serve their organization, their community and agriculture.

As the FFA increased in numbers and broadened in scope of programs, many leaders began to develop instruction materials and methods which could be used for leadership training on a group basis. It soon became standard practice for chapter advisors to conduct an annual leadership training school for the members. These schools were invaluable for the youth and advisors. It was here that many members first learned that they had the ability to be leaders. At the same time their advisor could appraise the potentials of the members and encourage them to develop their abilities.

As might be expected, new members were greatly influenced by the leadership of their chapter officers and older members. As they observed the leadership of their peers they developed a pride in their chapter and a belief in themselves that they too might develop as leaders. They began to develop goals and set personal plans to attain those goals. Members who aspired to become chapter president or an officer in the state association had to develop abilities in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, social customs, and organization of the FFA, as well as a knowledge of agriculture.

The FFA began to develop a number of contests that proved valuable to most members. These included public speaking and parliamentary procedure. As students pre-



The Congressional Breakfast is a highlight of the State Presidents' Conference.



Getting to know other FFA members and sharing ideas is part of FFA leadership conferences.



FFA members learn about leaders of earlier generations by visiting historic sites like George Washington's Mt. Vernon Plantation.



Officers raise the flag in front of the National FFA Center. Citizenship is part of FFA leadership training.



Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz explains national agricultural policy to State Presidents.



FFA members get to know their congressmen and senators during visits on Capitol Hill.

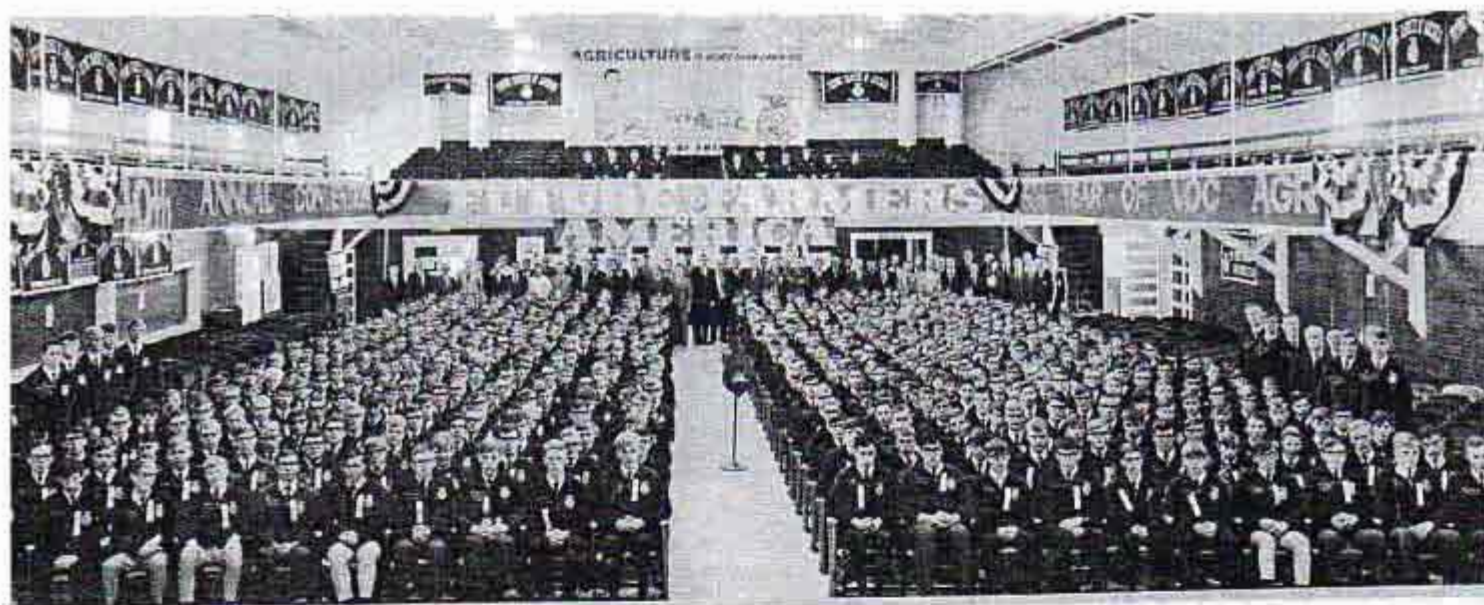
pared for entry into these contests they were required to study and develop new abilities which would prove valuable to them during their entire life. Other contests such as judging, sports activities, area and state meetings gave members an opportunity to become acquainted with youth in other areas, to mingle and work with others and to broaden their horizons. The desire to win contests was a motivating influence but the greatest value was participation and the development of abilities needed by members.

Many new developments motivated youth to improve themselves and participate in the FFA on a broader scale. Area leadership training schools were developed for chapter officers. These were planned by chapter advisors and members. Special instruction was given to each of the officers concerning their responsibilities and how these might be most effectively performed.

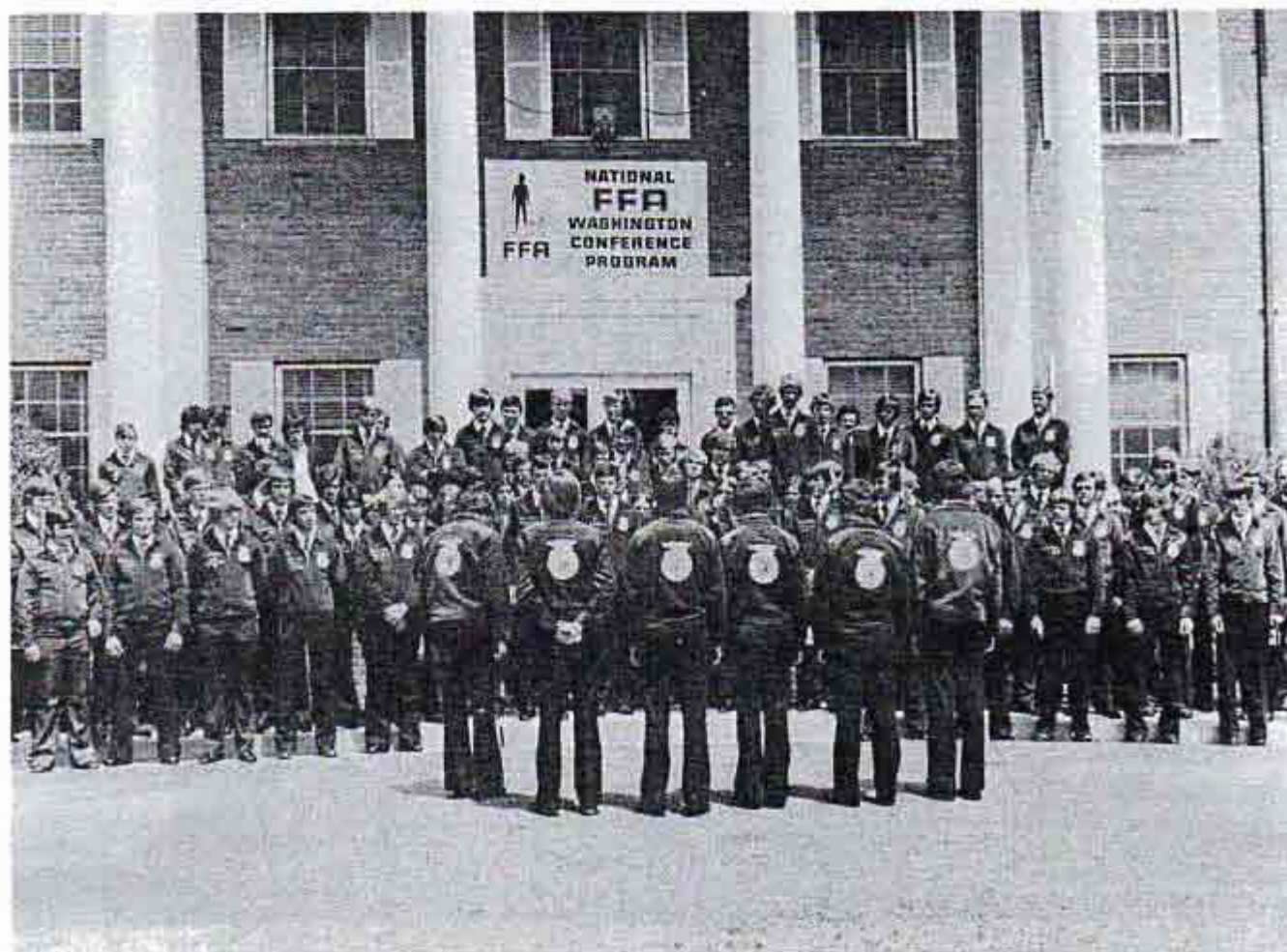
State FFA conventions extended opportunities for motivation and leadership training. By serving as delegates and taking part in state contests, bands, choruses, recreation and other convention activities members served their local chapters and learned many things which were of value to them. Leadership training was proving so valuable to FFA members that it was logical for state FFA associations to assist in the further development of such programs.

Leadership training on the state level usually began with schools for training state FFA officers. These schools usually lasted several days. State officers had already received much leadership education and training in the local chapters. New materials were developed for use with the state officers. They were given information about the operation of the state association and were assisted in the preparation of speeches which they were to give as they visited local chapters and represented the association at other group meetings. One valuable feature in the development of state officers was broad participation in many leadership activities such as public speaking, presiding at meetings, leading discussions, participating in visits to cooperating groups and encouraging and motivating younger FFA members to higher achievement.

State FFA officers soon began to set new high standards of achievement and thus became models for the younger members to follow. Their example had a whole-



Every state association has a state convention and many are patterned after the National Convention. Conventions are another opportunity for members to develop leadership skills and an incentive to set high goals.



One or more national officers are involved in every leadership conference operated by the National FFA Organization.



Chapter and state officers who participate in National Leadership Conferences learn first-hand how FFA jackets are prepared for members. Conferences also emphasize better understanding of National Organization services for members.



A highlight of the State Presidents' Conference held annually in Alexandria, Virginia, has been meeting the President of the United States. Here President Ford addresses state leaders.



Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson addresses a State FFA Officers Leadership Conference at the Jefferson Monument in 1959.

some influence on chapter members. Plans were made in most states for a state officer to make an official visit to each local FFA chapter.

Delegates to state FFA conventions and their advisors soon became interested in establishing state FFA camps, where members could go for a week of recreation. Many state associations established such camps. In the beginning major emphasis was placed on recreational activities. It was soon learned that these camps provided an excellent opportunity for leadership training and conservation education. Recreation programs were combined with well-planned programs of leadership education, personal development, conservation study and related topics. Some states began renaming their camps leadership training centers. These centers have had a tremendous influence on the work of local FFA chapters. Teacher educators, supervisors and local instructors worked together to develop educational materials and improve programs at the leadership centers, the state associations and the local chapters.

In order to assist the local chapters with training in leadership many state associations began sponsoring area leadership training schools. Most of these were designed to train local chapter officers. State advisors, state officers, local advisors and local officers cooperated in planning and conducting these schools, which were usually one day in length.

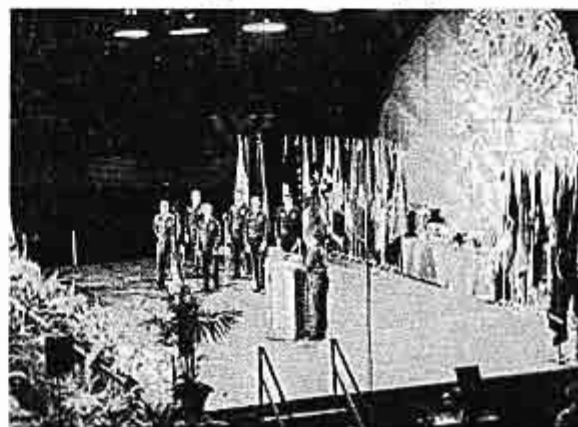
Chapter members participated in many contests and activities which were held in other states or at the national FFA convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Members liked these activities which gave them an opportunity to travel to other communities and states. They learned much as they traveled and took part in FFA activities. Many local chapters began organizing tours during summer months to various places throughout the country. State FFA officers participated in other state FFA conventions and were occasionally invited to take part in national events such as the Pilgrimage to Mount Vernon and national conferences of youth which were held in Washington, D.C.

The leadership training programs which gradually evolved in the FFA helped to develop many outstanding members. By serving in the local chapter, participating in the activities of the state association and by taking an

active part in the affairs of the national organization, members exhibited their faith in agriculture, confidence in themselves and the high ideals of the FFA.

Over the years state FFA associations have cooperated in conducting leadership training schools on a regional basis for state and chapter officers. National FFA officers and members of the national FFA staff assisted with these schools. When the National FFA Center, south of Alexandria, Virginia, was expanded in 1958 delegates to the national FFA convention requested that the national organization sponsor a national conference for officers of state associations. The first National Leadership Conference was held in connection with the dedication of the Center on July 24, 1959. This event proved to be so popular that delegates requested that such a conference be held annually. The first State Presidents' Washington Conference was held at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. in 1968. Greg Bamford, National FFA President from Colorado, presided.

In 1969, under the direction of Coleman Harris, former Executive Secretary of the Indiana FFA Association, this national leadership emphasis was extended to chapter leaders and FFA advisors. Today the Washington Conference Program operates for seven weeks during the summer providing week-long experiences in the Nation's Capital for nearly 1,000 chapter and state association officers. A special staff is employed to work with



The National FFA Convention brings out the best in leadership skills of FFA members. This state association team presented a parliamentary procedure demonstration.



In 1959 the National FFA Organization held its first national leadership conference for approximately 300 members. The conference included five days of leadership training as well as visits in Washington, D.C.



Special speakers like former FFA member and Vietnam prisoner of war Col. James Bean, USAF, have addressed FFA leadership conferences.

Conference participants learn about FFA programs and activities from FFA staff members.

the National FFA Center and national FFA officers in carrying out the conference events.

In recent years the State Presidents' Conference has become a Special Project of the National FFA Foundation with most of the expense of the Conference being paid by the project Sponsor. While the state presidents are in Washington, they participate in a variety of interesting activities including a tour of Washington, D.C., learning about FFA programs and activities, understanding of democracy, developing leadership qualities, exploring citizenship responsibilities, career information and saluting our nation's patriots. A conference banquet is held and state presidents participate in a special congressional breakfast where they meet their Congressmen and especially their members of Congress who were former FFA members. The state presidents and national officers have, on numerous occasions, met with the President, the Vice President and many top cabinet officials.

Visitors from many foreign nations have studied the leadership programs of the FFA and attended the state and national FFA conventions. Some of these visitors requested assistance by the FFA in establishing similar leadership programs in their own countries. Such requests have led to the development of organizations such as the Future Farmers of Japan and the Future Farmers of Colombia. The FFA has assisted these nations by developing leadership training materials in a number of foreign languages to assist in the youth development programs.

Over the years a number of FFA publications and audio-visuals have been developed to help FFA members develop and improve their leadership skills. The FFA Manual, first published in 1930, has been a major publication of the FFA and has helped hundreds of thousands of FFA members learn about the FFA and its activities. In 1975 the FFA published the Advisor's Handbook to give advisors a detailed reference to FFA activities and programs. Other publications, like the FFA Activity Handbook (and the Chapter Guide to FFA Activities which were introduced in 1975), were designed to give students and teachers more detailed information about FFA programs.

FFA members have also benefited from FFA films and audio-visuals developed to aid in the leadership develop-

ment process. Films like "A Step Ahead," produced in 1958, and "The Challenge Leadership; The Answer FFA," have inspired FFA members to develop their leadership skills.

The national student officers of the FFA play a major role in programs of leadership training. National officers are elected largely on the basis of their outstanding speaking and leadership abilities. Their skills have been developed through participation in leadership at the local and state levels.

The instruction given to these officers after their election is broad and intensive. They learn about the programs of the national organization and prepare themselves to serve the national organization. They help transact the business of the organization, take part in visits to Foundation sponsors, participate in state FFA conventions, help plan and conduct leadership training programs, assist in international activities and represent the FFA at many other meetings and special events. The demands on national FFA officers are so heavy that it is necessary for them to spend almost full time working for the organization during the year they serve as officers.

From a small beginning in leadership training by teachers of vocational agriculture during the early days of instruction in agriculture there have been developed significant programs of leadership training for members of the FFA. Leadership training guides have been developed; materials on public speaking, parliamentary procedure, personal development, social customs and other timely topics have been prepared. Constructive programs of participation in contests, leadership training schools, motivating awards, good-will tours, state and national FFA activities and significant programs conducted by local chapters have served to motivate and train FFA youth for service in the FFA and to the Nation.

The FFA, through its leadership programs for agricultural students, has a dramatic role in motivating members to achieve greatness, develop as outstanding leaders, become champions of agricultural youth and the various agricultural occupations. The FFA is developing youth who take pride in their rural backgrounds, develop as outstanding citizens in their communities and serve as splendid examples of youth in America who are living up to the high ideals of the FFA.



Future Farmers in every nation have their own distinctive emblem.

International Programs

Soon after the FFA was organized in 1928 members and advisors, while visiting or working in other nations, provided information about vocational agriculture and the FFA in the United States. Many teachers of vocational agriculture, teacher educators and supervisors accepted employment with the Agency for International Development and other departments in the U.S. Government that sponsored programs in other nations. When the United Nations was organized many additional opportunities became available for employment overseas. Foundations, churches, and other organizations, including business and industry, began taking active parts in international activities.

Some of the leaders, who had responsibilities for assisting in the development of programs of agricultural education, sponsored the development of organizations patterned after the FFA. Some pioneering work was done in many countries, including Albania, Greece, Egypt, India, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, Philippines, South Vietnam, Honduras, Canada, South Australia, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Panama and Mexico. A complete list of countries that experimented with the FFA idea has never been compiled. Some of these organizations lasted only during the time the sponsors worked in the country. Others grew rapidly and a national organization was formed.

The Future Farmers of Japan became a strong national organization after the Second World War. The Future Farmers of the Philippines, the Future Farmers of Colombia and the Future Farmers of Panama also are excellent examples of organizations that continued to make great progress.

Provisions were made by the U.S. Government and international agencies for leaders in agricultural education in many other nations to visit the United States to study the program of agricultural education and the FFA. This greatly increased the development of youth organizations that were similar to the FFA in other nations.

Relationships gradually developed between state FFA associations and the national FFA organization with these youth organizations in other nations. These relationships led to the development of international exchange programs by the FFA.

To be successful a student organization like the FFA

needed to have as members students who were enrolled in classes in agriculture.

Programs were developed to sponsor international exchanges of youth, to promote goodwill among nations, to learn about youth organizations, agriculture and youth in other nations, to develop organizations like the FFA in other countries, to provide educational materials, to help in leadership training and to provide where needed farm machinery, seed, livestock and poultry.

In 1947 the National FFA Officers called upon Lord Inverchapel, Ambassador from Great Britain to the United States, and invited him to address the national FFA convention that fall, and bring with him six young men who were members of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs of Great Britain. He accepted the invitation, and at the same time, invited six members of the FFA to visit Great Britain as guests of the Young Farmers. This led to an international exchange with the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs of Great Britain which lasted for many years.

A delegation of ten young men and youth leaders from Burma attended the national FFA convention in October 1947.

Ambassador Henri Bonnet from France was one of the featured speakers at the 1948 national FFA convention.

The international exchange program with the Young Farmers Clubs proved to be popular with both organizations. Four members from each organization took part. The cost of overseas travel was assumed by the respective organization; upon arrival in the host country, expenses were borne by the host organization. Much of the time of the exchange was spent at the homes of their counterparts.

Danish Ambassador to the United States, Henrik Kauffmann, addressed the national FFA convention in 1950. The Danish Embassy provided an expense-paid trip to Denmark for Forrest Davis of Quincy, Florida, the FFA's 1950 Star Farmer of America.

George Lewis, former national president of the FFA, made a report at the 1951 FFA convention on his visit with the Future Farmers of Japan. It was reported that Ivan Nelson, a former teacher of vocational agriculture attached to General McArthur's staff in the Army of Occupation, had been influential in the development of the

Future Farmers of Japan.

The Future Farmers of Canada sent representatives to the national FFA conventions in 1952 and 1953 to extend greetings to the FFA. This organization was assisted by the Montana FFA Association. In 1954 A. D. P. Heeney, Canadian Ambassador to the United States, was a speaker at the national convention.

In 1955 the Future Farmers of Japan sent greetings to the FFA and requested assistance in the further development of FFJ.

