

Chapter Chats

Published by

The Virginia Association, Future Farmers of America

The State Organization of Students Studying Vocational Agriculture in the High Schools of Virginia

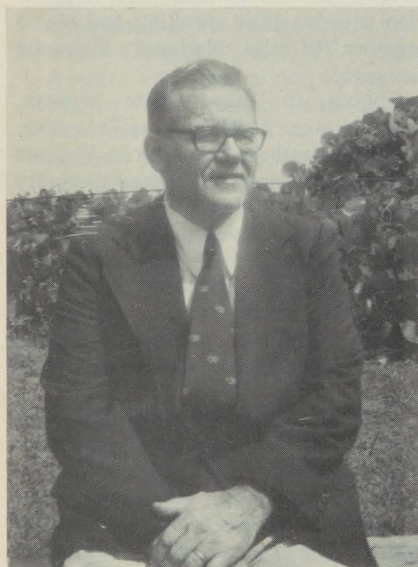


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Number 2

Virginia FFA Salutes Doug Rinker National President 1979-80 and W. C. Dudley Retired Assistant State Supervisor



William C. Dudley Retires

William C. Dudley who served as Assistant Supervisor of Agricultural Education in the Virginia Department of Education since 1946, retired October 31, 1980.

Mr. Dudley, 65, and a native of Montgomery County, has devoted his entire professional career of 44 years to public education and service in Virginia. Following graduation from Christiansburg High School, he attended Virginia Tech where he earned the bachelors degree in agricultural education. He later received the masters degree from the University of Virginia.

He taught vocational agriculture in Amherst County for five years. He then became teacher of agriculture in the Appomattox and Pamplin High Schools where he taught until 1946. In April, 1946, he was appointed area supervisor of agricultural education for Southside Virginia with headquarters at Appomattox.

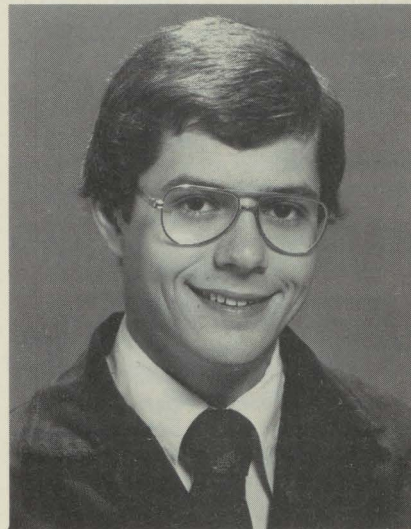
In 1967, he was named "Man of the Year in Forestry" by the Virginia Forestry Association. In 1973 the national organization of FFA awarded him their highest honor, the Honorary American Farmer Degree.

Dudley is married to the former Margaret Ligon of Appomattox County. They have one son, W. C. Dudley, III, and one grandson, W. C. Dudley, IV.

He is a deacon in the Edon Baptist Church, past Master of the Appomattox Masonic Lodge and past President of the Appomattox Lions Club.

Dudley worked closely with the FFA on the local, area and state levels. He trained and worked with State FFA officer teams for many years and served as the advisor during State FFA Conventions. Mr. and Mrs. Dudley hosted State and National officers in their home on countless occasions.

During a special presentation at the State FFA Convention in June 1980, J. M. Campbell, State Supervisor of Agriculture Education, called Dudley one of the "Giants in Agriculture Education" in Virginia. All of us in Virginia are grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of this giant and wish for him and Mrs. Dudley the happiest retirement possible.



"...ALWAYS TRIED"

The following is the text of Doug Rinker's retiring address delivered to the last session of the 53rd National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

"One of the rarest things that man ever does is to do the best he can." Josh Billings wrote that in the 19th Century. At times it still applies today—maybe it is the answer to decreased productivity in our industrial sector, self-centeredness in our lifestyles or possibly it is the answer to America's decline in favoritism among our neighbors throughout the world? It may be. But I can tell you after the thousands of miles and hundreds of visits; that these assumed answers to America's few problems do not and will not apply to the people I have been blessed to meet this year.

Sure, our nation has her problems, but I've been to other countries and I know she is still strong and will become stronger because of the generation I am proud to be a part of. It is because of this

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THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE FUTURE FARMERS

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Meet Your State Officers

by Matt Yeatman, State Reporter

The 1980-81 Virginia State Officer team is very unique in that it combines many talents. This is a hard working team that has set many goals for this year.

The team is led by President Lynn Koontz from Harrisonburg, Virginia. Lynn has always dreamed of being State President. He lives on a dairy farm and was the 1980 State Dairy Proficiency Award winner.

The Appalachian Area Vice President is Richard M. Gibson from Rocky Gap. Richard is now employed in his family business of building construction and he is also a partner with his father in a small beef, crop and vegetable operation. Richard is very active in his church where he is a Sunday school teacher and the church bus driver.

The Blue Ridge Area Vice President is Paul Ashworth from Danville. Two of Paul's hobbies are hunting and singing in a gospel quartet with his sister, cousin and friend. He is very interested in politics and has been a campaign worker for several different candidates the last few years. Paul is a senior at Tunstall High School.

Andy Smith from Ruther Glen is the Central Area Vice President. Andy is the square dancer of the group. He also likes collecting antiques, hunting and skiing. After two years at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College he plans to attend Virginia Tech and auctioneering school.

Chris Depta is this year's Eastern Area Vice President. She comes from Tappahannock, Virginia. Chris is a newcomer to our state from New York. Her brother was the 1976-77 New York State FFA President. Chris is also very active in the FFA, having competed on the state level twice with the parliamentary team and she placed 4th in the Virginia State public speaking contest in 1980. Chris teaches Sunday school for her church. During the week she attends Rappahannock Community College.

The Northern Area Vice President, is Ricky Davis from Stuarts Draft, Virginia. He is a freshman at Virginia Tech., majoring in Agriculture Education. Rick loves the country and the mountains. He is very active in his spare time with his hobbies of snow skiing, water skiing, working with beef cattle, 4-wheeling and listening to country music.

Darrell Moyer is the Southside Vice President from Amelia. Darrell has been very active in the FFA, holding the offices of Jr. Vice President, Jr. Presi-

dent, Sr. Secretary, Sr. Vice President and Sr. President. He has also been involved in judging contests such as dairy, livestock, crop, forestry, rifle safety and tractor driving. Darrell lives on a dairy farm and is a freshman at Virginia Tech majoring in Dairy Science. In the future he would like to come back and work on the farm and perhaps, become a rodeo star.

This year's State Secretary is Jim Lantz of Middletown, Virginia. Jim is currently a sophomore at Virginia Tech, majoring in Pre-Veterinary Science and Agricultural Education. He graduated in 1979 and was a member of the James Wood FFA chapter. He was runner-up in the state public speaking contest in 1979.

Jim lives on a small "weekend farm" operation that produces show cattle, hogs and poultry. In his spare time he likes to fish and 4-wheel in his jeep. He also enjoys public speaking and was a member of the National Forensics League.