In 1965 Major-General R. F. Cornwall, General Secretary of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs of Great Britain addressed the national FFA convention. At that convention observers were present from Brazil, Bolivia, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Taiwan, Thailand, Philippines and Australia. Visitors from such countries, sponsored by the International Education Division of the U.S. Office of Education, in cooperation with other agencies, attended most FFA conventions.

In 1956 Takaaki Kurihara, national president of the Future Farmers of Japan, and Hideto Shishido, Assistant Secretary General, FFJ, were special guests at the national FFA convention and delivered addresses. Previously, they had visited FFA chapters throughout the United States and had stayed in homes of many FFA members.

At the close of the convention Dan Dunham, Lakeview, Oregon, immediate past president of the FFA and Dr. A. W. Tenney, National Executive Secretary of the FFA, went to Japan with their counterparts. The exchange was sponsored by the Department of State and the Asian Foundation. They visited agricultural schools throughout Japan and attended the national convention of the Future Farmers of Japan in Tokyo.

A similar exchange took place in 1957 with FFJ when E. J. Johnson, Program Planning Specialist, Agricultural Education Branch, and Jerry Ringo, former national FFA vice-president, visited Japan, Guam, and the Philippines.

In 1958, Wm. Paul Gray, National Executive Secretary of FFA, and Norman Brown, former national student secretary, visited Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, the Philippines and Guam. Japan sent adult and student repre-



The Future Farmers of Colombia (Futuros Agricultores De Colombia) hold a national convention patterned after the National FFA Convention.



The first two Work Experience Abroad (WEA) participants placed in Thailand (left) worked with the Agricultural Education Club at Bangpra University.



National Officers of the Future Farmers of Philippines participate in a leadership training program conducted by National FFA Executive Secretary William Paul Gray.



In 1975 the Work Experience Abroad class presented a display of currency from countries participating in the WEA program.



Lord Inverchapel, British Ambassador to the United States met with National FFA Officers in 1947 to initiate the first exchange program following World War II.



Learning agricultural methods in other nations is part of the WEA program. Here an FFA member in Norway helps his host family put up hay for drying.

representatives to the United States during these years.

In 1957 Sotero Lasap, Jr., national president of the Future Farmers of the Philippines was sponsored to the United States by the Far East Foundation for a four month training program by the national FFA organization. From 1958 through 1964, all six national officers of the FFP were sponsored by the Department of State for four months' training by the FFA in the United States. They were special guests of the Eastern States Exposition, participated in leadership training conferences or state conventions in West Virginia, Ohio and Virginia. Each group attended the national FFA convention.

In 1960-61 E. J. Johnson visited Peru and assisted in the development of vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of Peru. Miss Nina Portaro, Executive Secretary of the Future Farmers of Peru, visited the United States and was a speaker at the national FFA convention.

During 1960 Joe Hughes, national FFA vice-president, manned a booth on American Youth at the West Berlin Fair.

In 1962, Wm. Paul Gray, in cooperation with Dr. James E. Woodhull, of the Agency for International Development, as a result of meetings with the Ministers of Agriculture and Education, and the National Director of Vocational Education in Colombia, established a foundation for the organization of the Future Farmers of Colombia. Technical assistance was provided, exchange programs were set up and outstanding teachers of vocational agriculture in Colombia were brought to the United States for six months' training.

Jim Gibson, Assistant Director of the Peace Corps, addressed the national FFA convention in 1961 and 1963. He asked for volunteers to serve in the Peace Corps and challenged the FFA to sponsor and administer a Peace Corps project in a developing nation.

In 1963 the FFA signed a contract to sponsor a Peace Corps project in West Pakistan. Lloyd Wiggins, a former teacher of vocational agriculture in Oklahoma, was employed to supervise the project. A total of 34 volunteers were involved in projects to improve agriculture, rural leadership, homes and home life and health throughout the country. At the close of the project in 1965 Dr. Tenney went to West Pakistan to observe their constructive work.

After leaving West Pakistan he traveled to Bangkok, Thailand and Manila in the Philippines to discuss Peace Corps projects, agricultural education and the FFA with government officials. He visited the Future Farmers of the Philippines and enroute home stopped in Tokyo to confer with the leaders of the Future Farmers of Japan.

A number of state FFA associations became active in international programs. They served as hosts to visitors from other nations, sent representatives to participate in international exchanges of youth, collected and repaired used farm machinery and sent it to developing countries and sent improved seeds and livestock to many nations.

The exchange program with the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs of Great Britain, which had not been active for several years, was resumed in 1965.

In 1962 the FFA began cooperating with the People-to-People program, which was designed to develop international understanding. During that year members from five states participated. In 1963 fourteen states sent FFA members to Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Germany and Denmark.

Many state FFA associations cooperated with CROP, CARE, Self Help and other groups to help needy countries.

In 1963 the FFA developed a comprehensive program to expand international activities. The program included the following major activities:

1. Prepare FFA color slides on activities, with script in several different languages.
2. Provide complimentary subscriptions to *The National Future Farmer* magazine to developing countries.
3. Develop instructional materials on leadership training in several different languages.
4. Contribute technical assistance in agricultural education when requested.
5. When requested, plan programs for selected youth and adults from developing countries to observe and engage in experiences in leadership training and agricultural development.
6. When requested and advisable, make provisions for outstanding FFA members and adult specialists to work with youth and adults in other countries

that are interested in Future Farmer organizations.

The FFA prepared a budget of \$6,800 to help carry out the new program.

In 1968 the FFA employed Lennie H. Gamage, former national FFA officer from Virginia, and a member of the FFA Program Division staff, to serve as Director of International Programs of the FFA.

In 1968 an exchange program was initiated with the International Agricultural Exchange Association to provide practical work experience in agriculture for participants. Two FFA members participated in 1968 but arrangements were made for 25 participants from the FFA and an equal number from Western Europe to take part in the exchange in 1969.

In 1970 the FFA made direct contact with the European Committee of Young Farmers Clubs, which represented 14 countries, and operated directly an FFA program called, "Work Experience Abroad." During that same year, National FFA Vice-President David Dietz of Oregon traveled to South Vietnam to assist in establishing the Future Farmers of South Vietnam.

Teacher and youth exchange programs were established in 1971 in Latin America with Panama, Colombia and Brazil.

In 1972 the national FFA organization sponsored, in cooperation with the Iowa Association, a swine improvement program in Jamaica. After Lennie Gamage and Tim Burke, national FFA president in 1972, visited the Youth Development Agency and Youth Clubs in Jamaica, the FFA offered to provide high quality, pure-bred swine to be given to the youth camps in Jamaica to launch a pig chain to upgrade swine. The offer was accepted and the swine were provided by the Iowa Association. Both boars and gilts were sent so a breeding program could be conducted.

During that same year assistance was given in the establishment of the "Comite Interamericano de Educacion Agricola," a supportive organization to rural youth programs in Central and South America. The WEA program was expanded to include New Zealand.

During November and December, 1973, Lennie Gamage visited leaders of agricultural education and youth organizations in agriculture in New Zealand, Australia, Philippines, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and

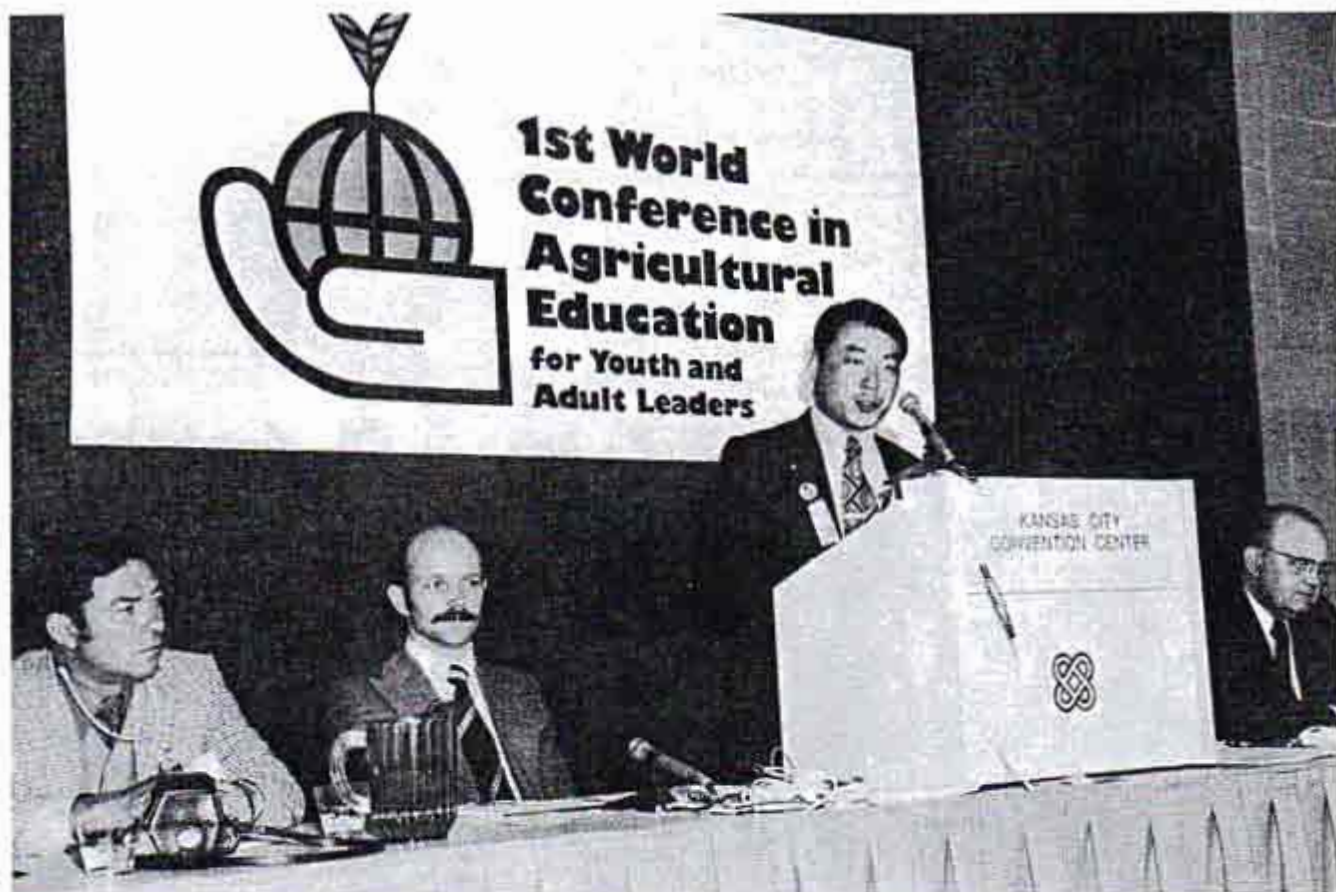


Iran. Instructional programs and youth organizations were visited. Conferences were held with leaders to determine ways in which the FFA could cooperate with them. The possibilities of expanding the WEA program were explored.

H. N. Hunsicker, National FFA Advisor, Mike Martin-dale, WEA participant from Michigan and Mr. Gamage visited Medellin, Colombia to confer with leaders in agricultural education and to meet with members and leaders of the Future Farmers of Colombia at their national convention.

For many years the FFA has been providing programs of leadership training for selected persons brought to the

The WEA class of 1975 prepares for departure. Each year 45-60 FFA members take advantage of the opportunity to live and work on farms and agribusinesses in other nations around the world.



A panel of educators from around the world discusses "New Concepts in Agricultural Education" during the four day World Conference in Agricultural Education held in conjunction with the 1976 National FFA Convention.

United States to study agricultural education and the FFA.

During 1974 the FFA assisted with a reconditioned farm equipment project for Meals for Millions Foundation in Ecuador.

Plans were made in 1975 for the First World Conference in Agricultural Education for Youth and Adult Leaders. The FFA, with the help of Massey-Ferguson Inc., sponsored the conference. A committee, composed of representatives from several nations, shared in planning the conference, which was held November 9-12, 1976, at Kansas City, Missouri, in conjunction with the national FFA convention. The purpose of the conference was to learn more about each other by sharing and comparing problems, ideas and technical skills. Two hundred and forty-three persons registered, including youth and adults from 28 countries. Europe, South and Central America, Canada, the South Pacific and Asia were represented.

A major activity was the First International Agricultural Olympics consisting of individual competitive activities in soil and plant judging, agricultural mechanics, tractor operation and maintenance, and livestock judging. Most

participating countries received individual honors showing that the agricultural skills demonstrated are valid worldwide.

Much has been done by the FFA to promote agricultural education and to develop agricultural youth organizations in other nations. There has been an increasing demand for this type of assistance. The FFA has also endeavored to develop a sound, cooperative relationship with existing agricultural youth organizations throughout the world.

By close cooperation, the national organization, state associations and local chapters have developed an expanding international program that is challenging to FFA members and of service to nations throughout the world.

The FFA cooperates with government agencies, international agencies, including the United Nations, private organizations and business organizations to help provide the services needed by agricultural education programs and youth organizations in other nations.

The challenges to the FFA are great and the future is rich with promises of unlimited opportunities to be of service to youth in other countries through international programs.



Peter Prokop, National Secretary of the Austrian Rural Youth gives welcome remarks.

The first World Conference in Agricultural Education for Youth and Adult Leaders was attended by 231 participants from 28 countries. Conference activities included speeches, and discussions as well as educational contests that were part the International Agricultural Olympics.



International livestock judging competition.



Students test their skills in tractor driving.



A team discusses a mechanical problem in the tractor driving contest.



Participants demonstrate their carpentry skills in the agricultural mechanics contest.

National FFA Alumni Association



The National FFA Alumni Association was organized on May 12, 1972, when representatives from 33 states met for an organizational meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

Members and former members of the FFA had been discussing the formation of an FFA Alumni Association for many years. Records in the FFA Archives show that soon after the FFA was formed in 1928 members expressed interest in creating an organization for former members. National FFA convention proceedings in the early 1930s contain committee reports and recommended objectives for an Alumni Association. Through the years, this topic was discussed and former members never gave up on the idea of developing an organization that would make possible a close association with the FFA.

Few organizations have developed a greater pride in membership or loyalty to the organization than the FFA. It is a unique organization of members who have an abiding faith in agricultural occupations and who believe that they can play an important role in these occupations.

Most former members look back with pride on the happy years they spent as a member of the FFA. Many of them got their start in leadership training in this organization during their teenage years. Many were inspired and motivated to high attainment in the FFA. After they had completed their membership many became leaders of adult agricultural organizations and some were elected to public office by their neighbors. They became members of state legislatures, served as Secretaries of Agriculture, Governors and some were elected to serve in the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States. They attained high positions but they never for-

got the FFA or the part it had played in molding their lives. Jimmy Carter, when he was campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1975 told FFA members at the National Convention that his first elected office was in the Plains FFA Chapter where he served as Chapter Secretary. "I still have a great respect for the organization and for the industry of agriculture," he said. Senator Fred Harris from Oklahoma frequently stated in his addresses that he received his first major experience in public speaking by taking part in the National FFA Public Speaking Contest.

In 1967, when the FFA was searching for methods of financing the construction of a national conference center facility, consideration was given to the formation of an FFA Alumni Association. Several committees composed of prominent former members met to study the possibilities of establishing and needs for an FFA Alumni Association. From the reports of these committees, a consensus was reached that there was a definite need for and interest in the formation of such an Association for former members. Surveys of potential members, state staffs, and local advisors showed that there was considerable interest in forming an FFA Alumni Association.

A major step was taken toward the formation of an FFA Alumni Association by the delegates at the 1969 national FFA convention, when they established the Alumni class of membership in the National FFA Constitution. A temporary executive council was appointed from members of earlier committees by the FFA Board of Directors and National Officers. Its purpose was to make plans for the development of an FFA Alumni Association. A tentative constitution and by-laws were developed along with a proposed plan of organization and a tentative budget.

To begin the organization, the National FFA Board of Directors and National Officers in October 1970, authorized a loan of \$50,000 for the formation and implementation of the FFA Alumni Association. It was agreed that the temporary Alumni Council was to serve until the first election could be held as directed by the constitution and by-laws. Gus Douglass, Commissioner of Agriculture in West Virginia and former National FFA President, was selected to serve as chairman of the Council and Dr. James Clouse, Head of Agricultural Education at Virginia

Polytechnic Institute and State University, as vice-chairman. A search began for an Executive Officer to guide the development of the FFA Alumni Association.

Jay Benham a vocational agriculture instructor from Ohio was employed as Administrative Secretary by the FFA Alumni Council in January 1971. This action was approved by the National FFA Board of Directors and Board of Student Officers.

An operational procedure was developed with provisions made for chartering state associations and local units. Charter membership was adopted for all who joined before the first meeting. A life member class of membership was established. A quarterly newsletter was planned for all FFA Alumni members.

By October, nine states had applied for a state charter. The first charters were presented at the 1971 national FFA convention to: Kansas, Louisiana, Indiana, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Tennessee.

The FFA was now ready to officially organize an FFA Alumni Association. Plans were made to hold the organizational meeting on May 12, 1972, in Chicago, Illinois.

When an announcement was made that the Association would be formed on that date membership more than doubled in the 30 days prior to the organizational meeting. Representatives of 33 states were present in Chicago on May 12 to help organize the FFA Alumni Association.



The first National FFA Alumni Advisory Council met in 1971. Members of the Council were (seated l-r) Dr. James Clouse, Dwight Seegmiller, Tim Burke, Gus Douglass, Jay Benham (standing l-r) Millard Gundlach, Gordon Galbraith, E. C. "Dick" Weekley, Kenneth McMillan, Billy Connors, Harry Epler and Edwin Hadlock.

Gus R. Douglass, Chairman of the Alumni Council, called the meeting to order and said:

"Today we stand face to face with an opportunity offered to few people. What we do with it can affect agriculture positively for generations. The FFA Alumni Association is needed for the advancement of agriculture and to help provide youth with a purpose through agriculture. FFA Alumni members can help agricultural education by applying their practical experiences to fresh, innovative programs to give agribusiness its rightful stature in our society."

The group was composed of blue-jacketed FFA members, FFA advisors, vocational agriculture supervisors, teacher educators, farmers, businessmen and guests. State FFA Alumni Association Charters were presented to 22 states. This brought the total of chartered states to 31 including nine states that received charters at the national FFA convention.

It was agreed that the election of the next FFA Alumni Council would be by mail ballot. Plans were made to hold the first annual meeting of the Association on October 13, 1972, in the Music Hall of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri, in conjunction with the national FFA convention.

At the first annual meeting in Kansas City, nine more states were granted charters bringing the total to 40 chartered State FFA Alumni Associations within one year. The following states were now chartered:

Kansas	Pennsylvania	North Dakota
Louisiana	Kentucky	California
Indiana	Georgia	Michigan
Ohio	New Hampshire	New Jersey
Oregon	Wisconsin	Minnesota
Texas	Maryland	Maine
Oklahoma	Mississippi	South Carolina
Wyoming	North Carolina	Arizona
Tennessee	Iowa	Missouri
Illinois	South Dakota	Nevada
Virginia	Delaware	Connecticut
Montana	Alabama	Idaho
Nebraska	Florida	Massachusetts
West Virginia		

The states are listed in the order in which they were chartered.

The first constitution and by-laws, as amended by a vote of the membership, were officially approved at the

first annual meeting. Provision was made for Life Membership with a one-time dues payment of \$100. The regular dues were set at \$4.00 per member per year. The official FFA Alumni emblem was adopted. Gus Douglass was elected to serve as Chairman and Dr. James Clouse as Vice-Chairman for the next year.

According to the Plan of Operation and the Constitution, the National FFA Alumni Association was an affiliate of the Future Farmers of America. The executive body of the National FFA Alumni Association was to be the National FFA Alumni Council, which directs the operation of the Alumni Association, in accordance with its constitutional purposes and operates subordinate to the National FFA Board of Directors. The Administrative Secretary of the FFA Alumni Association was made responsible to the Alumni Council for administering the operation of the Alumni Association. The Constitution and By-laws of the National FFA Alumni Association, which were approved by the FFA Board of Directors, were to be in harmony with the purposes of the FFA.

The location of the principal office of the Association was to be in the National FFA Center.

The purposes of the National FFA Alumni Association were to unite support for vocational agricultural education, strengthen the FFA, and promote a greater knowledge of the agricultural industry at all levels.

A number of official items, such as pins, decals and stationery were developed and made available through the FFA Supply Service.

A Legion of Merit Citation was adopted to give recognition to those who assisted in building the FFA Alumni Association.