Bobbie Jo Bray, from Moneta, Virginia is the 1980-81 State Treasurer. She is presently a freshman at Virginia Tech, majoring in Pre-Veterinary Science. She is also a member of the Tech Corps of Cadets. Bobbie Jo has been active in the FFA, placing third in the state public speaking contest in 1980. She loves horses, swimming, reading, running, camping, playing softball, farming and most of all, talking.

This year's State Reporter is Matthew Yeatman of Forest, Virginia. Matt has taken a year off from college so that he may give more of his time to his duties of reporter. He has been very active in FFA serving as President of his chapter and secretary of his federation. Last year he tied as first high individual in the state crop judging contest. He has been active outside the FFA in such activities as wrestling, football, showing cattle and restoring an old pick-up truck. Matt lives on a small "weekend farm" where he and his family board horses.

Serving as State Sentinel is Thomas Gale of Lancaster, Virginia. Thomas is 17-years-old and a senior at Lancaster High School. He lives and works on his family's 700-acre farm and works for Gill's Flying and Spraying Service. He is a student pilot. Thomas's hobbies are hunting, fishing and flying. In the future he plans to receive his commercial flying license and become an aerial applicator. He also plans to attend Chowan College and Virginia Tech majoring in agronomy.

National Chapter Award Program

Superior performance in activities involving leadership, scholarship and community service have qualified five of Virginia's most active chapters of the FFA to receive that organization's National Gold Emblem Award.

Ceremonies conferring the award on those select few, chosen from over 8,000 FFA chapters in the nation, were held in Kansas City at the National FFA Convention.

The FFA's National Chapter Award encourages FFA chapters and members to actively participate in a wide variety of educational activities in vocational agriculture/FFA. In addition to the "Gold Emblem" presentation, 10 chapters received the "Silver Emblem" award.

Chapters earn the award for their activities in 11 areas of chapter involvement prescribed by the National FFA Organization. To be eligible for the National Chapter Award, FFA chapters submit an application listing their chapter's performance in the following 11 areas: supervised agricultural experience programs; cooperative buying, selling and assistance to members; community service; leadership development; sound programs of earnings, savings, and investments; proper conduct of

meetings; scholarship; recreation; public relations; State and National activities; and Alumni relations.

Chapters named for the National Chapter Award receive a special plaque or, in the case of those who have previously received a plaque, a spur for attachment to the plaque. The awards are provided by the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Virginia chapters recognized this year are:

Gold Emblem: Caroline
James Wood
Broadway
Turner Ashby
Carroll County

Silver Emblem:
Essex
Jefferson Forest
Montevideo
Intermediate
Gretna Jr.
Pulaski County
Appomattox Sr.
William Campbell
Stonewall Jackson Jr.
Tunstall
Patrick Henry
(Ashland)

Nottoway Sr. And Montevideo are Gold in BOAC

Outstanding community action efforts by Nottoway Senior and Montevideo led to their being named recipients of the Gold Emblem Award in the FFA's Building Our American Communities Program during the National FFA Convention in November.

BOAC Awards were presented to 166 of America's over 8,000 chapters during the Thursday morning session of the FFA's 1980 National Convention. The BOAC program is sponsored by R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, and honors chapter efforts to make their communities better places to live and work.

Fifty-one chapters with the most comprehensive community action programs were presented National Gold Emblem Awards, the top award in the BOAC program. One hundred and fifteen FFA chapters received National Silver and

Bronze Awards for their efforts in community development.

BOAC is an effort by the FFA to involve its members in activities to improve job opportunities and living conditions in their communities. Through instruction in the vocational agriculture classroom and practical experience in FFA community action projects, the FFA is seeking to further develop practical skills through community development action.

The program is also designed to develop leadership ability in FFA members by encouraging them to take an active role in the community. In the classroom, FFA members learn the community development process, survey community needs and wants, identify high priority projects and seek to cooperate with other community groups and individuals.

Receiving awards from Virginia were:

Gold Emblem - Nottoway Sr.
Montevideo
Silver Emblem - Nelson Jr.
Leslie Walton Jr.
W. R. Legge Jr.
Blackstone Jr.

Swine Day

Submitted by: Richard Jones,
Appomattox FFA

The annual FFA Swine Field Day was held at Wilson's Landing in Appomattox on Oct. 2. Approximately 260 FFA members and guests from around the area attended the event.

Richard Jones, Appomattox Senior FFA president, welcomed all members and guests. Dr. McInnis from VPI showed a series of slides on herd health procedure and demonstrated the methods of vaccinating swine. Jonathan Pickett, an Appomattox student, showed a filmstrip on castration of hogs and then he and the Appomattox Ag. production class demonstrated on pigs supplied by Wilson's Landing.

Bill Jones, with Central Fidelity Bank presented a talk on record systems and management for a commercial swine operation, as well as the future outlook of agriculture economics.

Barney Allen and Frank Sweet, both VPI Extension Agents, then discussed selecting swine for breeding stock, pointing out desirable features.

The Appomattox Senior FFA prepared and served lunch. Each person present went on a guided tour of the advanced facilities at Wilson's Landing. A swine judging contest was then held in the sale barn. The first, second, and third place teams were respectively: Randolph Henry, Staunton River, and Greene Co.

Central Fidelity Bank supplied all prizes for the judging contest and rain gauges for all present. The FFA thanks all those who attended and assisted with this event and expresses special thanks to John Wilson, who has allowed use of his facilities for the past four years.

New Kent is Active

Submitted by: Daniel Brown, Reporter

We have donated \$50 for the WRVA Shoe Fund Drive. We also contributed to the New Kent High School Thanksgiving Food Drive with a total of \$50 and some canned goods. Also, our chapter built toys for needy children in the area for Christmas presents. We have been doing this for quite a while. We completed our annual fruit sale and did very well. Last of all, we contributed \$25 for the International Greenweek which was to send the present FFA president on an overseas trip.

See is Regional Poultry Winner

John Edward See, of the Broadway FFA chapter, is the 1980 winner of the Eastern Region Poultry Production Proficiency Award. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Veston See of Criders, Virginia, John is 10% owner of the family broiler business located in the Shenandoah Valley.

The operation marketed over 340,000 broilers in 1979, that had a total weight of 1,335,163 lbs. John also owns 10% of the buildings and equipment required to run the expanding business. Record keeping is essential in the broiler business and See is proud of the complete and accurate records that show the efficiency of his broiler enterprise. His feed cost per pound of gain is 37.5 cents, average weight of market bird is 3.94 lbs. and livability record is 97.24 percent. See is responsible for the

maintenance and repair of the feeding, watering and ventilation systems. He keeps a close eye on sanitation and health conditions in the flock and also works with the family sheep and swine operations. Because the broilers are grown on contract, See must manage his costs and health program carefully to get the highest premium for his birds.

The Poultry Production Proficiency Award is sponsored by the General Fund of the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Applicants for the award must be involved in activities and enterprises requiring the application of classroom lessons in vocational agriculture to the profitable management of a poultry operation. Requirements at the chapter level include maintenance of a complete set of records including income and expenses, an inventory of poultry and related equipment owned by the student, a financial statement and a good knowledge of the economics of poultry production.

Brian Hayes Best in Creed Speaking

Brian Hayes, Amelia Junior, was the winner of the second annual Southside Area FFA Creed Speaking Contest held at Randolph-Henry High School, December 4. Creed speaking is an FFA leadership activity for first-year Future Farmers of America members.