By the 1973 national FFA convention five more states had applied for a charter, and at the second annual meeting charters were presented to Arkansas, New York, Washington, New Mexico and Vermont. The delegates to the FFA convention voted to add Alumni Relations as the eleventh division of the FFA Program of Activities.

The first FFA Alumni Program of Action was adopted in 1974. A constitutional amendment was adopted to open membership to all those interested in the FFA.

At the third annual meeting, held at the 1974 national FFA convention, the first FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented to Congressman



Jay Benham, the first Administrative Secretary of the FFA Alumni Association, is greeted by Richard Waybright, National FFA Alumni Council Chairman in 1975-76 as Robert "Woody" Cox, Alumni Administrative Secretary since January 1976, looks on.



The first three recipients of the FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Award recognizing service to the FFA and agriculture at local, state and national levels were: Congressman Jerry Litton, Broadcaster Orion Samuelson and Farm Bureau President William Kuhfuss.



Alumni members from North Carolina were the first to receive the Legion of Merit Citation.

NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI 4th ANNUAL MEETING



Each year the National FFA Alumni Association holds its annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, in conjunction with the National FFA Convention. Nearly 1000 former members attended the fourth annual meeting.



FFA members and Alumni often join in community service projects like this where members cut 12 loads of firewood for a local nursing home.



National Alumni Chairman Gus Douglass (left) presents one of the first State Alumni Association Charters to a delegation from the Kentucky FFA Alumni Association at the organizational meeting held in Chicago, Illinois, on May 12, 1972.



David C. Thomas, National FFA Alumni Chairman 1976-77, accepted the State FFA Alumni Charter for the Missouri FFA Alumni Association in 1972 at the first National FFA Alumni Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.



Local FFA Alumni affiliates hold meetings when necessary to discuss activities to be carried out in support of the FFA chapter.

Jerry Litton; William Kuhfuss, President, American Farm Bureau; and Orion Samuelson, WGN in Chicago. Dr. James Clouse was elected Chairman and Richard Waybright Vice-Chairman. A lifetime subscription to *The National Future Farmer* magazine was approved for all Life Members. A Leadership Scholarship Program was adopted to provide scholarships to FFA members to attend the Washington Conference Programs.

More than 600 persons were present at the fourth annual meeting held at the 1975 national FFA convention, and there were representatives present from 49 states. Charters were granted to Rhode Island, Colorado, and Utah, thus completing the chartering of all states in the continental United States.

The FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented to Phillip Alampi, Commissioner of Agriculture in New Jersey; Dana Bennett, President, Farm Film Foundation; and O. W. Randolph, Moorman Manufacturing Company.

The Association appointed a task force to assist in the elimination of the shortage of teachers of vocational agriculture and the development of network TV public ser-

vice announcements to explain and create a positive attitude towards vocational agriculture, careers in agriculture and the FFA.

Richard Waybright, farmer, businessman and former national FFA officer, was elected Chairman and David Thomas Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Administrative Secretary, Jay Benham, resigned to return to the home farming operation and was replaced by Robert W. Cox, a former teacher of vocational agriculture and FFA Executive Secretary in Kentucky. Cox assumed his duties in January 1976.

By January 1976, the Association had an active membership of 11,500 members. The Alumni Association had 582 Life Members.

In 1976 the FFA Alumni converted its membership record system from a manual to a computer system. It also converted from the monthly anniversary renewal of its membership to a calendar year renewal system for all members.

The Fifth Annual Meeting was held in the newly opened H. Roe Bartle Arena in Kansas City. The FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards for 1976 were presented to Mr. William Paul Gray, National FFA Executive Secretary, and Donald N. McDowell, Executive Director of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee.

The first FFA Alumni Outstanding Affiliate Award was presented to Evansville, Wisconsin. This affiliate with 78 active members (47 life members) accomplished 31 activities in support of vocational agriculture and the FFA.

David C. Thomas, Vice-President of the Midcontinent Farmers Organization from Columbia, Missouri, was elected the National Chairman and Arthur R. Kurtz, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for Wisconsin, was elected National Vice-Chairman.

The 1977 theme for the over 12,500 annual and 916 life members is "FFA Alumni . . . Supporting Vocational Agriculture."

As the FFA approached its Golden Anniversary it was finding the National FFA Alumni Association to be a strong supporter of agricultural education and the FFA. It was also making possible many constructive opportunities for former members and friends of the FFA to continue to serve agriculture and youth.



In many communities FFA Alumni join FFA members in the Food for America program to actively promote the industry of agriculture in their community.

Awards and Contests Programs

Awards and contests have always been an important part of the FFA program. Effective programs of awards and contests were established before the FFA was organized in 1928. Unfortunately information is not available concerning the first awards offered and the first contests which were held for students of vocational agriculture.

Probably the first FFA activities were livestock judging contests. Because of the instructional value of evaluating classes of livestock, many vocational agriculture teachers started holding livestock judging contests for their students soon after instruction in agriculture was offered. Local awards were made available to contest participants. The contestants usually were rated on a numerical basis and awards were given to the winners. This practice was followed until 1946 when a national committee recommended that the Danish system of awards be used to place teams and individuals in gold, silver, and bronze emblem classifications.

The chapter on Significant Accomplishments presents a brief history of the chronological development of award programs and contests. This chapter is devoted primarily to the rationale for contests and awards and brief descrip-

tions of such programs.

Most of the contests, held for students of vocational agriculture, were designed to promote interest and give students an opportunity to apply the instruction they were receiving in the classroom. The contests usually were held in the local community and were directly related to the instructional program. When local teams were trained it was a logical step to hold contests between students from the different high schools in the area. These contests frequently were held at community fairs and livestock shows.

Judging contests of various kinds proved so popular that a number of states began holding state contests as early as 1919 and 1920. These contests were held even before some states had formed a state organization of students enrolled in vocational agriculture. These contests had a strong influence on the development of the FFA organization on local, state and national levels. The National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students was started under the direction of Dr. C. H. Lane of the U.S. Office of Education to implement national judging contests and was a forerunner of the FFA.

When the FFA started it was not necessary for the or-



In 1929 FFA members gathered at the Baltimore Hotel to recognize participants in national judging contests held in conjunction with the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show.

ganization to immediately become involved with the judging contests, since they were already being conducted in many states and on a national basis by leaders in agricultural education. For a number of years after the FFA was organized, delegates to state and national conventions did not become involved with the judging contests. However they did review the needs for additional contests and awards.

In 1929 the FFA launched a national chapter contest to stimulate improvement in the work of local FFA chapters. Awards for this contest were provided by *Farm Journal* magazine. In 1931 the FFA began providing awards for this contest and continued this practice until awards were provided by the FFA Foundation.

The national public speaking contest was started by the FFA in 1930 to encourage members to study and speak on current farm problems. Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas sponsored the contest for two years, after which it was sponsored by the FFA until awards were made available to the FFA Foundation.

When the FFA began, the state associations were new and it was believed to be advisable to give awards to the most outstanding state associations. Awards for this program were provided by the National Grange and were based on the annual reports submitted by the state associations. These awards encouraged state associations to develop strong programs. After a few years this award program was discontinued.

The National Congress of Vocational Agriculture Students continued to sponsor the national judging contests until 1936. The FFA convention and the national judging contests were billed that year as Ninth National Convention of Future Farmers of America, and National Contests for Students of Vocational Agriculture.

As the FFA grew in numbers and prestige members and advisors requested that the national judging contests be made a part of the FFA program. The judging contests were discontinued during the war years. When the judging contests were renewed after the war in 1947 they were called national FFA judging contests and have since continued to be a part of the FFA program.

One of the major problems faced by the FFA in the administration of award and contest programs was obtaining funds for appropriate awards on the national, state

and local levels. When the FFA Foundation was launched in 1944 it began providing funds to the FFA which made possible the development of comprehensive award programs. As more money became available these award programs continued to expand.

Prior to the development of the Foundation many of the awards were provided by individuals, organizations



The Stamping Ground FFA Chapter of Kentucky was one of the early winners of the National FFA Chapter Contest Award.

and commercial companies. It was customary for the donor to present the awards. These presentations frequently took so much time that they had a detrimental influence on award programs. By pooling the contributions of donors into one "general fund" the FFA Foundation helped to solve this problem. The Foundation also made it possible for many new sponsors to share in helping sponsor the contest and award program of the FFA.

Changes have been made as needed by the FFA in the various contest and award programs. Some contests have been discontinued and many new ones have been added. In 1974 Ted E. Amick, a former vo-ag teacher from Pennsylvania, was employed as FFA Specialist in charge of National Contests and other activities.

The National Contests are educational activities sponsored and financed with funds provided by the National

FFA Foundation including special industry sponsors. They were designed to complement classroom instruction by giving students an opportunity to apply their new knowledge in competitive situations. Each contest was specifically developed to test skills and knowledge of students in a particular area of agriculture.

Each year a special study committee on national contests meets in Kansas City, Missouri, on the last day of the National FFA Convention. The committee is made up of an agriculture instructor from each of the six NVATA regions, one teacher educator and one state supervisor from each of the four FFA regions, the chairman of the National Association of State Supervisors of Agricultural Education, the chairman of the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture, one person from the National FFA Board of Directors, the chairman of the Delegate Contest Committee and the FFA staff specialist on National Contests. The committee studies national contest activities and makes recommendations to the National FFA Board of Directors.



In 1946 Wilbur Cochel, Editor of the *Weekly Star Farmer* (farm paper of the *Kansas City Star*), presented the last \$1000 check from the *Kansas City Star* to the FFA Star Farmer of America. After that the Star Farmer of America Awards were presented by the National FFA Foundation.

The following contests were being conducted by the FFA in 1977:

Dairy Cattle Judging	Farm Business Management
Livestock Judging	Meats Judging
Poultry Judging	Horticulture
Agricultural Mechanics	Public Speaking
Milk Quality and Dairy Foods	

Teams and individuals that participate in each of the contests are designated Gold Emblem, Silver Emblem, Bronze Emblem and undesignated. All awards are financed by the National FFA Foundation. Several of the contests are sponsored as special projects by cooperating industry, as a special project of the Foundation.

The national FFA public speaking contest is designed to develop agricultural leadership by providing for member participation in agricultural public speaking activities and stimulating interest in leadership and citizenship.

In 1976 the first National Farm Business Management Contest was held during the forty-ninth convention. The contest measures the student's ability to make key economic and budgeting decisions. A total of twenty-six states participated in the first contest. During the summer of 1977 a National FFA Farm Business Management Seminar was held for state leaders in Moline, Illinois. It provided the opportunity for states to exchange contest and program ideas which they are conducting in Farm Business Management.



Many adults are recognized for outstanding service to the National FFA Organization. Each year approximately four persons are recognized in the presentation of VIP Awards for their many years of special service to the FFA.



President Harry Truman congratulated the Regional Star American Farmers at the 1957 National FFA Convention.



FFA members participate in a tool identification contest conducted by their state association.

When the National FFA Dairy Judging Contest was held in Waterloo, Iowa, in conjunction with a National Dairy Show, a Star Dairy Farmer was selected and honored in the award ceremonies.



Agricultural Proficiency Awards

The purposes of the agricultural proficiency awards are to stimulate interest in the instructional program and agricultural occupations, and to reward FFA members at the local, state, regional and national levels for exceptional accomplishments in progressing toward specific occupational objectives in agriculture.

The following FFA Proficiency Awards were available to FFA members in the 1977-78 school year:

Agricultural Electrification	Home and Farmstead Improvement
Agricultural Mechanics	Horse Proficiency
Agricultural Processing	Nursery Operations
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	Outdoor Recreation
Beef Production	Placement in Agricultural Production
Crop Production	Poultry Production
Dairy Production	Sheep Production
Diversified Livestock Production	Soil and Water Management
Fish and Wildlife Management	Swine Production
Floriculture	Turf and Landscape Management
Forest Management	
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production	

National winners receive a check for \$500 and a plaque; regional winners receive a check for \$250 and a plaque; state winners receive a check for \$100 and a certificate; and local winners receive a medal and certificate. The number of \$100 awards to state winners is based on state FFA membership.

FFA Proficiency Awards recognize members for achievement toward their occupational goal and are an incentive to excel in agriculture and agribusiness.

National FFA Chapter Safety Award

The safety award is sponsored as a special project of the FFA Foundation. This program was launched in 1950 and has motivated chapters to develop safety programs that have proven to be of great service to agriculture and the local community.

Four types of chapter safety awards are provided through the FFA Foundation. They are: State Superior Award, National Bronze Emblem Award, National Silver Emblem Award, and National Gold Emblem Award. These awards are based on the achievement of local chapters in conducting a safety program that meets the needs of chapter members and the local community.



Building Our American Communities

The FFA adopted a program in 1971 to involve FFA members in improving American communities. Some of the community improvement activities in which FFA chapters have been involved include creating, expanding, and upgrading job opportunities; providing adequate community facilities; making better housing available; improving the environment through land use planning, zoning, and the development of programs to make available clean air and water; developing recreation facilities; and people building, with emphasis on education, manpower development and spiritual training. This program is conducted in close cooperation with the Farmers Home Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Awards have been provided for local chapters to present to individuals or groups actively involved in the program. In addition area, state and national awards have been provided by the FFA Foundation. Chapters are rated Gold, Silver or Bronze Emblem. Each of the four regional winners is awarded a check for \$200 from the FFA Foundation.

In 1976 a comprehensive instructional unit was developed titled "Community Development FFA Style." This reference with its accompanying teachers' plan has been designed to enable students to study the community development process. These units and accompanying audio-visuals were introduced to the states through a series of five National workshops conducted during the summer of 1976.

American Farmer Degree candidates are recognized in a special ceremony prior to being presented their degree.



Official judges who select the winner of the National BOAC award include government and business leaders.



Establishment in Agriculture Awards

The first major FFA award was the Star Farmer of America Award. It was started in 1928 to recognize the Star Farmer of America and the Regional Star Farmers. The award was sponsored by the *Kansas City Star* until it was taken over by the FFA Foundation. Awards were also given for many years to Star State Farmers, selected in states served by the *Kansas City Star*.

Rod Turnbull was a reporter for the *Kansas City Star* at the time the FFA was founded. Later he became an agricultural reporter and wrote many articles about the FFA and the Star Farmer of America. For several years Mr. Turnbull related the following story to National Officers about how the Star Farmer of America Award was initiated.

"The *Kansas City Star* did have a lot to do with helping the Future Farmers of America get off to a good start. It (the FFA) was almost a *Star* baby for a while as far as Kansas City was concerned and as far as the *Star* was concerned and for a long time we treated it almost like something holy down at the *Star*. In other words the FFA could do no wrong and we did everything we could to promote it.

"The *Star* of course was covering this thing (the organizational meeting for the FFA at the Baltimore Hotel) and at that time we had a farm paper called the *Weekly Star Farmer*. The editor of the *Weekly Star Farmer* was there and somebody, probably in this group

of ag teachers and young men, said 'We have to have some way to let the whole world know we've got an organization.' Somebody else said 'Why don't we pick out one boy every year and set him out as the best young farmer in America. He'd be the star of the whole show, he'd be the Star Farmer of America.' Everybody thought that would be just fine.

"They decided to give this boy a plaque. Somebody said what plaque—they didn't have any money. The organization was just starting out and had nothing. So Mr. W. A. Cochel, who was editor of the *Weekly Star Farmer*, and agricultural editor at the *Star* then said 'Well, I'll go down to the *Star* and see if we can get some money.'

"So he went down to the *Star* and talked to George Longan, who was President at that time. Keep in mind that this was in 1928 and we didn't have the inflation we have today. Farmers were getting ready for 20¢ wheat and 10¢ corn.

"Mr. Cochel talked to Mr. Longan and said, 'Well if we're going to do it, let's do it right. Let's give them the biggest prize that any farm boy could get in the United States. Let's make it a thousand dollars.' Mr. Cochel said that was wonderful—that was way beyond anything he had in mind.

"They decided that there should also be second, third and fourth prizes so they agreed to have the regional prizes, which of course were \$500. And then the *Star*, which has always been a profit making organization, said

In recent years judging contest participants have been recognized and presented awards at a breakfast in their honor.



Recognition at the National FFA convention in Kansas City, Missouri, as a strong incentive to FFA members to compete for chapter and individual awards.



National winners of the Dairy Cattle Judging Contest.



Four Regional Winners of the National Public Speaking Contest.



National Agricultural Electrification Proficiency Award Winner and three regional runners-up.



The Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America and their families.



National winner of the BOAC Award.



Contestants in the National Poultry Contest check egg quality.

supposing that none of those boys, either the Star Farmer of America or the regional Star Farmers would happen not to be in the circulation area of the *Star* or the *Weekly Star Farmer*. The *Star* wouldn't get much publicity. So they decided they would name State Star Farmers too and give them \$100. That way the *Kansas City Star* would always have a Star Farmer in its circulation area. They (the *Kansas City Star* management) also liked that idea of 'Star Farmer of America'—it just seemed to fit right in with the *Kansas City Star*, giving the money.

"Mr. Cochel went back and reported what he could do. This really was the start of the awards for the Future Farmers of America. The *Star* gave the money. And for 20 years the *Star* continued it and during that 20 years up until 1948 you didn't say anything wrong about the FFA at the *Kansas City Star*. It was our baby and every staff member was supposed to know it. After 1948 the FFA Foundation was established. It had been agreed in a meeting which this same Mr. Cochel chaired that the foundation should be created because by that time there were all kinds of awards programs and they were getting a little too commercial. It was agreed that all money including the *Star's* should go into the Foundation. So after 1948 the Star Farmer of America award was no longer sponsored by the *Kansas City Star*."

Today the Star Farmer of America receives a check for \$1,000 from the FFA Foundation. (A list of the top winners of this award is included in the Appendix.) The Regional Star Farmers each receive a check for \$500. Star State Farmers each receive a check for \$200 and medals are given to Star Chapter Farmers and Star Greenhands.

In 1958 the FFA began producing an annual film on the four regional Star Farmers of America. Sponsored by Keystone Steel and Wire Company, the films were an immediate success and were in constant demand by FFA chapters. The films were approximately 30 minutes in length and documented the successful farming operations of the four young men selected to represent their respective regions in the Star Farmer of America competition. Teachers found the films were not only an inspiration to members but they were also educational and a good way to promote modern farm practices. The films were discontinued in 1969 but were resumed in 1972

under the sponsorship of the CIBA-GEIGY Corporation of Greensboro, North Carolina.

When instruction in agriculture was broadened to include all major agricultural occupations similar awards were started in 1967 by the FFA Foundation for Star Agribusinessman of America, Regional Star Agribusinessman, Star State Agribusinessman and Star Chapter Agribusinessman. When production of the Star Farmer films resumed the Regional Star Agribusinessmen were also included in the annual film and the film was called Stars Over America.

Appropriate cash travel awards are given annually by the FFA Foundation to members who receive the American Farmer Degree.



Participants in the National Livestock Judging Contest at one time used the facilities of the Kansas City Stock Yards as the site of the contest. The contest is now held at the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show arena.



Contestants observe a class of dairy cattle during the National Dairy Cattle Judging Contest



FFA members share a joke with Cowboy Star Roy Rodgers, who presented a heifer to the FFA member named Eastern States Star Farmer at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1972.

FFA Achievement Award

The Achievement Award Program was designed to enable FFA members to achieve personal recognition through the FFA for their efforts in the classroom, agricultural laboratory, shop and after-school activities. The purpose of the FFA Achievement Award is to increase the involvement of all students of vocational agriculture in FFA activities by offering a realistically attainable level of recognition for each student. This motivation for greater participation is accomplished by providing each student an Achievement Award certificate. Embossed FFA emblems for mounting on the Achievement Award certificate are provided to all students upon satisfactory completion of 80% of the skills and tasks in each of the following four areas: vocational skills, leadership development, career understanding, and safety practices. This award was started in 1975.

National Conference for State Presidents

In 1969 the National FFA Foundation began providing funds to State FFA Presidents to help offset the costs of participation in a national seminar for state officers. The conferences are arranged by the National FFA Organization Staff and the National FFA Officers and are held in Washington, D.C. Funds provided by a Special Project Sponsor assist in providing transportation to and from Washington, D.C. and provide meals, lodging and expenses of the conference. The conference program is designed to give state officers—most of whom are recently elected—advanced leadership training and to familiarize them with programs of the National FFA Organization. The conference is also an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with fellow state officers and to meet with leaders in the nation's capital.



Contests and award programs in horticulture now give students in this expanding area of study more opportunities to compete. The National Horticulture Contest was held for the first time at the 1974 National FFA Convention.

Awards for State Initiated Programs for Improving Agricultural Leadership

Many states have special needs for leadership activities which are not met by regular FFA Foundation programs. To assist states in meeting these needs the National FFA Foundation established a special category of funds to provide monies for State Initiated Programs. Since 1946 the FFA Foundation has provided thousands of dollars to states to fund leadership development activities and award programs of many different kinds tailored to the needs of each individual state. State Initiated Program funds are prorated to states annually on the basis of FFA membership in the state.



The Agricultural Mechanics Contest challenges contestants in a number of mechanical skills. Here a team trouble-shoots a small gasoline engine.

Food for America

Making people more aware of the importance of agriculture and agribusiness has always been a goal of the FFA. Across the nation FFA Chapters have actively worked to tell the story of American Agriculture through exhibits at fairs, children's barnyards, and other local public relations programs.

In 1975 the National FFA Organization responded to the need expressed by FFA chapters for materials that could be used in educating the public about agriculture. The Food for America program launched in 1975 was designed to help FFA chapters tell the story of agriculture. Materials developed for the program are aimed at elementary school children at the second, third and fourth grade levels and include a film, a Farm Art Book, a lesson plan, posters and suggestions for other exhibits and demonstrations.

FFA Chapters presenting the Food for America program are encouraged to first conduct a class on agriculture, explaining modern farming and agribusiness and showing the film. After the classroom sessions FFA chapters are encouraged to host field trips to farms or bring livestock to the school so that children can see live animals and become more familiar with the operation of a farm.

The Food for America program has been an outstanding success. In its first year of operation more than a thousand FFA Chapters participated in the program. In following years more chapters participated and a high percentage of chapters that conducted the Food for America program the first year were invited to give it in even more schools the following year.

The Food for America program has been beneficial in several ways. First it gives FFA members an opportunity to use leadership skills by organizing a program and communicating with others. The program has helped educate children and adults about agriculture and it has provided career education to elementary school children by showing them some of the job opportunities in modern agriculture and agribusiness.

National FFA awards and contests have grown from a



The Food for America Program involves FFA members in activities to tell elementary students how farmers produce food and fiber.

humble beginning during the early days of vocational agriculture and the FFA to large, constructive developments which recognize outstanding achievements of FFA members and chapters. The motivating influence of awards and contests sponsored by FFA has had a wholesome influence upon FFA members, chapters, state associations, the public schools, agriculture, local communities and government.

Many publications have been prepared about the award and contest programs. These are available from Robert A. Seefeldt and Ted Amick, FFA Program Specialists at the National FFA Center. (For additional information about the program of the FFA Foundation please see the chapter on the Foundation.)

The following is a list of FFA Contests, Awards and other special projects, the date they were initiated, and the sponsor as of 1977.

National FFA Foundation Award Program

Program	Date Initiated	Sponsor
National Chapter Award Program	1930	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
National Public Speaking Contest	1930	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
National Chapter Safety Award Program	1950	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Agricultural Proficiency Award Programs	1944	National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Proficiency Award Programs

Program	Date Initiated	Sponsor
Agricultural Electrification	1946	Food & Energy Council, Inc.
Agricultural Mechanics	1944	International Harvester Company
Agricultural Processing	1971	Carnation Company
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	1971	Allis-Chalmers Corporation
Beef Production	1974	(J) Sperry New Holland & Nasco International, Inc.
Crop Production	1961	Producers of Funk's G-Hybrids
Dairy Production	1948	(J) Avco New Idea Farm Equipment & DeLaval Separator Company
Diversified Livestock Production	1961	(J) Keystone Steel & Wire & A. O. Smith Harvester
Forest Management	1961	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Home and/or Farmstead Improvement	1966	Upjohn Company
Horse Proficiency	1975	The American Morgan Horse Association
Outdoor Recreation	1971	White Farm Equipment Company
Placement in Agricultural Production	1968	(J) Hesston Corporation & Shell Chemical Company
Poultry Production	1961	Allied Mills, Inc.
Soil & Water Management	1949	Ford Motor Company Fund
Swine Production	1974	Pfizer, Inc. Agricultural Division
Ornamental Horticulture	1966	(dropped in 1976) National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Floriculture	1977	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Nursery Operations	1977	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Turf and Landscape Management	1977	O. M. Scott & Sons Company
Fruit and Vegetable Production	1977	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Fish and Wildlife Management	1971	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Agribusiness	1968	(renamed 1971)
Natural Resources Development	1968	(renamed 1971)
Sheep Production	1974	National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Contests

Program	Date Initiated	Sponsor
Agricultural Mechanics	1972	The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
Dairy Cattle Judging	1925	Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Carnation Company
Milk Quality & Dairy Foods	1926	Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.
Horticulture	1974	(J) American Association of Nurserymen, Inc. (J) Gulf Crop Protection Products, Gulf Oil Chemicals Company (J) The Vitality Seed Company (J) Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc.
Livestock Judging	1926	Ralston Purina Company
Meats Judging	1926	(J) Geo. A. Hormel & Company (J) Jones Dairy Farm (J) Oscar Mayer & Company (J) Wilson Foods Corporation
Farm Business Management	1976	John Deere Foundation
Poultry Judging	1926	Victor F. Weaver, Inc. & FFA Foundation, Inc.

Establishment in Agriculture Awards

Program	Date Initiated	Sponsor
Star Farmer of America	1928	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Star State Farmer	1946	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Star Chapter Farmer	1950	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Star Greenhand	1960	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
State Star, Regional Star and Star Agribusinessman of America	1967	National FFA Foundation, Inc.
Star Chapter Agribusinessman	1976	National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Other Special Project Programs

Program	Date Initiated	Sponsor
Building our American Communities	1971	Lilly Endowment, Inc.
FFA Advisor's Handbook	1975	Merck and Company Foundation
FFA Member Student Handbook	1977	Federal Intermediate Credit Banks & Production Credit Assoc.
Food For America	1975	(J) American Breeders Service (J) Chemagro Agricultural Division (J) DeKalb AgResearch, Inc. (J) J. I. Case Company
FFA Golden Anniversary Film	1977	Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
International Agricultural Olympics	1976	Massey-Ferguson, Inc.
National Safety	1950	(J) Dow Chemical Co. & Farm & Industrial Equipment Institute
State Presidents Conference	1969	General Motors Corporation
Stars Over America Film	1971	CIBA-GEIGY Corporation
Stars Award Program	1928	Executive Sponsors (individuals contributing \$100 or more)



Virginia Nicholson, Secretary to National Advisor H. N. Hunsicker, was the first woman to receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree in recognition of her dedicated service to the National FFA Organization and its members.

The National FFA Center

Soon after the Future Farmers of America was organized in 1928 there was a growing interest in the establishment of a national headquarters. Many state FFA associations became interested in developing a center which could be used for recreation and training in leadership. A number of these associations started the development of state FFA camps. These camps became quite popular with members and as training in leadership expanded they were renamed leadership training centers. Many of these centers have expanded both in size and numbers.

For vocational agriculture students participation in FFA activities was an opportunity to travel. Because of their mutual interests and cooperation chapters could earn money from farming and other activities and travel together at low cost. Many chapters traveled in school buses and others in automobiles. A few chapters even chartered airplanes for vacation travel. They usually slept in tents or in public buildings. Back in the '30s the Shawnee Mission, Kansas, chapter traveled by automobile to Homestead, Florida, to visit the FFA chapter there.

The nation's capital gradually became the mecca for many of these travel groups. They frequently did not make reservations for housing and would call their Congressman for assistance in finding a place to camp after they arrived in Washington, D.C. The Congressman would call the National FFA Office and ask for help in finding a place for 25 to 100 members to sleep. Such problems helped increase interest in the development of a camp and center for the FFA in the Washington, D.C. area.

When the FFA grew in strength and numbers and accumulated some cash reserves it became possible for the organization to start the development of a national camp and center.

Delegates to the 1937 national FFA convention adopted a motion designating the Board of Trustees as a committee to determine the advisability of establishing a national camp in the Washington, D.C. area.

W. A. Ross, National Executive Secretary of the FFA, was authorized by the Board to investigate possible locations for such a center. After much traveling and investigation, he finally located 30 acres of land south of

Alexandria, Virginia, within three miles of Mount Vernon and in sight of the Woodlawn Plantation. The land was formerly a part of the larger Mount Vernon estate and was adjacent to the George Washington Grist Mill property. Since Washington is recognized in the FFA rituals this added interest and glamour to this location.

At the 1938 national FFA convention the plan for developing a national camp for the FFA was approved and convention delegates voted to set aside \$6,000 to start the purchase of land for the camp.

Executive Secretary Ross reported to the delegates at the 1939 national convention that 22½ acres of land, that had once belonged to George Washington, had been purchased. A down payment of \$5,000 had been made on the \$8,500 purchase price. Ross reported that an additional six acres of land adjoining the property could be bought for \$3,500. He informed the delegates that one of Washington's old grist mills had been restored by the Virginia Conservation Commission on the adjacent property southeast of the FFA property.

The delegates voted \$12,000 to finish paying for the land, including the additional six acres, and to start with the development of the camp. The land was purchased and the development of the property began the following year. An old house on the property was renovated and plans were drawn for two barrack buildings and a dining-recreation hall large enough to house 100 members. An agreement was made with the State of Virginia for the FFA to maintain the George Washington Grist Mill and keep it open to the public. The 1940 convention delegates voted another \$10,000 for the continued development of the camp.

Rising costs forced the scaling down of the original construction plans so that only one barracks with space for 76 persons and a dining hall could be built with available funds. The camping facilities officially opened on May 30, 1941, and a group of FFA members from Wilton, Wisconsin, were the first to stay at the new National FFA Camp. During that summer 483 members from 49 chapters in 17 states used the camp as a place to stay while they toured Washington, D.C.

By 1949 the FFA had invested \$47,600 in the National Camp. The organization was following the practice of paying promptly for all developments.



National President Dan Dunham manned the shovel as the 1955-56 National Officer team, FFA Supply Service and *The National Future Farmer* magazine staffs and National Advisor Dr. W. T. Spanton watched ground being broken for construction of the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

Although the property was first developed as an FFA camp, the long-time goal was to further develop the site as a national center for the FFA. There was an early dream of an outdoor amphitheatre, a swimming pool, a recreation area, the development of a dam and the construction of additional buildings for use as a conference center.

E. D. Tyler, former State President of the Florida FFA Association, was employed as manager of the camp. A number of FFA chapters used the facilities each year while the dormitories were open. But due to the restrictions on travel during the Second World War and the distance of the camp from Washington, D.C. there was little demand for use of the camp as a home base when chapters visited Washington, D.C. As a result the camping

facilities were closed for several years.

During the War years tomatoes were grown on the property to assist in the production of food. George Scott, who lived nearby, assisted in taking care of the property.

In the mid '40s arrangements were made with the Lead Industries Association to sponsor a painting school at the camp. Supervisors and others from nearby states attended the school. The buildings were painted as a part of the instructional program. The FFA provided lunches for the participants in the school.

The National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors of the FFA evaluated the use of the property as a camp. It was found that the income from the FFA chapters that stayed in the camping facilities dur-



When the FFA Supply Service began, it operated out of the barracks buildings that had originally been used as the National FFA Camp.

ing the summer was not enough to pay the operating expenses of the camp. After the Second World War the camp was kept open for several years. When it was realized that the FFA could pay hotel expenses for visiting chapters for less money than it cost to operate the camp, it was decided that the valuable property should be used for other purposes.

At the close of the War there was a definite need for developing additional services for the FFA. Consideration was being given by the FFA to the advisability of developing a supply service and a national magazine. After careful review the FFA decided to start a supply service in 1948 and use the camp buildings as headquarters for this new venture. It was necessary to make some minor changes in the buildings so they could be used for offices, storage of merchandise and for processing orders for shipment. The facilities at the FFA property, although they were not designed for use by a supply service, made possible a low cost operation by the Future Farmers Supply Service for several years until the business increased and the buildings became completely inadequate.

When *The National Future Farmer* magazine was launched in 1952 that staff too was housed in one of the camp buildings. The buildings were designed for use of campers during the summer months. When they were



Three years after ground was broken, FFA members and guests gathered at the National FFA Center for the official dedication. Each state association presented a rock native to their state to be incorporated in the FFA Center landscape.

used for FFA Supply Service operations and as office space for the magazine staff it was soon evident that these buildings were difficult to cool during the summer and hard to heat in the winter.

Although the plans originally developed for the National FFA Camp, to provide a place for FFA chapters to stay while they visited Washington, D.C. did not prove to be worthwhile, the purchase of the land and the launching of the FFA Center were constructive developments. The land, which was purchased at low cost, has continued to increase in value. The value of the land was greatly enhanced when the property across the highway from the property was zoned "rural business." A request was made of the Fairfax County Zoning Board to have the land owned by the FFA, which was adjacent to Highway #1, re-zoned from "rural residence" to "rural business." The Executive Secretary, FFA employees and many neighbors appeared at the meeting of the Zoning Board and testified in favor of re-zoning the property. Approval was granted. When this land was re-zoned, and because of its proximity to Washington, D.C., it became extremely valuable.

The ideas relating to the development of a national center for the FFA continued to change and grow in stature. The first purpose was to provide housing for visiting FFA chapters. When developments for this purpose did



Martin L. Goodson, National President of the New Farmers of America, participated in dedication ceremonies for the National FFA Center.

not prove successful national leaders decided to use the facilities to house the staffs of the Supply Service and *The National Future Farmer* magazine. When it was decided to stop using the buildings to house FFA chapters plans were dropped for the construction of a swimming pool and outdoor amphitheatre.

The success of the FFA Supply Service and the national Magazine made it possible to continue the development of the center. The FFA had never forgotten the dream of a great national leadership training center. Dreams expanded to develop conference facilities, a library and archives for priceless FFA records and historical materials.

By 1954 national leaders of the FFA realized that additional facilities must be provided to adequately house the FFA Supply Service and *The National Future Farmer* staffs and to provide space for leadership training, the library and the archives. The National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors authorized the

Governing Committee of the FFA to employ an architect to prepare plans for a new building to be constructed on the FFA property. The firm of Morton W. Noble, AIA, was employed to serve as architects for the new building. When the plans for the new building were completed and approved by the FFA, authorization was given by the Boards to proceed in granting a contract for the construction of the building. Under the direction of Dr. W. T. Spanton, National FFA Advisor, the Altamont Brothers Company was authorized to construct the building. Arrangements had been made by the FFA to pay for the building with funds in the treasury, which had been provided mainly by the FFA Supply Service, and with money obtained on a loan basis from the Future Farmers of America Foundation.

Ground was broken for the new building on July 24, 1956. Executive Secretary Tenney made a report on the progress being made in the construction of the building to the delegates at the national FFA convention in October



Several hundred persons including FFA members, government officials and business leaders attended FFA Center dedication ceremonies on July 24, 1959. The dedication was held in conjunction with a leadership conference for State FFA Officers.

1956. He stated that the building was being constructed of brick, would be 176 feet long and have two floors and a basement. He said that it was anticipated that a dedication service would be held for the new building when it was completed.

A motion was made by Hunt* of North Carolina, seconded by Houger of Washington and passed that the delegates go on record as recommending to the National Board of Student Officers and National Board of Directors that a dedicatory service be held for the FFA building during the summer of 1958, and that every state FFA association be invited to send a representative to this dedication. Invitations were also to be sent to Future Farmer organizations throughout the world asking them to send representatives to this dedication.

At the 1958 national FFA convention a committee was appointed to prepare recommendations for a national leadership training conference to be held in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the dedication of the new FFA building. The committee report, which was approved by the delegates, recommended that the leadership training conference be held July 22-25, 1959, at the time of the dedication of the new building. The report also made constructive recommendations concerning the conference and tours that should be made to points of interest in Washington, D.C.

The building was completed in late 1958. At the request of Dr. Spanton, the dedication was not held until the FFA had paid in full the \$350,000 the building had cost. The building was dedicated July 24, 1959. The dedicatory addresses were delivered by The Honorable

Frank Carlson, U.S. Senator from Kansas, who had assisted the FFA in obtaining a Federal Charter from Congress, and Honorable Arthur S. Fleming, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. FFA members from throughout the Nation were present for the dedication.

The new building, which was designed to provide space for the FFA Supply Service and *The National Future Farmer* magazine, represented a milestone of achievement for the FFA but it did not contain adequate space for the additional services that FFA members desired at their National Center.

The National Leadership Conference was held as planned, but it was necessary for the Conference to be held in a hotel in Washington, D.C., since there were no conference facilities at the new Center.

The old residence and the camp buildings were demolished and the attractive new building became a valuable asset to the community. The grounds were fenced and landscaped.

Due to increasing responsibilities at the Center, the Board of Student Officers and the Board of Directors voted to terminate the contract with the State of Virginia so that the FFA would no longer be responsible for keeping the George Washington Grist Mill open to the public. The contract was terminated in 1958.

As the services provided by the National FFA Organization expanded, it was necessary to add several extensions to the building to provide needed storage space for the Supply Service and additional office space for the Supply Service and the FFA Magazine.

USOE Curtailment

A major change took place in the National FFA Center in 1968 when the U.S. Commissioner of Education and the Associate Commissioner surprisingly requested all vocational student organizations sponsored by the Office of Education to move their employees housed in the Office of Education to another location. During this same period many staff members in the Office of Education, who had been serving in agricultural education were transferred to regional offices and some positions were

* James Hunt was elected Governor of North Carolina in 1976.



FFA Center dedication ceremonies involved every state. Each state officer placed soil from his state at the base of the flag pole.

eliminated. This made it necessary for the FFA to employ additional personnel to provide the services required on the national level. It was agreed that the FFA employees in Washington, D.C. and the new employees should be housed at the National FFA Center. Approval was given for the National Advisor and the Executive Secretary of the FFA, who were employed by the Office of Education, to remain at the Office of Education.

Space was provided in the FFA building for offices for the National Advisor, National Executive Secretary and their staffs. Major changes were made in the FFA building to provide office space for the FFA employees and a conference room and library were added. Space was also allocated for starting the archives.

The National FFA Center was beginning to emerge as the type of Center the members had envisioned when they first suggested its development.

A major new addition was completed in 1976. In addition to expanding storage and office space a conference room was added and plans were made for the FFA Archives to be expanded.