Contestants are required to recite the FFA Creed and respond to questions on the meaning of the organization's creed. Brian Powers, Liberty, was runner-up. Fay Toombs, Charlotte Central Middle; L.T. Guthrie, William Campbell Middle; and Tommy Hendricks, Bluestone Sr.; finished third, fourth, and fifth respectively.

Judges were O.G. Laughon, Staunton River; M.E. May, Monelison Jr., T.H. Jenkins, Blackstone Jr.; L.M. White, Buckingham Jr.; and Eleanor Mills, Bluestone Middle.

M.L. Bailey, instructor of agricultural education in the Randolph-Henry High School, was in charge of local arrangements.

Dates to Remember for 1981

February 21-28—National FFA Week
 March 21—State Parliamentary Procedure Contest
 March 28—State FFA Alumni Meeting
 April 11-12—State FFA Executive Committee Meeting Virginia Tech
 April 23-24—State FFA Advisory Council Meeting
 April 29-May 1—State Agriculture Education Staff Conference-Blacksburg
 May 2—Invitational Soils Contest Virginia Tech
 June 8—Washington Conference Program begins
 June 16-19—State FFA Convention-Virginia Tech
 June 22—FFA-FHA Camping Seasons begins-Smithfield
 July 20-24—State FFA Leadership Camp-Smithfield
 July 27-31—Washington Conference for State Presidents Washington, D.C.
 August 3-8—State Vocational Teachers' Conference Norfolk
 September 24-October 4—State Fair of Virginia-Richmond
 November 11-14—National FFA Convention-Kansas City
 December 21-23—State FFA Executive Committee Meeting Richmond

Virginia FFA Teams Perform Well: Broadway Wins National Poultry

All seven of Virginia's FFA Judging Teams performed well during the National FFA Convention in Kansas city, November 12-14, 1980. The Broadway Poultry Judging team surpassed 35 other teams to capture the National Championships for the second time. Terry Armentrout, Vickie Keplinger and Norlan Biller were recognized during an awards breakfast on Friday,

November 14 and the winners were recognized again during the morning general session. The team was coached by J.E. Hively, FFA advisor at Broadway High School. Biller placed third in individual scoring receiving a gold rating. Armentrout and Keplinger also received gold ratings.

A summary of all seven teams follows

CONTEST	TEAM	PLACING	MEMBERS	PLACING
Agriculture Mechanics	Carroll County (C.W. Combs, Adv.)	Silver	James Beamer	Silver
			Gary Larrowe	Silver
Dairy Judging	Wilson Memorial (John Flora, Adv.)	Bronze	Marshall Elson (Blacksburg)	Gold
			Randy Brower	Bronze
			Alan Grove	Silver
Farm Business Management	James Wood (R.B. Harper, Adv.)	Gold (2nd)	Allen Layman (Franklin Co.)	
			John Simpson	Gold
			David Omph	Silver
Floriculture	James Wood (A.T. Andruzzi, Adv.)	Silver	Jeff Wagner (Ft. Defiance)	Gold
			Ellen Roinstead	Gold
			Betsy Gano	Silver
Livestock Judging	Buffalo Gap (E.D. Reeves, Adv.)	Gold	Kevin Shipman	Silver
			Robbie Reeves	Gold
			A. Bartenslager	Silver
Poultry	Broadway (J.E. Hively, Adv.)	Gold (1st)	Todd Beck	Silver
			Norlan Biller	Gold (3rd)
			Vickie Keplinger	Gold
			Terry Armentrout	Gold

Dalton National Winner

Kenneth Owen Dalton is the 1980 winner of the National Fruit and/or Vegetable Production Award. As national winner he received \$500 and an expense paid trip to Europe sponsored by the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Dalton, of Meadows of Dan, is a member of the Carroll County FFA chapter. He is the 18 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Owen D. Dalton.

He did not grow up on a farm, but he has utilized his vocational agriculture training and work experience on a neighboring farm to establish a commercial vegetable operation. He began his farming program with a small acreage of shell beans. With the help of his advisor, he obtained a youth loan from the Farmers Home Administration to purchase equipment to expand into cabbage production. He purchased a tractor, seedling transplanter and cultivating and harvesting equipment. His first crop averaged 19,000 lbs/acre. Soil conservation techniques such as strip cropping and winter cover crops increased his yield to 30,000 lbs/acre the following year. This year, he decreased the spacing between rows from 36" to 18" adding a "third row" of plants, reducing the land required which makes more efficient use of fertilizer, labor and spray materials.

The Fruit and/or Vegetable Production Proficiency Award is sponsored by the Briggs & Stratton Corporation of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Students who apply for the award must be involved in programs that give practical experiences in the production, marketing and services associated with the production of fruit and/or vegetables. To earn the chapter award, students must list experiences in fruit and/or vegetable production, income earned from these activities, an inventory of equipment or other assets owned, and other records necessary for the horticulture business.



Kenneth Dalton is congratulated by Ms. Charlotte Schield, Consultant to Briggs & Stratton Corporation at the National FFA Convention.

Arc Welding Awards

The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation has announced the winners of the 1980 Arc Welding Awards for school shop students. James Wood and Loudoun County High Schools have been awarded prizes for the projects submitted for competition.

Second place in the National Grand Awards went to Doug Wallace of the Loudoun County FFA Chapter for his Portable Cattle Squeeze. He was given a check for \$400. Loudoun County High School was awarded \$200 for a School Award to be used for school improvement projects.

In Region II competition, first place in the mechanical category was awarded to John Simpson and Gary Keplinger of James Wood. They received \$200 as regional winners for their Hydraulic Log Splitter project. In addition, John Nichols and Joe Snapp were honored as second place winners in the Region II agricultural category for their Dual Purpose Chisel Plow and Land Leveler. They received \$150.

The Lincoln Arc Welding Awards are given each year in recognition of school shop projects designed and built by students. Entries are due by June 1, 1981. For further information, write the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation at P.O. Box 17035, Cleveland, Ohio 44117.

10 Plus Chapters

Is yours a "10 Plus Chapter?" Did your membership increase this year over last year? Is every agriculture student in your school a member of the FFA?

If your chapter has at least ten more members than last year, you qualify for a pennant recognizing your chapter as a "10 Plus" program. The pennant should hang proudly in the FFA/Vo. Ag. classroom as proof of increasing membership in your chapter. If you qualify, you need do nothing except submit the FFA membership roster, which most chapters have already done. The National FFA Center will compare your membership with last year and send the pennant and a letter of congratulations.

Chapters with at least 100% membership will also receive letters of congratulations from the National FFA Center.

On the national scene, as of December 10, 1980, 492 chapters were officially "10 Plus" chapters. There were 403 "10 minus" chapters and 1,448 chapters had 100% membership. Where does yours stand?

The National FFA Convention

by Matt Yeatman, State Reporter

This year the National Convention was held November 12-14, 1980. The convention was more exciting than ever. The Virginia delegation took three buses to the convention. On the way they stopped in St. Louis, where members had a chance to tour the "Gateway to the West," the Gateway Arch.