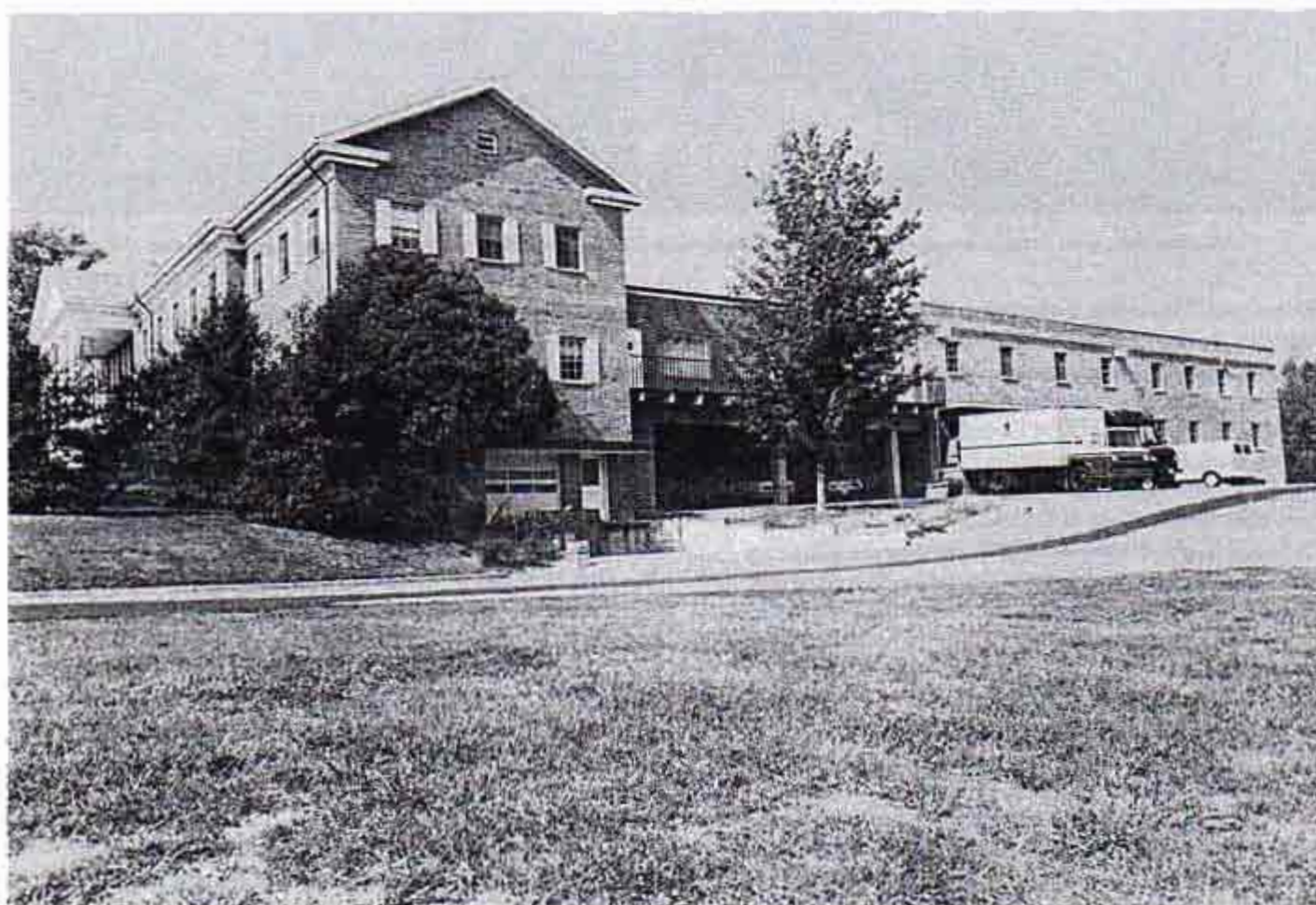
The dream of a National FFA Center, and the con-

structive steps taken during the early days of the FFA, finally culminated in the development of an outstanding National FFA Center. It will doubtless continue to grow and change as needed by the FFA. Members, advisors and FFA staff personnel have shared in the challenging task of planning, designing and developing the National FFA Center. It has helped the FFA in many ways. It provides an improved, distinguished image for the organization. The establishment of the FFA Supply Service and *The National Future Farmer* magazine provide services which have proven to be invaluable to members and advisors. These services have been financially successful and have provided necessary funds for activities sponsored by the organization. The employment of additional staff has led to the expansion of activities internationally, the launching of the FFA Alumni Association and the development of sound programs of leadership training for FFA officers and members.

Since 1928, when the FFA was organized, it has established by planning and hard work a firm financial base. The organization had no income when it was organized, except ten cents dues from each member. By sound busi-

ness management it has established important programs, created significant national awards and built a National FFA Center worth well over a million dollars. The organization operates in the black and currently has no outstanding debts.

The development of the National FFA Center was a wise move on the part of members and administrators of the FFA. This Center and the services provided there, when fully completed, should have a dramatic influence on the FFA and the youth of America in the years ahead.



Since the original FFA Center building was completed in 1959 two additional wings have been added to accommodate the growth of FFA services to members.

The Impact of FFA

The FFA is a unique, vigorous organization of, by and for students who are enrolled in vocational agriculture to prepare for careers in agriculture and agribusiness. It was organized at a time when there was an urgent need for an organization to motivate and train rural youth to take pride in agricultural pursuits and provide a new positive leadership for rural communities and the Nation. The inspirational creed of the FFA, the sound structure it created to provide participation training, its challenging objectives, its motivating awards and its broad program of constructive activities enabled it to provide unusual service to youth, agriculture, agribusiness, local communities, the public secondary schools and government.

Impact on Youth

The FFA provided youth interested in agriculture opportunities to work together on programs which were of mutual interest. When the FFA was first organized many youth from farms and small rural communities who attended urban high schools felt insecure and inferior to the students from the cities. As they studied the importance of agriculture they began to develop a genuine pride for their rich rural heritage. They also started to utilize the sound training in leadership they were receiving in FFA by participating successfully in varied school activities. They gradually changed their own attitudes of themselves and influenced others to recognize their true abilities. A school principal in a large urban secondary school with a strong FFA chapter said he did not believe it was an accident that the presidents of the four classes were members of the FFA but that it was due to the practical program of leadership training they had been receiving in the FFA.

The FFA provided an opportunity for members to know, evaluate and train themselves. They have been motivated to develop goals for living and to plan a program to attain those goals. FFA degrees, stimulating awards and steady attainment in the FFA helped to start many youth on the road to lifelong achievement.

Rural youth were eager to belong to a large national organization that provided an opportunity for them to work with other youth in developing and carrying out a con-



President Jimmy Carter proudly recalls his experiences as an FFA member and secretary of the Plains FFA Chapter. Carter talked to Washington Conference participants during a visit to the White House.

structive program of activities. As they became members of FFA they learned that the organization was conducted by student members under the wise guidance of teachers of vocational agriculture who served as advisors of local chapters.

Many members were thrilled to learn, when they joined the FFA, that they had an opportunity to work with other members on many important projects that were of service to others. This strengthened their pride in the organization and provided deep personal satisfaction.

As members advanced in the FFA they were given opportunities to assist in training new members, who enrolled at the beginning of each new term of school. Many FFA youth leaders used the training they had received in their chapter to inform and assist youth in elementary schools and in organizations such as 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Many youth in rural communities, who were not old enough to enroll in high school, observed the stimulating activities of FFA chapters and were motivated to learn



FFA members have been recognized nationwide for their achievements. Television host John Stearns presented "Aggie Awards" to FFA members on his syndicated Agriculture USA program which is telecast throughout the U.S.

more about their opportunities in varied agricultural occupations. Many of these youth later enrolled in vocational agriculture and became FFA members.

By participating in elementary leadership activities such as serving on a committee or becoming involved in parliamentary procedure and by taking part in contests, such as public speaking, members often found, to their surprise, that they possessed abilities of which they were not aware.

Impact on Agriculture and Agribusiness

FFA has become an important showcase for modern agriculture in the United States. By sponsoring community fairs, field days, agricultural tours and by broad participation in county and state fairs members have exhibited superior products from farms and have, at the same time,

demonstrated a new agricultural leadership.

Members have had a dynamic influence on all agricultural occupations, including agribusiness. By their studies in the classroom and participation in shops, laboratories, on the farm and in business establishments they have learned new skills and developed new improved methods. In their work experience and farming programs they applied their new knowledge. They possessed open minds, inquisitive natures and faith in their abilities to progress in their chosen occupations. The outcomes have been dramatic. Many of these intelligent, industrious youth have made amazing progress within a few years. Many have become leaders in production, processing, distribution and servicing agriculture.

As they studied and progressed they developed a firm confidence in the future of agriculture and agribusiness and a strong faith in their ability to play a major role in the advancement of agriculture and agribusiness in America.



In 1963 National Officers planted a honey locust tree at the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Kansas City, Kansas. Soil from every state was used in the planting.



Safety activities are aimed at creating awareness and preventing farm accidents. Many FFA chapters use the news media and other resources to conduct active safety campaigns in their community.

They studied economics and learned the true meaning of profit and loss. Their motto, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve," exemplified their goals and achievements.

They also had strong influence in the adoption and im-

provement of safety practices in agriculture. For many years the National Safety Council has commended the FFA for its leadership in rural safety. The surveys conducted by the Council showed that the FFA farm machinery safety programs saved many lives and prevented many serious injuries.

FFA members also had a significant influence by sponsoring programs and activities to acquaint youth and the general public with agriculture. Many chapters exhibited animals at city elementary schools, sponsored tours for city children to farms in the community and provided a "Children's Barnyard" at county and state fairs.

FFA members learned by constructive labor in agriculture and agribusiness and in FFA activities how to work, the necessity of hard work and gained an appreciation of the results obtained by personal labor. This experience and knowledge made it much easier for members to obtain employment on and off farms.

During their membership most FFA members developed a pride in the various agricultural pursuits as they learned the importance of the production and distribution of food products throughout the world.

Impact on Public Schools

Many members learned to know their true potential as they studied vocational agriculture and participated in the FFA. As they developed confidence in themselves frequently they improved their scholastic endeavors in other school programs. The "Buddy System," adopted by many chapters, serves many youth. An older, capable member is assigned to assist young members with their special problems in school.

The training in leadership, participation in contests, such as public speaking, and the motivating awards have encouraged most members to improve attitudes and do better work in school. As members participated in FFA activities, won awards and attained prominence in the organization they developed a self-confidence and pride in their achievements which influence other students and school officials to have greater respect for agricultural youth and agricultural occupations.

The personal goals and programs of self-improvement adopted by FFA members helped them achieve more in FFA and has frequently launched them into programs which led to continuing education in post secondary schools, colleges or entry into an agricultural or other profession. Most of the teachers of vocational agriculture and many of the leaders in agricultural extension, soil conservation, farm organizations and other such fields have come from the ranks of FFA. A large number of the

enrollees in many of the colleges of agriculture are former members of the FFA.

Vocational agriculture and the FFA have added new dimensions to the programs in public secondary schools. New opportunities are provided for rural and urban youth to study agriculture and agribusiness and participate in the broad program of the FFA.



The FFA enjoys a close working relationship with many other youth organizations, especially the Boy Scouts of America. In 1960 the FFA took part in the Scout's fifth National Jamboree in Colorado Springs, Colorado. National FFA Executive Secretary William Paul Gray (front row, fifth from left) represented the FFA.

Impact on Rural Communities

FFA members and the local chapter play a significant role in their local community. For many years the FFA, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has conducted a significant community improvement program. Chapters are motivated to study their community and implement programs which are designed to improve the community and make a more wholesome life for the residents.

Many chapters sponsor camping programs, athletic teams, community clean-up and paint-up programs and activities to conserve the natural resources in the area. Local chapters frequently cooperate in programs which involve more than one community. Sometimes they work through their state FFA association. Since 1953 FFA members in 260 secondary schools in Minnesota raised more than \$750,000 from corn drives for "Camperships" and facilities for handicapped children at Camp Courage, operated by the Minnesota Society for Crippled Children and Adults. Part of the contribution was used to help construct an \$80,000 Speech Therapy Building, a greenhouse on Camp Courage grounds, sponsorship of travel camping programs and instruction in horticulture.



FFA chapters across the United States were encouraged to join in the celebration of the nation's 200th birthday in 1976 by participating in FFA programs and activities that were part of FFA's Celebrate '76 project. Participating chapters were recognized at the 1976 National FFA Convention.

The FFA has served as an organization in which youth enrolled in vocational agriculture can participate in constructive community programs and cooperate with other organizations in the community in their activities. Youth who become involved in such wholesome community projects and are taught the high ideals of the FFA are not inclined to become involved in crime or programs which are detrimental to their neighbors or the community.

As they sponsor safety programs they develop a respect for law when they study how to operate automobiles and farm equipment on the highways. Chapters sponsor instruction in the use of firearms, since many members hunt the game on their farms.

When members study their community and help develop programs to improve it they develop a pride in their community and in their way of life. Their pride and constructive community building programs influence others to cooperate in such programs and become proud of their community.



Dr. Esco Hall Jr. of Alamo, Georgia, was an NFA National Officer when the NFA merged with the FFA. He recalls his experiences in NFA and FFA as the challenge that helped him succeed in achieving an education in veterinary medicine and in establishing himself in a thriving veterinary practice near his home community.

Impact on Organizations

Leaders and members of many organizations recognize the FFA as an excellent training laboratory for youth who may later become members and leaders of those organizations. As FFA members develop leadership abilities and self-confidence they become more effective members of other organizations. The training FFA members receive by serving on committees, helping develop programs of activities, working with others to implement the programs, and by serving as chapter officers prepares them to frequently advance quickly in other organizations when they leave the FFA. One of the largest local Granges in an eastern state had as its Master a 21-year-old young man who was a former president of the local FFA chapter. Members and former members of FFA have been found participating actively in farm organizations, service clubs, cooperatives, churches and other groups in the community and state.

Agricultural cooperatives provide special educational programs to motivate FFA members to become members and provide leadership in the cooperative movement.

The education and experience FFA members receive in leadership is of great value to them as they work together in the organization. Many members find that this training is of even greater value after they complete school and take active roles in many adult organizations.



Impact on Government

Through the years FFA members have become involved in governmental affairs on local, state and national levels. Because of their leadership activities in FFA a few members have been elected to the local school board while they were still enrolled in high school. Doyle Conner, former national president of the FFA and now Commissioner of Agriculture in Florida, was elected to serve as speaker of the House of Representatives in Florida when he was 25 years of age. Many former members serve in their state legislatures, become Governors or other state officials. So many former members have been elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Federal Government that an informal FFA chapter has been organized by these persons. The chapter meets annually while the national FFA officers are in Washington, D.C.

Two of the candidates for President of the United States in 1976 spoke with pride of their participation in the FFA while they were in high school. They were Fred Harris of Oklahoma and Jimmy Carter of Plains, Georgia. Jimmy Carter won the election and became the first former FFA member to be elected President of the United States.

Perhaps the greatest impact of FFA on government is the emphasis given to patriotism and good citizenship by the organization throughout the United States. This emphasis has helped develop a pride in government and a desire by members to obey laws, take an active part in governmental affairs and serve government as requested by their neighbors.

Congressional leaders in both the House and Senate have given wholehearted support to the FFA and have always taken time to visit with National Officers. In 1965 Speaker of the House John McCormick (center) met with the officer team.



Many former FFA members and National Officers serve in government. Doyle Conner of Florida, who was National FFA President in 1948, was elected to the Florida House of Representatives at age 21 and became Speaker of the House at 23. He was later elected Florida Commissioner of Agriculture.

Impact on Business and Industry

The FFA and the FFA Foundation have provided businessmen with an opportunity to share in the motivation and development of youth who are preparing for careers in agriculture and agribusiness. Constructive vocational training programs have been developed in agriculture by the public schools to prepare boys and girls for employment in many agricultural occupations and in the agribusiness field. Many of the students obtain employment in business firms while they are enrolled in school.

A large demand has developed for youth who were FFA members and have had practical training and experience in vocational agriculture. Employers have found them to be capable, ambitious, industrious and dependable.

The FFA has served as an excellent medium for business and industry to develop a sound relationship with agriculture and agribusiness. The relationships developed with FFA members frequently last as members move into full-time farming or employment in agribusiness.



Many nations have patterned their own vocational student organizations in agriculture after the FFA.



Business and industry support has been a key element in the growth and success of the FFA. During their Annual Good-Will Tour, National officers express their appreciation to officials of organizations like the Sears-Roebuck Foundation.

Impact on Other Nations

Representatives from other nations have come to the United States to study vocational agriculture and the FFA. When Seniorita Rodriguez, who was head of a large school in Brazil, came to the United States to study the FFA she was shown several chapter scrapbooks which illustrated many of their constructive activities. She pounded one of these books with her hand and said, "This is the finest educational activity for youth I have seen since I have been in the United States, and we need such an organization in our country."

The FFA has been used as a model for the development of similar organizations in many other nations. The organization has given assistance in the development and conduct of these organizations. There has developed a close cooperation between these organizations which has led to the joint sponsorship of international projects, such as the first World Conference in Agricultural Education and International Agricultural Olympics competition, which was held during the national FFA convention at Kansas City, Missouri, in 1976.

The FFA is having a wholesome influence on youth in other nations by helping them understand agriculture,

and develop a pride in agriculture and themselves. It is also helping to develop a relationship among the agricultural youth of many nations which is leading to better understanding, cooperation and friendship.

Summary

The impact of the FFA may be appropriately summarized by a quotation from Dr. Robert E. Taylor, former national officer of the FFA and currently Director of The Center for Vocational Education, The Ohio State University:

"It is almost impossible to describe the impact of the FFA—it is infinite and defies measurement. The positive influence of the organization on the lives of its members, their broadened horizons, uplifted ideals and lofty goals, has been transmitted from member to member, from neighbor to neighbor, from generation to generation, from state to state, and from country to country. The FFA was born of need, was cradled by enduring principles, and reached "manhood" at a critical time in the development of American agriculture and our Nation. Throughout the organization's history it has positively affected agricultural practices, leadership and service. It has been, is, and will continue to be a dynamic element in America's Number One Success Story, Agriculture."

The New Farmers of America

For many years separate schools were provided for Black students in a number of states. Membership in the national organization of Future Farmers of America has always been available to all students who were regularly enrolled in vocational agriculture in public secondary schools and many Black students who attended integrated schools became active members of the FFA. In states that provided separate schools for Blacks the students in vocational agriculture were not enrolled as members of the FFA. This practice continued until July 2, 1964, when Congress passed an Act which prohibited segregation in public schools. This Act made it possible for all Black students of vocational agriculture to become members of the FFA.

The New Farmers of America organization, the national organization of Black students enrolled in vocational agriculture in public secondary schools, was organized to provide training and experiences similar to those available in the Future Farmers of America. The NFA became so strong and was so well accepted by the students and their advisors that it is both fitting and proper to include a history of the New Farmers of America, as part of the history of the FFA.

The Development of the NFA

Like the FFA the NFA was started by teachers of vocational agriculture in local high schools. From 1917 until 1928 each state designated its organization of vocational agriculture students by its own selected title; for example in Texas they were called Progressive Farmers. During the years 1928 to 1935 these state groups were generally known as New Farmers. In 1935, when the state groups formed the national organization and adopted the name New Farmers of America, each state adopted the same title.

The New Farmers of America was started in Virginia during the winter of 1926-27, with the organization of the New Farmers of Virginia, at Petersburg. The NFA was started at the suggestion of Dr. Walter S. Newman,



The New Farmers of America emblem was the same as the FFA emblem except the background was a boll of cotton rather than a cross section of an ear of corn.

State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, State Department of Education in Virginia, and Dr. H. O. Sargent, Federal Agent for Agricultural Education for Blacks, Federal Board for Vocational Education, Washington, D.C. These men agreed that there was need for an organization similar to the FFA to serve Black vocational agriculture students. G. W. Owens and J. R. Thomas, Teacher Educators in Agricultural Education, Virginia State College for Blacks, collaborated in writing the first constitution and bylaws for the organization, which in the beginning was composed of 18 local chapters with about 400 members. In May 1927, the New Farmers of Virginia held their first state convention at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia.

Alabama was one of the first states to organize the New Farmers. This was also done in 1927. By 1932 Alabama had united with Georgia, Florida and other states in forming the Southern Sectional NFA organization. The first NFA chapter in Oklahoma was organized in Luther, in September 1927, and the first Oklahoma state convention was held in 1928. The first NFA association was organized in New Jersey in 1932. The first Black vocational agriculture students' organization in North Carolina was started in 1928 and was called The Future North State Farmers. Emphasis on youth activities for students in vocational agriculture classes in South Carolina started in 1917 with a meeting at the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Orangeburg. Until 1928 these students were known as the Junior Farmers of South Carolina. Texas began its organization for Black students of vocational agriculture in 1926 as the Progressive Farmers of Texas, and continued under that name until 1933, when it changed its name to New Farmers of Texas.

In a few years most of the southern states had set up local chapters patterned largely after the New Farmers of Virginia. At this stage of development each state maintained a separate and distinct organization. Soon a number of states united and held an annual sectional NFA convention. The first sectional convention was held at Virginia State College in 1928. At this meeting the Eastern sectional organization was formed, consisting of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia; and later Maryland, West Virginia and New Jersey. In 1930 the ALMOT sectional organization was formed consisting of Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. This was followed by the organization of the Southern sectional organization, composed of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee. The sectional organizations held their annual meetings in the various states of their section from 1928 until 1935. During these years, the New Farmers organizations were known only by the name of each state such as the New Farmers of Florida.

First National NFA Convention

Through the years the desire for a national organization of New Farmers of America kept growing. At the meetings of the sectional organizations the advisability of a national organization was discussed and recommenda-

tions were made to proceed in the development of a national organization. Early in 1935, with the endorsement of Dr. H. O. Sargent, arrangements were made by S. B. Simmons, of North Carolina, J. R. Thomas, of Virginia, and A. Floyd, of Alabama, to hold the first national convention of the New Farmers of America at Tuskegee Institute, in Alabama.

The organizational convention met in August and officially formed the national organization of New Farmers of America and adopted a tentative constitution and bylaws. The 13 states represented at this first national convention were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. David Simmons, president of the New Farmers of Alabama, gave the welcome address and Elbert Pettiford, president of the Eastern sectional organization, presided.

State advisors from Louisiana and Maryland were present but they did not have delegates with them. From the 90 NFA members who attended the convention, two were selected from each state to form the first national house of delegates for the New Farmers of America.

The major work of the convention was centered around eleven committees appointed by the chairman to propose activities for the year ahead. The committees were:



Sidney Britton Simmons, Teacher Educator in North Carolina and Assistant State Supervisor of Agricultural Education served as Executive Secretary of the New Farmers of America.

Constitution and Bylaws Manual	Alumni
Program of Work	Uniforms
Publicity and NFA Day	Budget
Nominating	Resolutions
Contests	National Medals and Reports

David Simmons of Alabama was elected the first national president of the NFA; Elbert Pettiford of North Carolina, first vice president; Wardell Thomas of Texas, second vice president; Joseph Johnson of Virginia, third vice president; Howard Brazail of Mississippi, secretary; C. H. Banks of Texas, national advisor; and S. B. Simmons of North Carolina, executive secretary-treasurer.

The new national organization of New Farmers of America was to play an important role in the further development of the NFA.

What the NFA Planned to Accomplish

The purposes of the New Farmers of America as given in the national NFA constitution and bylaws were:

1. To create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations
2. To assist in the development of individual farming programs and establishment in farming
3. To strengthen the confidence of the farm boy in himself and his work
4. To create and nurture a love of country life
5. To assist in the improvement of the rural home and its surroundings
6. To encourage cooperative effort among students of vocational agriculture
7. To develop rural leadership
8. To promote thrift
9. To promote scholarship among students of vocational agriculture
10. To encourage recreational and educational activities for students of vocational agriculture

11. To advance vocational agricultural education in Negro public schools in the states providing such instruction

National Awards and Contests

Through the years the NFA developed a comprehensive group of establishment in farming awards. These included:

1. H. O. Sargent (Young Farmer Award)
2. Star Superior Farmer
3. Star Modern Farmer (State Award)
4. Dairy Farming
5. Farm Mechanics
6. Farm Electrification
7. Farm and Home Improvement
8. Soil and Water Management

When the Future Farmers of America Foundation was organized in 1944 funds contributed to the Foundation were distributed to the FFA and NFA on the basis of membership in the organizations. Funds for the above awards were provided by the Foundation.

Foundation funds were also used to sponsor a number of national NFA contests. These contests were public speaking, quartet and quiz. The quiz contest was conducted for the purpose of stimulating a thorough study of the NFA constitution and bylaws, the NFA Guide and parliamentary procedure. In addition to the above contests the NFA sponsored and provided awards for a talent contest.



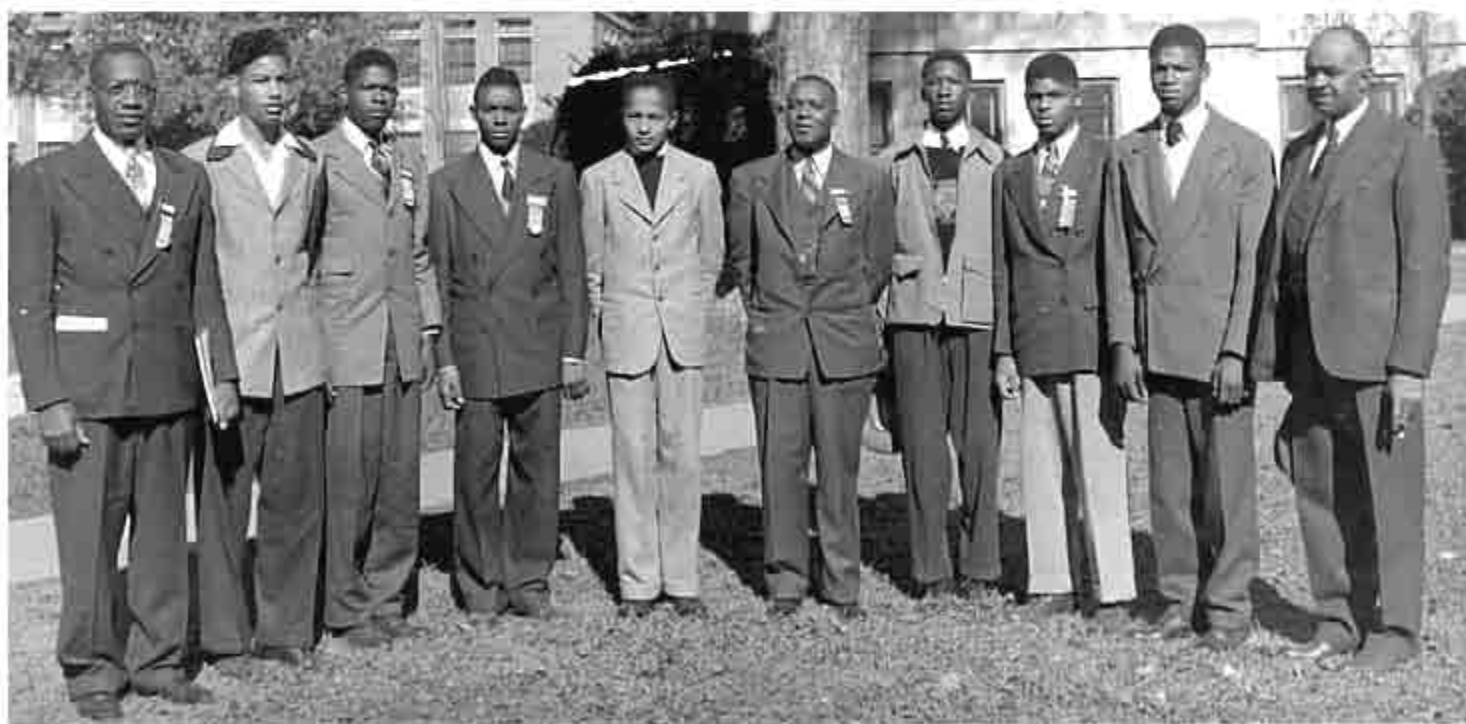
NFA Star Superior Farmers in 1961.



The NFA held its Victory Convention in 1946 at Southern University in Scotlandville, Louisiana.



At the 1946 Virginia NFA Convention delegates conducted a memorial service honoring members who served in World War II.



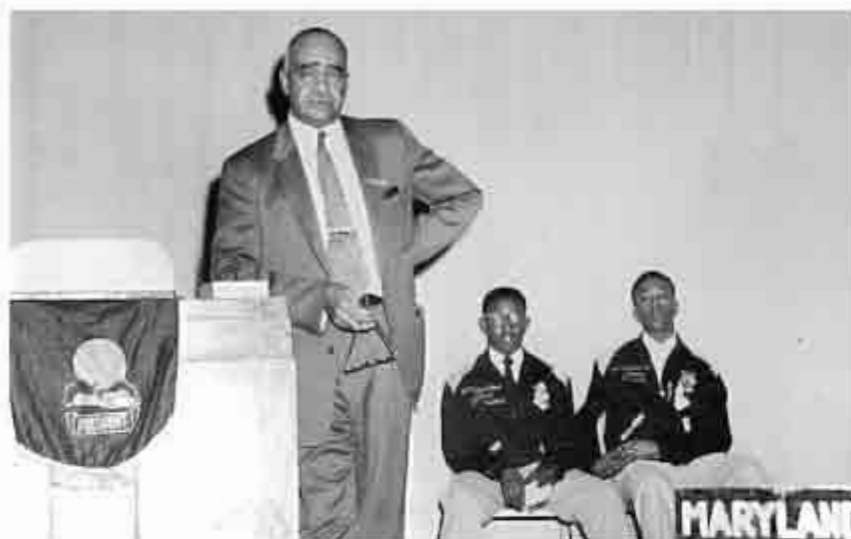
National Officers and their adult advisors who served in 1946-47.



In 1954 National Officers and their advisors met with Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chief of Agricultural Education, USOE, to plan for the NFA annual board meeting.



In 1953 NFA officers and their advisors S. B. Simmons and J. R. Thomas met in Washington, D.C., to develop plans for their National Convention to be held in Atlanta, Georgia.



S. B. Simmons, National NFA Executive Secretary, addresses an NFA meeting.



National Officers of NFA make plans for their National Convention in 1956.

How the NFA Operated

The NFA was an organization designed primarily to develop the qualities of leadership and good citizenship of members by permitting them to participate in conducting meetings, serve on committees and share in carrying out the program of activities of the chapter. All officers and committee members of local chapters, state associations and the national organization were students who were selected from the active membership of the organization. The officers and members conducted the affairs of the chapter under the guidance of the local teacher of vocational agriculture who served as chapter advisor.



These were the 1958-59 NFA National Officers and their advisors.

Educational Value of the NFA

The value of the NFA as a teaching device to provide participation for its members in leadership and citizenship activities became well recognized in the public schools. The organization had a wholesome influence in developing appreciation for rural living and motivated members to become established as successful farmers in their home communities. The growth and popularity of the NFA led to the establishment of many additional departments of vocational agriculture in the public schools.

The New Farmers of America added a dignity and pride to the occupation of farming. It was stimulating for a New Farmer to know that he was part of a great national organization made up of similar groups of Black students of vocational agriculture from other states who were interested in agriculture and took part in the challenging activities of the organization.

The NFA Guide

The first official manual, known as the NFA Guide, was written and published in 1938. Over the years it was revised and brought up to date many times.

Growth and Activities of the NFA

Starting in 1938 the NFA was a participant in a national radio broadcast, "Wings Over Jordan," from Cleveland, Ohio. This program was given annually in commemoration of the birthday of Booker T. Washington. It became a custom for state associations and local chapters to recognize April 5 as NFA Day with a special program honoring Booker T. Washington.

In 1939 the NFA placed an NFA exhibit at the World's Poultry Congress in Cleveland, Ohio, illustrating the steps taken by members in rising from tenancy to farm ownership. That same year, following their annual convention at Bordentown, New Jersey, 600 members from 18 states made a trip to the Century of Progress Fair in New York City.

By 1940 the organization had grown to 17 state associations with 786 chapters and 25,339 members. A total of 521 chapters had established NFA libraries; 620 held father and son banquets; 527 completed home improvement projects; 468 participated in conservation programs and 202 conducted thrift banks with \$52,044.27 in accounts. Leadership activities included 361 public speaking contests, 466 quartet singing contests, and 462 special Booker T. Washington chapter radio programs on April 5, anniversary of the establishment of NFA and of Dr. Washington's birth.

The NFA held annual national conventions. The second national convention was held at Hampton Institute, Virginia. Following conventions were held at Prairie View State and Industrial College, Prairie View, Texas; Georgia State College, Savannah, Georgia; Bordentown Industrial School, Bordentown, New Jersey; Agricul-

tural, Mechanical and Normal College, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tallahassee, Florida. Beginning in 1951 and continuing until 1964 the national NFA conventions were held in the Municipal Auditorium in Atlanta, Georgia.



NFA officers go through the ritual of installing new National Officers.

National Leadership

C. H. Banks, Teacher Trainer in Agricultural Education, Prairie View State and Industrial College, Prairie View, Texas, served as National Advisor of the NFA from 1935 to 1938. J. R. Thomas, Teacher Trainer in Agricultural Education, Virginia State College for Blacks, Petersburg, Virginia, served as National Advisor for several years starting in 1939. G. W. Conoly, Teacher Trainer in Agricultural Education, Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tallahassee, Florida served as National Advisor for several years. Dr. W. T. Spanton, Chief, Agricultural Education Branch, U.S. Office of Education, served as Administrative National Advisor of the NFA from 1938 until 1961. Dr. A. W. Tenney, National Executive Secretary of the FFA, served as Administrative Executive Secretary of the NFA and later as Chief of the Agricultural Education Branch, U.S. Office of Education, he served as Administrative Advisor of the NFA. Dr. H. O. Sargent, Federal Agent for Agricultural Education,



Georgia had an outstanding camp program for NFA members. These are scenes from the camp.

Federal Board for Vocational Education, Washington, D.C., guided the development of the organization from 1935 until his death when he was replaced by W. N. Elam of Texas, who was employed by the U.S. Office of Education as Federal Agent for Special Groups. He served in that capacity until 1958. R. E. Naugher, Assistant Chief, Agricultural Education Branch, Office of Education, served as Administrative Executive Secretary from 1958 to 1963, when he was replaced by M. C. Gaar, Specialist in Agricultural Education for the southern states, Office of Education. S. B. Simmons, Teacher Trainer, Agricultural Education, Agricultural and Technical College, Greensboro, North Carolina, served as National Executive Secretary from 1935 until his retirement. Dr. E. M. Norris, Teacher Trainer, Agricultural Education, Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College, Prairie View, Texas, served as Executive Secretary after Mr. Simmons retired. W. T. Johnson, Agricultural and Technical College, Greensboro, North Carolina, served as Executive Treasurer for many years.

Growth of NFA

The NFA continued to grow and prosper. States provided many unusual services for members. South Carolina was one of the first states to provide a camp for recreation and leadership training of NFA members. Alabama was represented at Bordentown, New Jersey by the NFA band from Snow Hill. One of the first state judging contests was held in North Carolina in 1921.

NFA members particularly enjoyed singing. This led to the establishment of a quartet contest and the creation of a number of NFA state choruses and the national NFA chorus. These groups were dressed in a black jacket trimmed in gold, the official colors of the NFA.

Chapters and members of the NFA took an active part in the Second World War. They helped produce food for the United States and allies throughout the world. They repaired farm machinery, constructed equipment for use on the farms, conserved farm products, purchased and sold War Bonds and Stamps and many former members served in the armed forces.



An NFA committee works at selecting award winners for the National Convention.



Winners of the NFA Soil and Water Management Award were recognized at the NFA Convention.



National NFA President Marvin Roundtree presents awards to National NFA Quiz Contestants.

NFA Awards for achievement related to a career in agriculture were provided by the National FFA Foundation. Each year the NFA recognized achievements of its members at the National NFA Convention. These were some of the winners.



Farm and Home Improvement Award winners.



NFA Quartets competed for awards and were always popular with the members.



Star Superior Farmers.



Farm Electrification Award Winners.



Dairy Farming Award Winners.



Farm Mechanics Award Winners.

By 1964, when segregation in the public schools was discontinued, the NFA had a membership of 52,000. At that time there were active state NFA associations in Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

New Farmers Became Future Farmers

For many years the leaders of the NFA and FFA considered the possibilities of having all the Black students in vocational agriculture become members of the FFA. It was recognized that this was impossible until segregation was eliminated in the public schools in many states. When segregation was abolished in the public schools the National Board of Trustees of the New Farmers of America agreed to abolish the NFA and become part of the FFA. The national officials of both organizations worked together to bring NFA members into the FFA in the most effective manner possible. NFA officials had their national charter, which had been incorporated in North Carolina, rescinded.

The culmination of the NFA did not at first meet with enthusiastic approval by leaders and members of the NFA. They were proud of their organization. It was doing much for them and for agriculture in their communities. They had their own award and contest programs. They had their own chapters, state associations and national officers. Many were fearful they might not receive adequate recognition in the larger FFA. Some leaders of the FFA were apprehensive about what might happen when all the 52,000 NFA members came into the FFA.

Dr. E. M. Norris, Executive Secretary of the NFA and W. T. Johnson, Executive Treasurer of the NFA were authorized to work with Dr. A. W. Tenney, National Advisor of the FFA, in the completion of the transfer of the members from the NFA to the FFA. It was agreed to not keep records of members by race. Consideration was to be given only to ability, experience and accomplishments in the selection of officers and award winners.



North Carolina State Officers Marvin Roundtree, NFA State President 1955-56; James Wright, NFA National Vice President 1955-56; Jim Hunt, State FFA President, 1955-56 and the President of the New Homemakers of America.



L. A. Marshall, Florida NFA Advisor, presents awards to National NFA talent contest winners at the National NFA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.



1951 National NFA Public Speaking Contest winners were James Wray of North Carolina, Sidney Russell of Georgia and Frederick Peters of Louisiana.



One of the most significant NFA awards was the H.O. Sargent Award for the most outstanding young farmer. Here Washington Carter and his wife receive the award.

Many Black members had already distinguished themselves in the FFA prior to 1965. One Black student had served as president of the California Association of FFA. Black state FFA officers had served as delegates at the 1964 national FFA convention. Joint workshops of FFA and NFA officers helped inform the NFA members about the FFA. July 1, 1965, was set as the date for the transfer of all NFA members to the FFA. This decision was made by the National Board of Trustees of the NFA, and the Board of Directors and National Officers of the FFA, with the approval of the U.S. Commissioner of Education.

Together the organizations agreed to feature the coming of the NFA members to the FFA at the national FFA convention, October, 1965, at Kansas City, Missouri. Plans were made to take the last NFA national chorus to the FFA convention so the FFA members could hear them sing. The NFA members were apprehensive about the reception they would receive at the big FFA convention. This fear was eliminated forever when at the first appearance of the NFA chorus they sang "NFA Boys Are We," which was written by their director, I. S. Glover, vocational agriculture teacher, Sylvester, Georgia. They were given a long standing ovation by the more than 10,000 FFA members and guests present. (For a detailed description of the NFA merger ceremony please refer to the chapter on Significant Accomplishments.)

NFA members were pleased to have their officer stations and the jacket of their last national president, Rudolph Pinson of Texas, placed in the National Archives of the FFA.

The New Farmers of America had a distinguished history. It is one of which the former leaders and members of the NFA may be justly proud. Fortunately Black youth have found a firm place in the FFA. They are rendering outstanding service to the FFA and are living up to the high ideals of the FFA. They sing in the state and national FFA choruses, play in the state and national FFA bands, take part in all FFA contests and compete for all FFA awards. They have had members elected to office in local chapters, state associations and the national FFA organization. They wear with pride the FFA jacket of blue and gold and take part in all FFA activities "wherever corn is grown and Future Farmers meet."



The New Farmers of America held judging contests in conjunction with their National Convention. Here members participate in a Livestock Judging Contest.



Like FFA members, NFA members were proud of their official jacket, which became a trademark of the organization. These Butler, Georgia, NFA members proudly display their jackets.

Appendix

NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS

The president is listed first, the student secretary second, and then the four vice presidents.



1928-29

Leslie Applegate, New Jersey
Don Godsey, Colorado
Alvin Reimer, Nebraska
Lawrence Augenstine, Ohio
Sam Pickering, Arkansas
Arthur Ketterlin, California



1929-30

Wade Turner, North Carolina
Paul Zillman, Missouri
Charles Pinkney, New York
Harry Wellhousen, Idaho
Gray Miley, Florida
Boyd Walte, Kansas



1930-31

Leslie Fry, Missouri
Malcolm Wilkins, Pennsylvania
Arthur Macy, Wyoming
Joe Henry Gardner, Virginia
William Showalter, Indiana
Ralph Bender, Ohio



1931-32

Kenneth Pettibone, Oregon
Oscar Clauser, Missouri
Wallace Bryan, Tennessee
Randall Hart, Illinois
Donald Gantz, Pennsylvania
Scott Hawley, Utah



1932-33

Vernon Howell, Oklahoma
Leo Paulsen, Kansas
LaVern Newton, Iowa
Paul McCutcheon, West Virginia
Charles Fitzgerald, Washington
E. K. Waters, Tennessee



1933-34

Bobby Jones, Ohio
Carl Shopbell, Michigan
Alex Alampi, New Jersey
Robert Stewart, Montana
Marlon Winge, Georgia
Morrison Lowenstein, Nebraska



1934-35

Andrew Sundstrom, South Dakota
 Jacques Waller, Florida
 Leonard Arrington, Idaho
 C. A. Duplantis, Jr., Louisiana
 John Reisz, Kentucky
 George Myers, Pennsylvania



1935-36

William Shaffer, Virginia
 Julius Black, Iowa
 Andy Fulton, Arkansas
 Owen Owens, Wisconsin
 Stanley Tschantz, Ohio
 Leon Hubbard, Oregon



1936-37

Joe H. Black, Wyoming
 Elmo Johnson, Tennessee
 Julian Pierce, Kentucky
 Clark Nicholson, Maryland
 J. Phelon Malouf, Utah
 Roy Martin, Texas



1937-38

J. Lester Poucher, Florida
 Lowell Bland, Colorado
 William Sifers, Ohio
 Lex Murray, California
 Eugene Warren, Arkansas
 Arden Burbidge, North Dakota



1938-39

Robert A. Elwell, Maine
 Harvey Schweitzer, Illinois
 Stevenson Ching, Hawaii
 Bradley Twitty, Alabama
 Albert Coates, Kansas
 Elmer Johnson, New Hampshire



1939-40

Ivan Kindschi, Wisconsin
 Kenneth Julian, Arizona
 Billy B. Bryan, Arkansas
 Ervin L. Denisen, Minnesota
 Elmer C. Denis, West Virginia
 Edgar Spiekerman, Oregon



1940-41

D. Harold Prichard, Mississippi
 Earl E. Walter, North Dakota
 Roy H. Hunt, Kentucky
 Frank L. Hill, Vermont
 Henrie L. Miller, Utah
 James H. Gunter, Texas



1941-42

Irvin J. Schenk, Indiana
 S. Pennewill Isaacs, Delaware
 Carl A. Fought, Ohio
 Joseph E. Giacomini, California
 George Sisk, Arkansas
 LaRoy Duvall, Missouri



1942-43

Marvin Jagels, Idaho
 Verl Hendrix, Nevada
 W. David Walker, Virginia
 Norman A. Martin, Jr., Maine
 *George Steller, New Mexico
 *Roy Dee Meyer, Montana
 *Appointed after Harold Gum and Willard
 Visek entered armed service



1943-44

Robert Bowman, California
 Byron Freeman, Missouri
 O. Beverley Roller, Virginia
 Ralph H. Salzman, Illinois
 Arthur E. Clifford, Vermont
 Robert Barthelmeess, Montana



1944-45

Oliver H. Kinzie, Oklahoma
 George C. Fry, Maryland
 Sigvald J. Sandberg, Minnesota
 David B. Jameson, Pennsylvania
 Merrill J. Hallam, Utah
 Tom Vaughan, Tennessee



1945-46

J. Glyndon Stuff, Illinois
 Virgil Getto, Nevada
 Sherman C. Beard, Jr., West Virginia
 * Clifford E. Bailey, Washington
 Marion F. Baumgardner, Texas
 Joseph E. Espey, Missouri
 * Appointed after Eugene Starkey entered
 armed service.