Upon arrival in Kansas City the Virginia members checked into the Hotel Muehlebach. Members were overwhelmed by the friendliness of the people in Kansas City and by the number of states at the convention. Members had a chance to meet and talk to FFA members from as far away as Hawaii and Alaska.

After a vespers program, the convention was opened with an official ceremony and a welcome by National President, Doug Rinker. Virginia was prouder than ever as Doug effectively lead the 53rd National Convention with over twenty-two thousand members listening to every word he said.

Meetings for the delegates were held throughout the convention. The delegates determined changes in National Constitution and Bylaws for the coming years. Virginia's three delegates were State President Lynn Koontz, Secretary Jim Lantz and Past President Tim Gano.

During the convention, national contests were held. Teams participated from all over the country. There were many tours and programs for the members to attend as well. One highlight of the convention was the National Agriculture Career Show, with displays of various businesses and careers from all over the nation. Another display was the Hall of States.

The convention closed with Doug Rinker's retiring address and the installation of the new National Officers. This year's new National President is Mark Herndon of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This concluded a busy and exciting week that will never be forgotten by any member who attended the 53rd National FFA Convention.

Chapters Given Safety Awards

Six chapters from Virginia were recognized during the National FFA Convention for their work in promotion of safety in their communities. The six chapters were selected as state winners during the State FFA Convention in June.

Three chapters received a silver rating and three received a bronze rating. Sponsored jointly by the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute of Chicago and Dow Chemical U.S.A. of Midland, Michigan, through the National FFA Foundation, the awards were presented on Wednesday, November 13.

The chapters recognized this year participated in a wide range of safety activities including: farm and home safety surveys, auto and farm equipment safety inspections, promotion and sale of slow moving vehicle signs, safe corn harvest campaigns, establishment of rural fire districts, programs to il-

lustrate safety procedures in the use of farm chemicals and many other farm and home safety projects.

The FFA Chapter Safety Award is one of three awards recognizing chapter participating in activities of national significance. It is designed to increase awareness of safety practices through classroom instruction and educational activities. Each year accidents on the farm and in the home exact a tragic toll of death, destruction, and mutilation among rural and urban families. The FFA Safety Program is designed to make students aware of the causes of accidents and how they can be prevented.

Virginia's six chapters were:

Caroline	Silver
Gretna Jr.	Silver
Patrick Henry (Ashland)	Silver
Essex	Bronze
Tunstall	Bronze
Carroll County	Bronze

Cupp Wins Jr. Speaking Contest

Andrea Cupp, of the Montevideo Intermediate FFA chapter is the 1980 winner of the Junior Prepared Public Speaking Contest. She had previously been named winner of the Northern Area Contest.

Other area winners were:

Appalachian: Myra Newman, Hillsville Int.

Blue Ridge: Lawrence Woodson, Blairs Jr.

Central: Martha Purvis, Nelson Jr.

Eastern: Jack De Shazo, Essex

Southside: Elizabeth Hogan, Charlotte Central

Denton is Extemporaneous Winner

Robin Denton, of the Patrick Henry chapter in Hanover County, is the 1980 State winner in the Extemporaneous Speaking Contest. Denton, a Senior member at Patrick Henry High School represented the Central Area. She was named winner during the State FFA Convention in June.

Other area winners were:

Appalachian: Dirk Davis, Carroll County

Blue Ridge: Paul Ashworth, Tunstall

Eastern: Brian Campbell, Gloucester

Northern: George Bowers, Central

Southside: Quinton Wilson, Jefferson Forest

Broadway FFA Hears Game Warden

Mr. Ronald Wilfong, Rockingham County game warden, presented an interesting talk on hunting laws, statistics, and wildlife herd management at a recent meeting of the FFA Chapter. He exhibited a display of hides of the various animals common to this area and answered various questions from the members.

During the business session the chapter voted to help sponsor state FFA president, Lynn Koontz, to the International Greenweek Seminar in Germany. Upcoming chapter events were announced including public speaking, crop judging, creed contest and BOAC work days.

New Boac Film

The National FFA Center has announced the availability of a new film about community development and the FFA's Building Our American Communities program. The Film, *Hometown America* concerns the relationship of community development projects and BOAC and how some chapters have conducted their activities.

The twenty minute film is part of the sponsorship of the BOAC program by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Inc. It is available after March 15 by writing to: Venard Films, Ltd., Box 1332, Peoria, Illinois 61654. The film will be shown during the State FFA Leadership Camp in July.

FFA to Produce New Film

A new film designed to explain and strengthen the role of practical experience in vocational agriculture will soon be produced by the Future Farmers of America (FFA) through the sponsorship of the CIBA-GEIGY Corporation, Greensboro, North Carolina, FFA officials have announced.

Under the working title, *The Strong Link*, the film will have as its primary audience Vo-Ag students, their parents and potential employers. It will focus on the important linkage of classroom learning, hands-on experience and leadership development that makes up a total vocational agriculture/FFA educational program.

"Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE) is what makes the vocational agriculture program vocational," commented Byron Rawls, National FFA Advisor. "We feel that we need to better communicate the need for a total Vo-Ag/FFA program that includes an experience program and the fact that it makes for better preparation of young people for the world of work."

The project, sponsored by CIBA-GEIGY through the National FFA Foundation, includes production of the film and the making of 100 prints for free-loan distribution to high school Vo-Ag programs across the United States. A companion booklet will also be developed that explains vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of America. Copies will accompany each shipment of the film.

CIBA-GEIGY is proud of their long history of support of FFA activities according to Tony Adolphi, Director of Communications for CIBA-GEIGY'S Agricultural Division. "We're very pleased to be able to lend support to a program that is likely to have such a great impact on the quality of vocational agriculture education across the United States," he said.

FFA officials are looking to a possible Spring 1981 release of the film, though operational plans are still tentative. Filming will likely be done in several regions of the U.S. and input pertinent to the film's content will be sought from many representatives in the field of agricultural education.

Barrett to Speak at Convention

Susie Barrett, National FFA Vice-President, will address the 55th Annual State Convention of the Virginia Association FFA. The convention will be held at Virginia Tech, June 16-19. Susie will give the major address on State Farmer Night, June 18.

Susie, 20, is currently on leave from the Ohio State University, where she is majoring in agricultural economics. She hopes to pursue a career in public relations in the livestock industry. She is from Vincent, Ohio.

Susie had production agriculture and agribusiness programs for her supervised agricultural experience. She owns half interest in 85 ewes and 12 beef cows and raises corn and hay. Off the farm, she worked as a veterinary assistant for Colonial Animal Hospital, in ag public relations for the Ohio Exposition Committee and as a staff program assistant for Ohio FFA Camps, Inc.

Susie served as Ohio FFA Association president and sectional vice president, district president and secretary, and chapter president. She won the state creed contest, placed second in prepared public speaking, was in the National Chorus and was state accounting winner. She attended the All-Ohio Voca-



tional Youth Conference, conducted youth orientation at the Ohio Farm Science Review, attended the American Institute of Cooperation and was public relations director of the Ohio State Junior Fair Board. In high school, Susie was in National Honor Society, 4-H, Red Cross and selected choruses.

International FFA Opportunities

Work Experience Abroad gives FFA members a chance to learn about foreign cultures, travel to another country and practice agriculture.