1946-47

Gus R. Douglass, Jr., West Virginia
 Philip Shober, Ohio
 Bob E. Taylor, Oregon
 William H. Morgan, Jr., Mississippi
 Paul H. Smart, Kentucky
 J. Carl Barbic, New York



1947-48

Ervin Martin, Indiana
 Eugene Hansen, Utah
 Wilbur Ray Dunk, Texas
 Osborne J. Arlien, North Dakota
 John W. Webb, Jr., Delaware
 Kort Meier, Jr., Arizona



1948-49

Doyle Conner, Florida
 Max Cobble, Tennessee
 Paul Lindholm, Minnesota
 Dale Hess, Maryland
 Bill Michael, Montana
 Alton Brazell, Texas



1949-50

George Lewis, Illinois
 Donald Bakehouse, Minnesota
 Rogers Fike, West Virginia
 Joe King, California
 Merril Cartwright, Mississippi
 Glenn Lackey, Ohio



1950-51

Walter Cummins, Oklahoma
 Wayne Staritt, West Virginia
 Robert L. Smith, California
 Hal A. Davis, Florida
 Donald Jorgensen, Iowa
 Richard Waybright, Pennsylvania



1951-52

Donald Staheli, Utah
 Charles R. Ocker, Missouri
 Gerald M. Reynolds, New York
 Billy Howard, Georgia
 Dallas High, Ohio
 Duane Drushella, Oregon



1952-53

Jimmy Dillon, Louisiana
 Jimmy Willis, South Carolina
 Fred Reed, Jr., Arkansas
 Bill Sorem, Minnesota
 Don Travis, Nevada
 Malcolm Ellis, Maine



1953-54

David H. Boyne, Michigan
 Hunt Zumwalt, New Mexico
 Harlan Rigney, Illinois
 John Schulthels, Washington
 Walker James, Vermont
 Charles W. Ritter, Jr., Mississippi



1954-55

William D. Gunter, Jr., Florida
 Philip Brouillette, Vermont
 Jay Wright, Nevada
 Robert H. Futrelle, North Carolina
 Lowell Gisselbeck, South Dakota
 Charles W. Anken, New York



1955-56

Daniel Dunham, Oregon
 Terrell Benton, Jr., Georgia
 Lennie Gamage, Virginia
 Dale Ring, Ohio
 Allen Colebank, West Virginia
 Lynn Loosli, Idaho



1956-57

John M. Haid, Jr., Arkansas
 Jerry Litton, Missouri
 Jerry Ringo, Kentucky
 Victor Cappucci, Jr., Pennsylvania
 Rogerrie "Pete" Knutson, Montana
 James Quincey, Florida



1957-58

Howard Downing, Kentucky
 Nathan Reese, Oklahoma
 Jerry D. Rulon, Indiana
 Leon C. Smith, New York
 Royce Bodiford, Texas
 Jerry Cullison, Arizona



1958-59

Adin Hester, Oregon
 Norman Brown, Michigan
 Bryan Hafen, Nevada
 Lee Todd, Tennessee
 Thomas E. Stine, Missouri
 Richard Van Auken, New Jersey



1959-60

Jim Thomas, Georgia
 Kenney Earl Gray, Mississippi
 Richard Poor, Missouri
 Dean Hoffer, Pennsylvania
 L. G. "Jack" Crews, Wyoming
 Joe H. Hughes, Jr., South Carolina



1960-61

Lyle Carpenter, Colorado
 Ronald J. Cook, Michigan
 Jerome Donovan, Jr., Ohio
 Teddy Ray Carruth, Texas
 Nathan R. Cushman, Connecticut
 John Creer, Utah



1961-62

Victor Butler, Jr., Florida
 Richard Corwin Black, Arkansas
 James Randall McCutcheon, West Virginia
 James Prewitt, Texas
 Darryl Eastvoid, North Dakota
 Keith N. Simmons, Oregon



1962-63

Kenny McMillan, Illinois
 Vern France, Idaho
 Larry Ray Whittington, North Carolina
 Jerry Diefenderfer, California
 Duane Leach, Minnesota
 Richard A. Mottolo, Massachusetts



1963-64

Nels Ackerson, Indiana
 Jon Ford, Oklahoma
 Joseph Coyne, Illinois
 Jim Teets, West Virginia
 Jan K. Turner, Utah
 Marvin R. Gibson, Tennessee



1964-65

Kenneth H. Kennedy, Kentucky
 Evan Green, Colorado
 Ivan Ray Hunt, Arizona
 Robert Page, Georgia
 Joe Perrigo, New Hampshire
 Larry Prewitt, Missouri



1965-66

Howard L. Williams, North Carolina
 Joseph B. Detrixhe, Kansas
 Larry E. Craig, Idaho
 Norman Gay, Georgia
 William M. Kelly, Jr., New Hampshire
 James Stritzlein, Ohio



1966-67

Gary Swan, New York
 Pat Tarpley, Louisiana
 Harold Brubaker, Pennsylvania
 Richard Morrison, Arizona
 Keaton Vandemark, Ohio
 Monte Reese, Oklahoma



1967-68

Greg Bamford, Colorado
 Paul Diehl, Missouri
 William Boehm, Wisconsin
 John Gemmill, Arizona
 Richard Jones, New York
 Robert Rish, South Carolina



1968-69

Jeff Hanlon, Oregon
 Jerry Batts, Alabama
 Tom Johnson, Illinois
 Joe Martinez, California
 Lowell Catlett, Texas
 Glenn Weber, Pennsylvania



1969-70

Harry W. Birdwell, Oklahoma
 Dennis Pharris, Texas
 Steve Zumbach, Iowa
 David H. Dietz, Oregon
 C. W. St. John, Arkansas
 Charles S. Postles, Jr., Delaware
 (served 1/70-10/70)
 Don Shinn, New Jersey (10/69-1/70)



1970-71

Dan Lehmann, Illinois
John McCulley, Oregon
Wayne Humphreys, Iowa
George E. Allen, New York
Dan Dooley, California
Jim Beard, Oklahoma



1971-72

Tim J. Burke, Iowa
Dennis C. Sargent, Ohio
Philip H. Johnson, Nebraska
Kevin Hall, Maryland
Clifford W. Saylor, Arizona
Sammy Peebles, Alabama



1972-73

Dwight O. Seegmiller, Iowa
Jerry Dean Goolsby, Oklahoma
Tim Daugherty, Missouri
Bruce Erath, New York
Zane Hansen, Idaho
Robert Hinton, Florida



1973-74

G. Mark Mayfield, Kansas
Frederick D. McClure, Texas
Keith Mohler, Indiana
Doyle O. Waybright, Pennsylvania
Jay Loren Phillips, Utah
Jimmy Alvarez, Florida



1974-75

Alpha E. Trivette, Virginia
D. Scott McKain, Indiana
Bart Brashears, Oklahoma
Peter Giacomini, California
Gerrit DeBruin, Wisconsin
Gary W. Kelley, West Virginia



1975-76

Bobby Tucker, Texas
Mike Jackson, Indiana
Ronald J. Wilson, Kansas
Douglas D. Loudenslager, Ohio
Elton Bouldin, Alabama
Leonard J. Anderson, Wyoming



1976-77

C. James Bode, Jr., Oklahoma
Bruce Maloch, Arkansas
Samuel Brownback, Kansas
Richard "Rick" McDaniel, Ohio
Danny Shiffer, Florida
Julie Alice Smiley, Washington

STAR FARMERS

NOTE: The Star Farmer of America is listed first followed by the regional candidates for Star Farmer.

1929 Carlton Patton, Arkansas	1942 James H. Thompson, Oregon Tracey Hunsecker, Jr., Oklahoma Norman A. Martin, Jr., Maine Lyle Fitzgerald, Missouri	1952 Walter Wayne Vogel, Ohio George Harvey Warmington, Oregon John W. Reynolds, Jr., Tennessee Frank L. Arnold, Jr., New York
1930 David Johnson, New Jersey	1943 Wayne Boothe, Oklahoma George Wilber Morse, California Frank O. Snyder, Illinois Edwin C. Fry, Maryland	1953 Stanley A. Chapman, Washington Rollin D. Blossy, Michigan Monroe Kottwitz, Oklahoma Graydon L. Lyons, New Hampshire
1931 Glenn Farrow, Arkansas	1944 Elton Ellison, Texas Amelio Bell, Nevada Erwin Eugene Thalmann, Kansas Robert Linn Lawyer, Ohio	1954 Burd W. Schantz, Pennsylvania William Jay Wright, Nevada Gilbert V. Mattes, Nebraska Davis Henry, Alabama
1932 Clarence Goldsberry, Missouri	1945 Gordon John Eichhorn, Ohio Walter D. Carlin, Jr., Pennsylvania William Patrick Vinson, South Carolina Clifford E. Bailey, Washington	1955 Joe Moore, Tennessee Richard K. Arnold, Michigan Ross Edward Smith, Jr., Maryland S. Lynn Loosli, Idaho
1933 Maurice Dankenbring, Missouri	1946 William G. Carlin, Pennsylvania Paul H. Smart, Kentucky Dennis O. Heitman, Nevada Brody Lee Koon, Texas	1956 Wesley H. Patrick, Georgia Larry L. Lust, Iowa Robert L. Worley, Pennsylvania Freddy North, Arizona
1934 Paul Astleford, Oregon	1947 Ray Gene Cinnamon, Oklahoma Hoopes T. Yarnall, Pennsylvania Marvin Krull, Wisconsin Wayne Francis Stull, Washington	1957 Clarence Caleb Chappell, Jr., North Carolina Charles Frederick Cole, New York Billie D. Parsons, South Dakota Bryan Hafen, Nevada
1935 Paul Leck, Kansas	1948 Kenneth LeWayne Cheatham, Illinois Richard E. Ogletree, Georgia Earl E. Crouse, Jr., Massachusetts Hensley Russell Price, New Mexico	1958 Jimmie John Jarnagin, Jr., Kansas Malcolm A. Niles, California James H. Speer, Jr., Pennsylvania Ethan Labrier, Oklahoma
1936 Clayton Heckman, Jr., Pennsylvania Howard Annis, Idaho Houston T. Ezell, Tennessee Edward Kuhler, Missouri	1949 Kenneth England, Arizona Robert S. Stevens, Virginia John Castroginni, Pennsylvania Jack Hailey King, Missouri	1959 Lyle Rader, Washington Don Bridges, Georgia Charles Lee Smith, Missouri Rodney L. Caulk, Delaware
1937 Robert Lee Bristow, Virginia Ralph Davis, Missouri William Stiers, Ohio Lex Murray, California	1950 Forrest Davis, Jr., Florida Budd E. Ott, Pennsylvania Rolland E. Turnow, Ohio Paul Crawford, Utah	1960 Arden W. Uhlir, Nebraska Jerrald Duayne Truax, Colorado Sam B. McDonald, Tennessee Charles A. Sargent, Vermont
1938 Hunter Roy Greenlaw, Virginia Charles Mahaffey, Ohio Clay McMechan, Washington Edd Terrell, Missouri	1951 Harold DeWayne Hodgson, Oklahoma Joe Harris, California George Williams, Kentucky Ralph G. Sanner, Pennsylvania	1961 James Isaac Messler, Tennessee G. Wallace Caulk, Jr., Delaware Henry A. Nagamori, Montana Gary M. Trego, Nebraska
1939 Norman W. Kruse, Nebraska G. Wallace Caulk, Delaware Arthur & Albert Lacey, Texas Dan K. Mizner, Montana		
1940 Gerald Reyenga, Arkansas Lewis Kelly, Jr., Kentucky John W. Shaffer, Pennsylvania Jesse Anderson, California		
1941 Duane Munter, Nebraska Everett Struckmeier, Oregon John D. Scott, Oklahoma Milton R. Fox, Ohio		

1962

Warner A. Ross, Tennessee
 Walter L. Harder, Jr., Kentucky
 Kenneth R. McMurray, Washington
 Russell L. DeMond, New York

1963

Robert Alton Cummins, New York
 Jon Ronald Ford, Oklahoma
 Stanley R. Amundson, North Dakota
 Dwayne Disney, New Mexico

1964

Don Carlton Tyler, Pennsylvania
 Lyle F. Nielsen, Nebraska
 George H. Culverhouse, Jr., Florida
 Merlin Hamilton, Arizona

1965

Floyd S. Dubben, Jr., New York
 Emmett S. Jobe, Jr., Arizona
 R. Keith James, Oklahoma
 Marvin "Budd" Hobbs, Illinois

1966

Richard W. Engelbrecht, New York
 Gary L. Organ, Illinois
 Ralph G. "Buddy" Smith, Mississippi
 Frank Louis Albert, Jr., Washington

1967

David J. Mosher, New York
 William E. Falls, Missouri
 William T. Roberts, Georgia
 R. A. Kummer, Washington

1968

Joe Boyd Spencer, Oklahoma
 DeLane Ruess, Michigan
 Jack W. Gibbons, New York
 Michel L. Oakley, Oregon

1969

Oscar J. Manbeck, Pennsylvania
 John David Prah, Illinois
 Walter Terrell Hudson, Georgia
 Gary A. Wollweber, Washington

1970

Merrill Kelsay, Indiana
 Albert C. Wildes, Georgia
 Jay Brian Scharf, Oregon
 Robert Lee Weaver, Pennsylvania

1971

Lonney Eastvold, Minnesota
 Dennis A. Cariberg, New York
 Leroy Crawford, Oklahoma
 Irvin Joe Petsch, Wyoming

1972

David Galley, New York
 Bruce R. Hemmingsen, Iowa
 Robert E. Nash, Washington
 Billy Joe Holland, Mississippi

1973

William A. Sparrow, Georgia
 James Lee Harwood, Missouri
 Thomas W. Aaron, Pennsylvania
 August Michael Sachs, Washington

1974

Vernon Louis Rohrschell, Illinois
 Larry Thomas Day, Texas
 Wayne E. Vangraefschep, Colorado
 John R. Moyer, Pennsylvania

1975

Daniel Worcester, Kansas
 Richard C. Lapp, Colorado
 Michael Vaughn, Tennessee
 Roy Mitchell, North Carolina

1976

Timothy H. Amdahl, South Dakota
 Dwight S. Williams, Ohio
 Roger A. Meadows, Tennessee
 Douglas Bomiley, Washington

STAR AGRIBUSINESSMEN

NOTE: The Star Agribusinessman is listed first followed by the regional candidates for Star Agribusinessman.

1969

Ken Dunagan, Arizona
 Charles Sanford Postles, Jr., Delaware
 Roger Lee Phelps, Ohio
 Charlie Seidel, Jr., Texas

1970

Earl M. Weaver, Pennsylvania
 Jerry L. Williamson, Florida
 Merle Eugene Klotz, Ohio
 Lynn Allan Scott, Oregon

1971

Wayne Robert Morris, California
 Robert G. Timblin, Nebraska
 Lloyd John Wenger, Pennsylvania
 James E. Stone, Texas

1972

Edward Dennis Higley, Vermont
 David Emerson Plummer, Ohio
 Dan Hardison, Arizona
 Tyson Stephens, Georgia

1973

* Jack Rose, Nevada
 * Steven Redgate, Oklahoma
 Lloyd E. Lamb, New York
 Larry Gay, Missouri
 * Named Co-Winners by Judges.

1974

Ronald Dean Schwerdtfeger, Oklahoma
 David August Patke, Washington
 Jacob W. Musser, Pennsylvania
 Patrick N. Walen, Washington

1975

Bryce E. Westlake, Wyoming
 Joseph T. Mrugala, New York
 Ordel A. Stinson, Iowa
 Phil Redditt, Florida

1976

Tony V. Pollard, Alabama
 Wade Christensen, Oklahoma
 Lynn R. Groff, Pennsylvania
 Dennis W. Weis, Wisconsin

Advisory Council and Board of Directors

Members Representing States

(These members ordinarily served from July 1 to June 30.)

J. A. Guitteau, Washington 1931-32
 E. E. Gallup, Michigan 1931
 D. M. Clements, Tennessee 1931-35
 W. J. Weaver, New York 1931-34
 J. E. Hill, Illinois 1932, 1936-38
 J. A. McPhee, California 1933
 L. B. Pollom, Kansas 1933-35
 J. E. Border, Montana 1934-35
 H. O. Sampson, New Jersey 1935-38
 L. R. Davies, Colorado 1936-39
 S. M. Jackson, Louisiana 1936-41
 Earl Cooley, Oregon 1937, 1940
 L. D. Clements, Nebraska 1939
 H. C. Fetterolf, Pennsylvania 1939-41
 H. T. Hall, Iowa 1940-42
 Sam Hitchcock, Wyoming 1941
 R. A. Manire, Texas 1942-43
 R. A. Howard, Ohio 1942-43, 1949-50
 S. S. Richardson, Idaho 1942-43
 L. M. Sasman, Wisconsin 1943-44
 R. E. Cammack, Alabama 1944-45
 J. M. Lowe, West Virginia 1944-45
 A. W. Johnson, Montana 1944-45
 H. E. Nesman, Michigan 1945-46
 J. B. Perky, Oklahoma 1946-47
 Mark Nichols, Utah 1946-47
 R. D. Anderson, South Carolina 1948-49
 E. P. Hilton, Kentucky 1947-48

B. L. Brown, Washington 1948-49
 H. E. Little, New Hampshire 1949-50
 Elvin Downs, Utah 1950-51
 A. P. Fetherree, Mississippi 1950-51
 C. M. Humphrey, Missouri 1951-52
 H. N. Hunsicker, West Virginia 1951
 L. C. Dalton, New Mexico 1952-53
 G. H. Hurt, Texas 1952-53
 C. D. Watson, Vermont 1952-54
 H. E. Urton, South Dakota 1953-54
 John W. Bunten, Nevada 1954-55
 H. E. Wood, Florida 1954-55
 Warren G. Weiler, Ohio 1955-56
 H. M. McDonald, Maryland 1955-56
 Emory M. Howard, Idaho 1956-57
 J. C. Cannon, Alabama 1956
 George Sullards, Arkansas 1957-59
 Harold Duis, Nebraska 1957-58
 O. E. Kiser, New Jersey 1957
 Byron McMahon, California 1958-59
 Walter Jacoby, Connecticut 1958-60
 Harold B. Taylor, Indiana 1959-60
 Bob E. Taylor, Arizona 1960
 W. E. Gore, South Carolina 1960-61
 M. G. Linson, Colorado 1961
 H. R. Damisch, Illinois 1961-62
 H. E. Edwards, West Virginia 1961-62
 J. G. Bryant, Georgia 1962-63

T. Horii, Hawaii 1962-63
 N. D. Andrew, New Hampshire 1963-65
 C. C. Eustace, Kansas 1963-65
 T. L. Faulkner, Alabama 1964-65
 P. B. Kirk, Wyoming, 1964-65
 D. C. Aebischer, Wisconsin 1966-67
 W. H. Wayman, West Virginia 1966-67
 V. B. Hairr, North Carolina 1967-68
 D. E. Wilson, California 1967-68
 George Cochran, Minnesota 1968
 J. C. Fink, Pennsylvania 1968-70
 J. E. Dougan, Ohio 1969-71
 P. G. Chastain, South Carolina 1969
 C. H. Moore, Arizona 1969-70
 Harold Noakes, New York 1970-72
 F. R. Stover, South Carolina 1970
 J. L. Branch, Georgia 1971-72
 J. R. Peddicord, Nevada 1971-72
 Gerald Barton, Iowa 1972-73
 Philip A. Haight, Massachusetts 1972-73
 Ralph Dreessen, Oklahoma 1973-74
 Gordon Galbraith, Oregon 1973-74
 Don Erickson, North Dakota 1974-75
 Glenn W. Lewis, Maryland 1974-75
 Robert Crawley, Arkansas 1975-76
 Art Nelson, Washington 1975-76
 Dean Prochaska, Kansas 1976-77
 Martin L. Mitchell, New Hampshire 1976-77

Representing Office of Education

C. H. Lane 1937-43	H. F. Duis 1959-64
W. T. Spanton 1937-61	M. C. Garr 1961-71
J. H. Pearson 1937-46	Wm. Paul Gray 1964-66
D. M. Clements 1937-49	H. E. Edwards 1966-76
W. P. Beard 1941-42	J. A. Taft 1966-70
E. J. Johnson 1942-65	J. K. Bailey 1966
H. B. Swanson 1943-51	B. F. Rawls 1967-76
R. E. Naugher 1946-60	J. W. Warren 1967-76
A. W. Tenney 1949-58 1961-65	J. W. Lacey 1968-76
H. N. Hunsicker 1952-present	John Bunten 1974-76

National FFA Advisors served as chairmen of Advisory Council and Board of Directors.