This international exchange program places high school seniors, college-age FFA members and FFA alumni on farms and in agribusinesses around the world. Nearly 25 countries in Europe, Latin America, Asia and the South Pacific cooperate by hosting FFA members.

"The emphasis of the WEA program is on daily living and working experiences with a host family," said Lennie Gamage, FFA Director of International Programs. "Participants receive room and board plus a stipend for their work on the farm or in the agribusiness. This work experience sharpens the student's agricultural skills and gives an understanding of world agriculture."

Three and six month programs are offered in most countries, and a 12 month Around-the-World program includes two five-month placements and six to eight weeks of travel. Intensive international ag trade work/study programs, two to three week study seminars and Polish collective farm experience programs are also offered. With sponsors from their communities and the work stipend, FFA members can experience these programs at little cost.

To learn more about the WEA program, contact the International Department at the National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Tech Recruits Future Teachers

During the National Agriculture Career show at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, the Virginia Tech Agricultural Education Staff sponsored a recruitment booth in hopes of encouraging FFA members to become teachers of agriculture. The focus of the booth was on Doug Rinker and Don Trimmer, two 1979-80 National FFA officers who are enrolled at Virginia Tech in Agriculture Education.

The booth signs encouraged FFA members to "Join Doug and Don in Virginia" and emphasized Virginia State University in Petersburg and Virginia Tech in Blacksburg as the two Universities which train agriculture instructors.

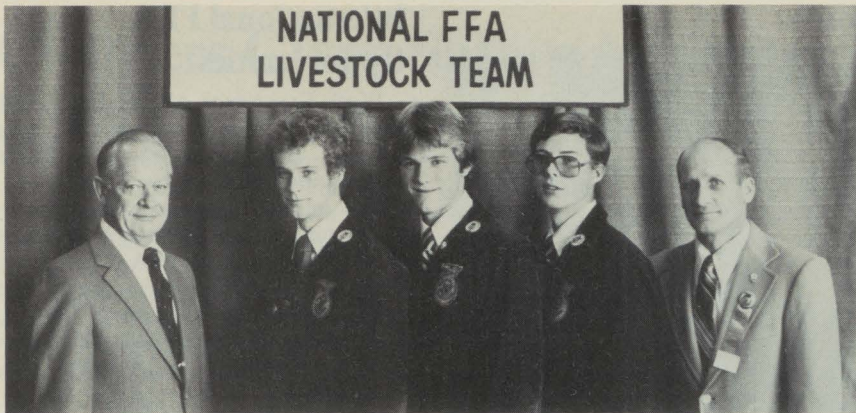


NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

The Broadway FFA Chapter boasts a National Champion judging team in Poultry. Team members Norlan Biller, Vickie Keplinger and Terry Armentrout captured the

National Championship during the contest at the National FFA Convention. Not pictured is coach J. E. Hively

NATIONAL FFA LIVESTOCK TEAM



Members of the Virginia FFA State Livestock Team met recently with the Special Project Sponsor of the contest (left to right) Mr. George Kyd, Division Vice President, Ralston Purina Company, St. Louis, Missouri. The team was one of 48 State FFA

Livestock Teams at the 53rd National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Team members (left to right) Robbie Reeves, Todd Beck and Arthur Bartenslager were accompanied by their Advisor/Coach (far right) Earl D. Reeves of Swoope, Virginia.

NATIONAL FFA FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TEAM



Members of the Virginia FFA State Farm Business Management Team met recently with the Special Project Sponsor of the contest (left to right) Mr. C. B. Donaldson, Manager, Dealer Management Service, John Deere, of Moline, Illinois. The team was one of 36 FFA teams participating in the National

FFA Farm Business Management Contest at the 53rd National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Team members (left to right) Jeff Wagoner, David Omps and John Simpson were accompanied by their Advisor/Coach Robert B. Harper of Winchester, Virginia.

NATIONAL FFA AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS TEAM



Members of the Virginia FFA State Agricultural Mechanics Team met recently with the Special Project Sponsor of the contest (left to right) Mr. G. E. Hamilton, Product Manager, Farm Tire Sales, The Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., Akron, Ohio. The team was one of the 43 State FFA Agricultural Mechanics teams participating

in the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics Contest at the 53rd National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Team members (left to right) Marshall Elson, Gary Larrowe and James Beamer were accompanied by their Advisor/Coach (far right) Mr. Wayne Combs of Hillsville, Virginia.

**Something
to remember
when you're
on your own**



- When you're calling the shots, keep in mind that Southern States Cooperative stands for farmers' working together to cut costs and maximize returns. Result-getting inputs, priced right, are an important part of making the business of farming pay better for you.



**Southern
States**

FLORICULTURE TEAM

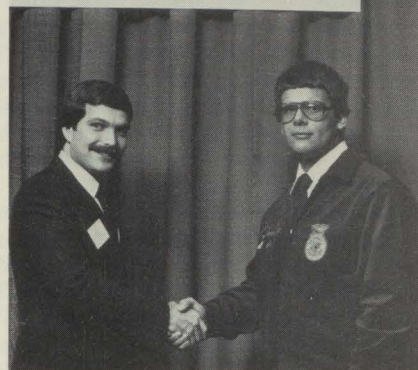


Members of the Virginia FFA State Floriculture Team met recently with the Special Project Sponsor of the contest (left to right) Mr. Kim Havens, Assistant Executive Director, National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, Madison, Wisconsin, and Mr. Steven P. Weaver, Sales, The Vitality Seed Company. The team was one of 40

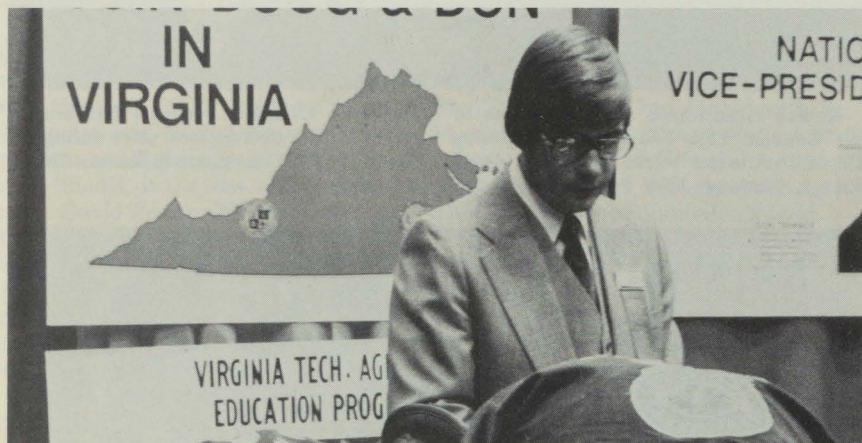
Floriculture teams participating in the National FFA Floriculture Contest at the 53rd National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Team members Ellen Roinstead, Betsy Gano and Kevin Shipman were accompanied by their Advisor/Coach Antonette Andruzzi of Winchester, Virginia.