National FFA Public Speaking Winners

1930 Edward Drace, Missouri	1946 Marshall Schirer, Kansas	1962 Gary Butler, Oklahoma
1931 Richard Hugh Conn, Massachusetts	1947 Donald Bakehouse, Minnesota	1963 John M. Mowrer, Missouri
1932 William Bagot Searson, South Carolina	1948 William Beverley Poff, Virginia	1964 Dean Ralph Brett, Washington
1933 Albert W. Richardson, Massachusetts	1949 Burton Bosch, Montana	1965 Sam Mizer, Virginia
1934 J. Phelon Malouf, Utah	1950 Herbert McFetridge, New York	1966 Gary R. Hatch, Arizona
1935 Mont Kenney, Utah	1951 Jon Greeneisen, Ohio	1967 Albert Carter, Virginia
1936 Kenneth Jack, West Virginia	1952 Bruce Ayers, Virginia	1968 Donald Pilkinton, Tennessee
1937 Jack Gunning, Wisconsin	1953 Philip Anderson, Jr., Arkansas	1969 Edward Bryan Hatchett, Jr., Kentucky
1938 Leslie Howard Standlee, California	1954 Dennis O'Keefe, Ohio	1970 Kevin Hall, Maryland
1939 James Wayne Poucher, Florida	1955 Liberato Viduya, Jr., Hawaii	1971 William J. Cofield, Alabama
1940 Douglas Charles Fisk, North Dakota	1956 Jim Borthwick, Iowa	1972 Dennis M. Smith, Kentucky
1941 R. L. Jones, Alabama	1957 Adin Hester, Oregon	1973 Neil Bowman, Arizona
1942 Kenneth Engle, Kansas	1958 Stuart Lamb, New York	1974 Randy Harris, New Mexico
1943 Howard Barlow, Utah	1959 Phil Rousseau, Washington	1975 Eddie Blizzard, Alabama
1944 Vincent Orr, Georgia	1960 Dennis H. Wood, Oregon	1976 Mark Sanborn, Ohio
1945 David Elk, New York	1961 Marvin Gibson, Tennessee	

National Board of Trustees Future Farmers of America Foundation

1944-1976

(Representing States)

1944-46 R. E. Cammack, Ohio	1948-49 W. F. Stewart, Ohio	1952-54 George H. Hurt, Texas	1957-58 S. D. McMillen, West Virginia
1944 Stanley S. Richardson, Idaho	1948-49 Bert L. Brown, Washington	1952-54 L. C. Dalton, New Mexico	1957-58 Emory M. Howard, Idaho
1944 Ralph Howard, Ohio	1948-49 R. D. Anderson, South Carolina	1953-55 Cola D. Watson, Vermont	1957 J. C. Cannon, Alabama (Deceased 2/2/57)
1944-46 Louis S. Sassman, Wisconsin	1949-50 Ralph L. Morgan, Oregon	1953-55 H. E. Urton, South Dakota	1957-59 George Sullards, Arkansas (Replaced J. C. Cannon, Alabama)
1945-46 H. C. Fetterolf, Pennsylvania	1949-50 T. G. Walters, Georgia	1954-55 Percy Kirk, Wyoming	1958-59 Marvin G. Linson, Colorado
1945-46 L. D. Klemmedson, Arizona	1949-50 Ralph A. Howard, Ohio	1954-56 G. R. Cochran, Minnesota	1958-59 Harold F. Duis, Nebraska
1945-46 Verd Peterson, South Carolina	1949-50 Earl H. Little, New Hampshire	1954-55 A. L. Teachey, North Carolina	1958 O. E. Kiser, New Jersey (Deceased 1/13/58)
1945-46 Harry E. Nesman, Michigan	1950-51 H. W. Deems, Nebraska	1955-56 W. Lyle Mowlds, Delaware	1959-60 Raymond C. Northup, Rhode Island
1945-46 A. W. Johnson, Montana	1950-51 R. C. S. Sutliff, New York	1955-56 J. W. Buntin, Nevada	1959-60 George W. Sledge, Wisconsin
1945-49 J. M. Lowe, West Virginia	1950-51 A. P. Fatherre, Mississippi	1955-56 H. W. Wood, Florida	1959-60 Byron J. McMahon, California (Second term—see 1947-48)
1947-48 Robert A. Manire, Texas	1950-51 Elvin Downs, Utah	1956-57 J. R. Cullison, Arizona	1959-60 Walter Jacoby, Connecticut (Replaced O. E. Kiser, N.J.)
1947-48 B. J. McMahon, California	1951-53 A. R. Bunker, Colorado	1956 V. G. Martin, Mississippi (Deceased 3/7/57)	1959-60 Walter Jacoby, Connecticut (Replaced O. E. Kiser, N.J.)
1947 H. M. Hamlin, Illinois	1951-53 F. B. Cole, Virginia	1956-57 Warren G. Weiler, Ohio	1959-61 Harold B. Taylor, Indiana
1947 I. B. Perky, Oklahoma	1951-52 H. N. Hunsicker, West Virginia	1956-57 H. M. McDonald, Maryland	1960-61 A. G. Bullard, North Carolina
1947-48 H. O. Sampson, New Jersey	1951-52 Carl Humphrey, Missouri	1957-59 J. L. Moss, Texas (Replaced V. G. Martin, Mississippi)	1960-61 Allen Lee, Oregon
1947 Mark Nichols, Utah	1952-53 J. B. Adams, Illinois	1957-58 Ernest L. DeAlton, North Dakota	1960-62 Jesse A. Taft, Massachusetts
1947-48 E. P. Hilton, Kentucky	1952-54 J. A. Snell, Maine		

1960-61 C. E. Bundy, Iowa	1966-67 R. H. Tolbert, Georgia	1970-71 M. H. Gundlach, Wisconsin—NVATA	1974-75 Marvin D. Thompson, Wisconsin
1960-62 W. E. Gore, South Carolina	1966-67 D. C. Aebischer, Wisconsin	1971-72 J. L. Branch, Georgia	1974-75 Don Erickson, North Dakota
1960-61 Bob E. Taylor, Arizona	1966-67 W. H. Waymna, West Virginia	1971-72 A. B. Cordes, Wisconsin	1975-76 Robert Crawley, Arkansas
1961-62 H. E. Edwards, West Virginia (Filled W. Jacoby's unexpired term) (Mr. Jacoby resigned 1/1/61)	1967-68 H. W. Gadda, South Dakota	1971-72 F. G. McCormick, Arizona	1975 Vanik S. Eaddy, Alabama (Resigned)
1962-65 Ralph W. Edwards, Idaho	1967-68 George W. Lange, New Jersey	1971-72 G. D. McDowell, Kentucky—NVATA	1975-76 Luther Lalum, Montana—NVATA
1962-63 R. W. Montgomery, Alabama	1967-68 V. B. Hairr, North Carolina	1971 Harold L. Noakes, New York	1975-76 Art Nelson, Washington
1962 Herbert R. Damish, Illinois	1967-68 D. E. Wilson, California	1971-72 J. R. Peddicord, Nevada	1975-76 Ed Stich, Nebraska
1962 Marvin G. Linson, Colorado	1968-70 Carlos H. Moore, Arizona	1972-73 Wm. H. Annis, New Hampshire	1975-76 Jasper S. Lee, Mississippi (Replaced Van S. Eaddy)
1963 Wallace E. Elliott, Maine	1968-69 O. L. Snowden, Mississippi	1972-73 Gerald F. Barton, Iowa	1976-77 John Murray, Minnesota—NVATA
1963-66 Harold M. Byram, Michigan	1968 G. R. Cochran, Minnesota	1972-73 Guy E. Cain, West Virginia	1976-78 Martin L. Mitchell, New Hampshire
1963-65 Neal D. Andrews, New Hampshire	1969 B. C. Ashcraft, Montana	1972-73 Philip H. Haight, Massachusetts	1976-78 Dean Prochaska, Kansas
1963 J. G. Bryant, Georgia	1969 R. C. Butler, West Virginia	1972-73 Howard E. Teal, New York—NVATA	1976-78 Bill Smith, New Jersey
1963-65 C. C. Eustace, Kansas	1969-71 J. P. Clouse, Indiana	1973-74 Billy L. Conner, Texas	
1963 T. Horrie, Hawaii	1969-70 P. G. Chastain, South Carolina	1973-74 Ralph Dreessen, Oklahoma	
1964-65 H. C. Colvett, Tennessee	1969-71 J. E. Dougan, Ohio	1973-74 Gordon Galbraith, Oregon	
1964-66 C. W. Hill, New York	1969-70 J. C. Fink, Pennsylvania	1973-74 Francis N. Murphy, South Dakota—NVATA	
1964-66 T. L. Faulkner, Alabama	1970 R. C. Butler, West Virginia	1973-74 Leon A. Wagley, New Mexico	
1964-66 Percey Kirk, Wyoming (Second term—see 1954-55)	1970 C. W. Reed, Alabama	1974-75 Gordon Hall, Arizona	
1966-67 Paul J. Foster, Colorado	1970-71 J. T. Davis, California	1974-75 Bill Harrison, Oklahoma—NVATA	
	1970 Wm. G. Smith, New Jersey—NVATA	1974-75 Glenn W. Lewis, Maryland	

**(Representing Office of Education
Washington, D.C.)**

1944-61 W. T. Spanton, President, Washington, D.C.	1944-61 A. W. Tenney, Secretary, Washington, D.C.	1947-60 R. E. Naugher, Washington, D.C.	1957-60 R. E. Bass, Treasurer, Virginia (Deceased 2/19/61)
1944-46 J. H. Pearson, Washington, D.C.	1962-65 A. W. Tenney, President, Washington, D.C.	1953-65 H. N. Hunsicker, Washington, D.C.	1960-63 Harold F. Duis, Washington, D.C.
1944-49 D. M. Clements, Washington, D.C.	1944-57 D. J. Howard, Treasurer, Virginia (Deceased 2/23/57)	1966-Current H. N. Hunsicker, President, Washington, D.C.	1960-65 M. C. Gaar, Washington, D.C.
1944-63 E. J. Johnson, Washington, D.C.	1944-52 H. B. Swanson, Washington, D.C.	1957-76 Wm. Paul Gray, Secretary, Washington, D.C.	1961-Current J. M. Campbell, Treasurer, Virginia
1944 C. H. Lane, Washington, D.C.			

**Office of Education
Regional Representatives**

1966 J. K. Bailey, Colorado
1966-69—1972-74 H. E. Edwards, Illinois
1966-69 M. C. Gaar, Georgia
1966-69 Jesse A. Taft, Massachusetts
1967-68—1970-71—1973-75 Byron F. Rawls, Missouri
1968-69—1971-72—1976-77 J. W. Lacey, Colorado
1968—1970—1975-76 J. W. Warren, Pennsylvania

Representing Business & Industry

1970-71 L. W. Davies, Wisconsin
1970 G. J. Varnes, Indiana
1970 S. W. White, Ohio
1971-72 Fred Stines, Iowa
1971-72 J. E. Streetman, Illinois
1972-73 Malcolm McVie, Indiana
1974-75 Edward F. Carter, Ohio
1974 Robert W. Walstan, Illinois
1975-76 Robert W. Engle, Ohio
1975-76 Mary George Jordan Waite, Alabama
1976-77 D. A. Phillipson, Michigan

**National FFA Presidents
Ex-Officio Without Vote**

1970 H. W. Birdwell, Oklahoma
1971 J. Dan Lehmann, Illinois
1972 Tim J. Burke, Iowa
1973 Dwight O. Seegmiller, Iowa

**National FFA Presidents
With Vote**

1974 G. Mark Mayfield, Kansas
1975 Alpha E. Trivette, Virginia
1976 Bobby Tucker, Texas
1977 James Bode, Oklahoma

FFA Staff in 1977

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FFA Foundation, Inc.

Executive Director, National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, Donald N. McDowell; *Assistant Executive Director*, Bernie Staller.

FFA Movies

Many movies have been made about the FFA. They are used to inform the public about the FFA organization and its activities. They are effective as teaching devices and they provide motivation for participation in FFA activities.

Movies about the FFA and agriculture are popular with vocational agriculture students. Teachers of vocational agriculture are among the largest users of motion picture films related to agriculture.

A partial list of the major movies about the FFA, which have been used throughout the nation, follow:

1. The FFA Celebrates at Ten

This movie was produced by the FFA and features the 10th Anniversary Convention of the organization.

2. The Green Hand

It was produced about 1935 by the Sears Foundation. It was one of the first movies that presented the comprehensive program of the FFA.

3. That Inspiring Task

This movie was produced in color about 1940 by the Sears Foundation. It featured the opportunities in farming and the values of membership in the FFA.

4. Farmer of Tomorrow

This movie was produced in Pennsylvania by General Motors Corporation. The movies presented the experiences of FFA member Richard Waybright from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It was produced in 1952.

5. How to Raise a Boy

This movie was produced in 1955 by E. I. duPont Company for use on the Cavalcade of America television series which was sponsored by duPont. The story shows how the FFA and vocational agriculture motivate members to great achievement by education and by giving great responsibility to them.

6. The Silver Anniversary of FFA

This movie presented the glamorous events which took place at the Silver Anniversary Convention. It was produced by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company and according to surveys made it was seen by 25 million people.

7. Here and There With the FFA

This movie was produced by the Venard Organization about 1955 and showed some of the varied activities of FFA chapters throughout the United States.

8. Star Farmers of America

Starting in 1958 and continuing for many years the Keystone Steel and Wire Company sponsored the production of a movie featuring the programs of the four Star Farmers of the FFA. The last of these films was produced in 1969.

9. Focus on Forty

This film was produced in 1968 at the FFA's 40th National Convention. One of the most complete documentations of the National FFA Convention ever produced, it featured many of the special activities that took place at the organization's 40th anniversary convention.

10. A Step Ahead

This movie, which was produced about 1958 by the New Holland Company, interpreted the value of agricultural training as preparation for the broad field of agriculture.

11. The Challenge Leadership, the Answer FFA

This movie was sponsored by the New Idea Farm Machinery Company and was produced in 1965. The film emphasized leadership and was built around the life of Nels Ackerson, who became national president of the FFA.

12. The Inheritors

Produced in 1970, this film featured the 1969-70 National Officer team in a dialogue about the FFA organization and its role in the lives of vocational agriculture students. It was filmed in Alexandria, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

13. Stars Over America

In 1972 Ciba-Geigy Corporation assumed the sponsorship of an annual film depicting the achievements in farming and agribusiness of the four regional Star Farmers and Star Agribusinessmen of America. Filming is done on the farms and in the agribusinesses of the eight regional Star Farmers and Star Agribusinessmen of America.

14. Of Learning and the Land

This film produced in 1977 outlines the history of the FFA from its founding in 1928 to the 50th Anniversary in 1977 and 1978. It includes many old scenes from farms and vocational agriculture classes of the 1930's and shows 50 years of growth and development of FFA.

15. Build Our American Communities

Produced in 1971 in cooperation with the Farmers Home Administration of the USDA, this was the first film produced to describe the role of FFA chapters in community development. It features national FFA officers describing the community development process and discusses the need for young people to be involved in making their communities better places in which to live and work.

16. The Game Plan—FFA Tackles Community Development

This film was produced in 1975 to show the process of becoming involved in the community through the Building Our American Communities activities. This film compares a chapter BOAC team effort to that of a football team.

17. Agriculture's New Generation

This film scheduled to be released during the FFA's 50th anniversary shows and tells the aim and purposes of the FFA. It features FFA members who tell what membership in the organization means to young people preparing for careers in agriculture.

Copies of these films are in the FFA Archives at the National FFA Center.

What They Say About FFA

"When I shake hands and look into the eyes of these young FFA Officers it gives me continued faith in the future of America. Two years ago I addressed your organization at its National Convention in Kansas City and I have fond memories of that occasion."

Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States

"We firmly believe that membership in FFA leads to an enriched life from having had this experience. The FFA Foundation provides the opportunity for business and individuals to support the incentive award programs which motivate deserving FFA members. We of Firestone are proud to be a part of this program."

Raymond Firestone
Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer
Firestone Tire and
Rubber Company

"As a past National President of the Future Farmers of America I have seen the good that FFA is doing for young people throughout the country. It is a vibrant organization that is helping its young members grow in character, learn responsible citizenship and develop their leadership abilities. We are proud to be a part of supporting this outstanding youth organization."

Donald L. Staheli
President
Allied Mills, Inc.

"My FFA experiences are among the most valuable of my life. There is no finer youth organization in America. Through leadership development, citizenship training, and character building FFA is making a significant and lasting contribution to the betterment of our Nation and the world."

Orval Hansen
Member of U. S. Congress
Idaho Falls, Idaho

"The work of the Future Farmers of America in training and encouraging young men and women to seek agricultural and related careers has never been more relevant. American agriculture needs young, smart, aggressive leadership if agricultural people are to control their own industry in the years ahead."

Earl L. Butz
U. S. Secretary of Agriculture

"The heart and fiber of American free enterprise is embodied in the principles and activities of the FFA. As future leaders and enlightened citizens of our country, FFA members benefit from participating in a program based on awards given for achievements evaluated by competitive performance."

A. Malcolm McVie
President
Elanco Products Company

"The leadership abilities developed through membership in the Future Farmers of America are vital to the future of our country. This highly successful youth organization is effectively teaching the qualities basic to success in life and business today."

Robert D. Ray
Governor
State of Iowa

"FFA serves the Nation through its practical program of personal development for tomorrow's leaders. We believe that an investment in our young people through the FFA Foundation is a sound investment in our Nation's future."

Edward S. Donnell
President and Chief
Executive Officer
Montgomery Ward
and Company

"Were it not for the experience gained and the leadership taught in the FFA, I would not be in the U. S. Congress today. Each year the FFA gives thousands of boys and girls confidence in a field they know and an opportunity to apply this confidence in a variety of areas in and out of agriculture. To invest in the FFA is to invest in the future."

Jerry Litton
Member of Congress
Chillicothe, Missouri

"The FFA is a modern, progressive, versatile organization that prepares today's youth to compete in our fast-paced technological society. But most important, it still teaches the dignity of work, importance of the individual, and protection of the free enterprise system—basic principles that it taught me several years ago in rural Texas."

A. C. "Dick" Weekly
General Manager
Houston Livestock Show
and Rodeo

"I am proud to have been a product of the FFA program. It nurtures the incentive and self-confidence for the vocational student to put into practice the classroom experience."

Richard C. Waybright
Founding Stockholder
and Manager
Mason Dixon Farms, Inc.
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