53rd NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
Building Tomorrows Today

POULTRY PRODUCTION

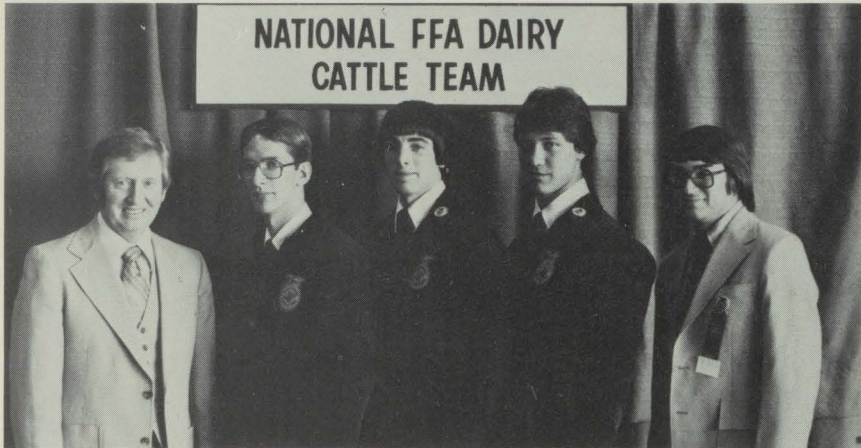


John See, 18, of Criders, Virginia, is congratulated by Mr. Kim Havens, Assistant Executive Director, National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, Madison, Wisconsin.



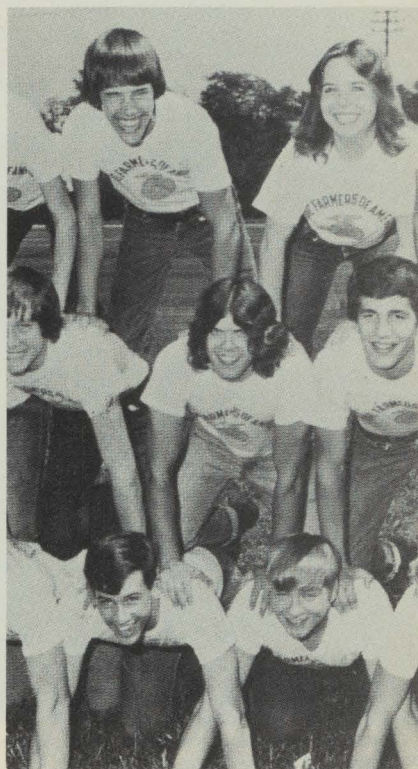
Dwight Paulette, of Virginia Tech, helps members sign up for prizes at recruitment booth.

NATIONAL FFA DAIRY CATTLE TEAM



Members of the Virginia State Association FFA State Dairy Cattle Team met recently with the Special Project Sponsor (left) Mr. Bill Lenschow, Corporate Treasurer, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., of Sycamore, Illinois. The team was one of 48 FFA teams participating in the National FFA

Dairy Cattle Contest at the 53rd National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Team members (left to right) Allen Laynam, Alan Grove and Randy Brower were accompanied by their Advisor/Coach (far right) John S. Flora of Waynesboro, Virginia.



Members of the James Wood FFA chapter posed for this photograph which was used during National FFA Week to promote chapter publicity programs across the United States.

Creed Contest Won By Keith Wood

Keith Wood, of the Botetourt Junior FFA Chapter, was the winner of the 1980 State Creed Speaking Contest. The winner was incorrectly identified in the last issue. Wood was declared the winner during the 54th annual State Convention in June in Blacksburg.

The six state contestants were chosen during competition in each area prior to the convention. The judges were advisors of the second place area contestants. During the contest, the members were required to recite the creed from memory and then answer questions concerning the meaning of the creed.

The Creed Speaking Contest is sponsored by Mr. Ed Long of Harrisonburg.

Area winners were:

Appalachian—Jackie Martin, Patrick Henry

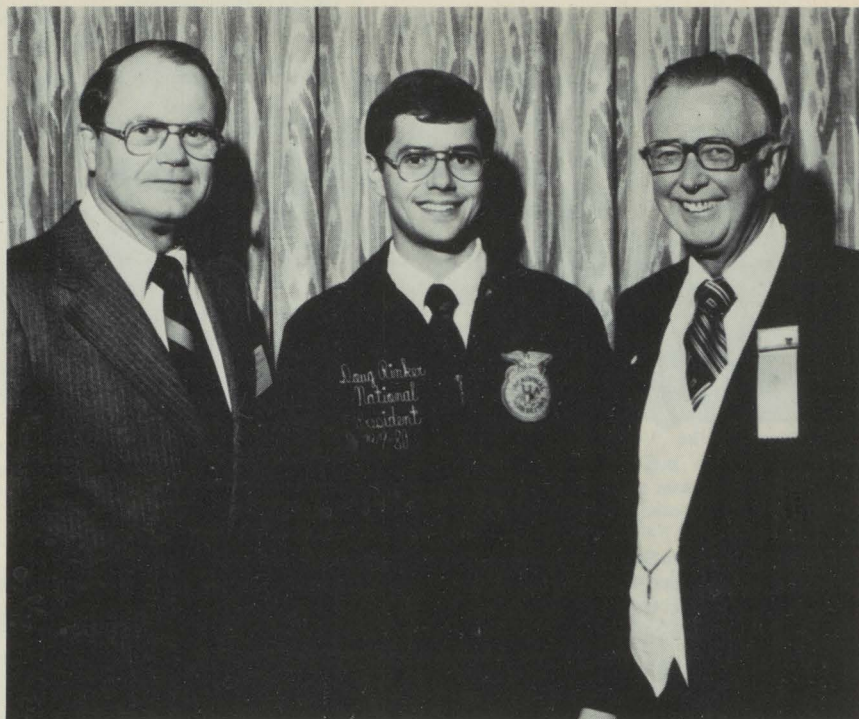
Blue Ridge—Keith Wood, Botetourt Jr.

Central—Rhonda Denton, Liberty Jr.

Eastern—Richard Redd, West Point

Northern—Andrea Cupp, Montevideo Int.

Southside—Elizabeth Hogan, Charlotte Central Middle



Roland Hendrickson (left), chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee meets with Virginians Doug Rinker, National FFA President 1979-80,

and J. M. Campbell, National Treasurer of the FFA. The meeting took place during the National FFA Convention in Kansas City in November.



Members of the Virginia FFA State Nursery/Landscape Team met recently with the Special Project Sponsor of the contest (left to right) Mr. Kim Havens, Assistant Executive Director, National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee, Madison, Wisconsin; Mr. Robert S. Fortna, Director of

Education, and Mr. Ray Brush, Director of Technical Services of the American Association of Nurserymen, Inc., of Washington, D.C., and also representing the Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Washington, D.C. The team was one of 43 Nursery/Landscape teams participating in

the Nursery/Landscape Contest at the 53rd National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Team members Ray Massie, Darrell Inman, Mike Evans were accompanied by their advisor/Coach Larry Hillard of Chatham, Virginia.

The 53rd National FFA Convention

The 53rd National Convention of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), November 12-14, was a time for honoring the year's accomplishments and building for tomorrow's achievements. The event in Kansas City, Missouri, has the largest attendance of any youth convention in the nation with nearly 23,000 members, advisors and guests this year.

Steve Vaughan, a 21-year-old dairyman from Hartville, Ohio, was named Star Farmer of America, and Jack Barber, Jr., 19, Colusa, California, who cooperates in a rice drying and storage operation, was named Star Agribusinessman of America. These Stars Over America are the best in production agriculture and agribusiness of the 783 men and women who received the highest degree awarded by the organization, the American Farmer degree.

Six young people were chosen by their peers to serve the FFA organization as national officers for the coming year. Mark Herndon, 20, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was elected National FFA President and Robert Quick, 20, of Bement, Illinois, is the new National Secretary. David Pearce, 20, Warrensburg, Missouri; Susie Barrett, 20, Vincent, Ohio; Glenn Caves, 20, Laurel, Mississippi, and David Alders, 19, of Nacogdoches, Texas, were named vice presidents of the Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Regions respectively.

The 50th national FFA prepared public speaking contest was won by David Steakley, 18, of the Grandview, Texas, FFA chapter. He spoke about "The Challenge of Our Age"—world starvation and malnutrition. Ron Wineinger,

17, of Marion, Kansas, won the extemporaneous speaking contest with the topic "Effective Management in Agribusiness."

Nearly 1,500 members competed in nine national contests ranging from livestock to farm business management.

Winners in 22 diverse areas of agriculture proficiency were named.

Chapters from across the nation received awards for outstanding safety and community development programs and chapter projects. The Monroeville, Ohio, Chapter won the national Building Our American Communities award.

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland challenged the FFA members and guests to continue making agriculture and America strong. Addresses from entertainer Art Linkletter, baseball great Hank Aaron and University of Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney also highlighted convention sessions.

The leadership of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee was passed to 1981 chairman Dr. Owen J. Newlin, vice president of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. He succeeds R. M. Hendrickson, president of the Agricultural Division of Pfizer, Inc., who led the drive which brought more than \$1 million into the Foundation's fund.

Members attended leadership workshops sponsored by the National FFA Alumni Association. Entertainment for the convention was provided by more than 300 FFA members in the band, chorus and talent review.

The Honorary American Farmer Degrees, Distinguished Service Awards and VIP Citations were presented to groups and individuals who support the FFA.

FFA Families Can Host Foreign Students

FFA members and their families can help unite the world through agriculture by hosting foreign Work Experience Abroad students.

Work Experience Abroad (WEA) is the FFA's international exchange program that brings nearly 200 students from about 25 countries to the U.S. each year. The students come from Central and South American, Asian, African and European countries for three, six or 12 month programs.

"The foreign students gain an understanding of American agriculture by working on a farm or in an agribusiness," said Lennie Gamage, FFA Director of International Programs. "Crop, horticulture, dairy, ag mechanics and sheep are just a few of the placements for these students. Beef farms are especially needed to host students who will be coming to the U.S. in March."

The host family or training establishment provides room and board and pays the student for his work. The hosts may take the student to agricultural events, historical sites and government offices to teach him more about the U.S.A.

"This inbound WEA program is a learning experience for both the student and the host family," Gamage said. "They share customs, agriculture practices and philosophies. It's a two-way exchange where both learn and grow."

To apply to host a foreign WEA student, contact the International Department at the National FFA Center, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Collie is Speaking Winner

Bill Collie, of the Tunstall FFA chapter was named the winner of the 1980 Senior Prepared Public Speaking Contest in June during the State Convention. Collie, a senior at Tunstall High School represented the Blue Ridge Area.

Bobbie Jo Bray, of Southside Area's Staunton River placed second and Ricky Davis of Riverheads in the Northern Area placed third.

The Central Area winner was Nelson Senior's Jeff Goff. Representing Eastern Area was Chris Depta of Essex, while Sean Thomas represented Appalachian Area's Rocky Gap chapter.

The Senior Contest is co-sponsored by Southern States Cooperatives and the Virginia Association FFA.

Parliamentary Procedure Contest

The following clarifications have been made for the 1981 Parliamentary Procedure contest. Further clarifications will be made in the revised Virginia FFA Activity Handbook.

1. Only the actual reading of the Treasurer's report and the reading of the Reporter's report will be timed. The reports will be no longer than two minutes in combined time.
2. Only the actual reading of the Committee Reports will be timed. The combined reading time shall not exceed 3 minutes.
3. The timing of the parliamentary problem shall begin when the Secretary completes the first reading of the

problem. The time shall cease when the President begins the closing ceremony.

4. A factor is any idea or point brought out during discussion of the problem. It does not require any action to be taken on the idea to be considered a factor.
5. Only those points (or factors as defined in 4) that are considered and action taken on them will be used to determine if the problem has been solved.
6. There shall be no time limit on the opening ceremony and only the accuracy and ability of the students to recite the ceremony shall be judged.

Cont. from page 1

"Future for America," a group I have shared my year with, that I choose to remember this year not by places visited, engagements spoken at, or pictures taken, but I'll remember these past 364 days by the time spent with you.

You are the reason six of us started our journey a year ago filled with excitement, yet, afraid of what the future held for us. It is because of our belief in you and the qualities you have shared with your six retiring officers, that every time we zip up these jackets with no lettering on the back, we feel a deep pride and lasting respect for the organization you play such a vital role in.

Yes, my friends, this year has made me realize more than ever, the strength of our future lies in the youth of America. Many times this year I have challenged members and asked, "What will you do with the role you are about to serve in your nation?" I didn't need an answer, for deeds speak louder than words. Your deeds have served millions through community service programs such as Building Our American Communities and Food for America. Our members have developed themselves through participation in Proficiency Award programs, Leadership Conferences, and many other opportunities that await those that will but try in this organization of blue and gold.

I have also seen what role you have served in my eight years of FFA. Advisors, State and National Staffs, Sponsors, my fellow members and officers, plus many more have given so much by simply being themselves. Many of you have given so much by being an example for me to follow during this year and throughout life.

There was an example of hope and enthusiasm that was an answer to my prayer of needed exuberance—the answer was presented to me by a nine year old named Jason, that would tackle EVERYTHING with equal zeal and equal belief that the best would always come about. Jason, with out even realizing it gave me hope and enthusiasm because he always tried.

There was an example of dedication and perseverance that was an

answer to my prayer of needed strength to overcome problems—the answer was there ever since we had served as chapter officers and had worked together on his family's farm. This person that has always been an example for me to try and follow received his American Farmer Degree just yesterday. My friend Wayne will overcome any problem or obstacle that ever faces him because he, like many of you, has faith in his own ability to try no matter what faces him.

My former Advisors have always been examples for me to follow, but the words of one, Mr. Sutphin, will always serve me and I think you, too, for in effect he said, "As long as you've always tried, and always given your best, then we'll be proud of you, no matter what the results are."

People have made my years in the FFA the memorable ones that they are. But a quote from Dale Carnegie best sums up something else I've learned this year. Carnegie once wrote:

One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon—instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today.

I've learned to appreciate my family and friends this year and praise the Good Lord for them. But I must apologize to all of you for not having always tried and not always given my best, those were the time I was a failure—"learning experiences" we call them. Even with those times, I consider myself a success because of the affiliation I have had with all of you. Many of you are winners due to your genuinely sincere attitude and if I can only pattern myself after many of the hopeful, enthusiastic and truly sincere greenhands I have met, then I'll always call myself a success.

These past few days we have declared many winners, yet, many more were never named . . . many never realize they are winners. But I can say it is my honest belief that you are a winner when you've always tried and always given your best. Success is not measured by dollars or acres or numbers, as most people believe, but instead success is an attitude that each per-

son eventually comes to. You never reach complete success, but can come close through sincere efforts and by reaching your full potential of your God given abilities.

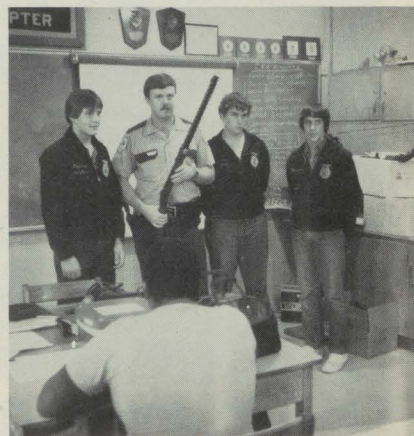
As I retire from this organization that has provided so many opportunities and leave the year of being with you, I make a special request: I ask that you please join me in a moment of silent prayer of thanksgiving for what each of us has shared, what we have and what our dreams are . . .

. . . Dee, Don, Phil, Elin, Jeff, all of you have given so much and have set examples for me to dream about until my time is up on this world—thank you. My friends, all of you have been such an inspiration because you are who you are—examples of our country's tremendous future. I am indebted to all of you for what you have given me, yet, I leave here tonight the richest man in all the world. The prayer I leave you with is this . . .

May you have

Enough happiness to keep you sweet
Enough trials to keep you strong
Enough sorrow to keep you human
Enough hope to keep you happy
Enough failure to keep you humble
Enough success to keep you eager
Enough friends to give you comfort
Enough wealth to meet your needs
Enough enthusiasm to banish all depression
Enough determination to make each day better than yesterday.

Take care my friends, and may God bless you always!



Ed Dempsey, Stanley Compton and Herby Bailey assist Mr. Graylin Rice, Game Warden, during Hunter Safety Course at Gretna Junior High School

Do You Have Leadership Abilities?

Do you like to work with people? Do you have leadership capabilities? Do you like outdoor activities? Do you have initiative and determination? Do you like to help others? If the answer to any or all of the above questions is yes, then agricultural education may open the door to many opportunities for you. From teaching vocational agriculture to agricultural public relations to international agricultural technology, agricultural education could help you achieve your career goals.

Virginia State University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University offer outstanding programs designed to train young men and women in the field of agricultural education. As an agricultural education major, you may choose an area of specialization in the following: agricultural machinery service, agricultural science and mechanics, natural resources management, agriculture for the disadvantaged, agricultural production, exploratory agriculture, and agricultural business.

Teaching vocational agriculture in the public schools, allows an individual to work with young people while he/she teaches in his/her main area of interest. The Vocational agriculture teaching profession allows the professional to work in the classroom, in the laboratory, with the FFA, with adult classes and with the Young Farmer Association.

Each year, the demand for Virginia agricultural education teachers has increased. In fact, each graduate of the Agricultural Education Program has

had several jobs from which to choose. Agricultural education is one teaching field where a shortage of teachers exists. Possibilities for advancement to vocational directors, supervisors, principals and other leadership positions are always available. In addition, employers in other phases of agriculture actively seek agricultural education graduates.

If you decide to enter agricultural education, you should know that dual major opportunities have been established at Virginia Tech and Virginia State with several departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Possibilities for dual majors exist with: animal science, agricultural economics, agronomy, dairy science, forestry and wildlife, horticulture and poultry.

If a student wishes to attend a community college before entering Tech or State, the transfer student will be granted junior standing provided the accumulative QCA is "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better and the individual has received an Associate Degree. Up to 50 percent of the total hours required for graduation may be transferred.

Talk over an agricultural education career with your teacher of agriculture and your guidance counselor. They will help you obtain additional information. More than 12,000 teachers of vocational agriculture throughout the United States invite you to join their ranks in one of the world's most important jobs—that of teaching youth and adults in production agriculture and agricultural technology.

For more information, contact the agricultural education offices at Virginia State and Virginia Tech.

John Wayland News

The John Wayland FFA Chapter held its annual meeting November 26 in the school cafeteria. The guest speaker was a Deputy-Sheriff from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department. The Deputy spoke on gun safety. The Co-op teams and winners were announced. Teams were:

Team A: David Bentz and John Voorhees

Team B: Steve Lambert and Troy Suter

Team C: Danny Duncan and Chuck Flick

Team winners were Team A placed first while Team B placed second and Team C placed third. Individual winners were:

First: David Bentz

Second: John Voorhees

Third: Troy Suter

The chapter sold a total of 1,245 boxes of citrus fruit. The top salesmen were:

Wade Robinson	105 boxes
Chris Botkin	73 boxes
Con Constable	46 boxes

Chris Botkin, Reporter

Gretna Jr. FFA in Parade

The Gretna Jr. High FFA Chapter claimed top honors at the Gretna Christmas Parade. The FFA Chapter's entry was chosen as the first place float, receiving a check for \$50. The parade was billed as one of the town's largest, with 40 separate entries and five marching bands. The parade is an annual event in Gretna.

Turner Ashby Activities

The 1980 safety slogan contest was held in the middle of October this year. Every member in the chapter participated by submitting a slogan that deals with safety. The 3rd place contestant was Mike Chapman; Mike won four dollars and a bronze award pin for his slogan "Safety For a Future." 2nd place, five dollars and silver award pin went to Boogie Herring for his slogan "Safety for Today Saves Lives For Tomorrow." The winner of the contest was Stark Puffenbarger with his slogan "Looking Safe and Being Safe is Living Safe." Stark's slogan will appear on the 1982 TA FFA Calendar, in addition to the six dollars and gold award pin he received. Marc VanPelt, Mr. In-

gram and Mrs. Myers were the judges of the contest.

The wildlife feed plots were judged in October by the chairman, Fred Miller and Co-chairman Bobby McClure of the Supervised Occupational Experience Program Committee. The seed mixture was secured from the VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries last spring. The plots were judged for growth and signs of wildlife. The Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League sponsored the prize money for first and second place. The FFA chapter provided the third place prize money. The third place contestant was David Fifer; David received ten dollars and a bronze award pin. Randy Cook placed second and received

fifteen dollars and a silver award pin. The winner of the contest was Chris Cook. Chris received twenty-five dollars and a gold award pin.

This annual hay and grain show was held Nov. 11, 12, and 13. The members brought the various farm crops and garden vegetables to school to be judged.

Mr. Harry Glover and Mr. Carl May served as official judges. Each member received points for each of their items that placed in the contest. Marc VanPelt won the contest. Besides receiving the money for his placing items, Marc also won the grand sweepstakes funded by the FFA Chapter. John Liskey was second and Donny Carper placed third.

Twenty-Eight Receive American Farmer Degree

Twenty-eight Virginia members of the FFA were recommended by the National FFA Board of Directors to receive the American Farmer Degree according to J. M. Campbell, State Supervisor, Agriculture Education, of the Virginia Department of Education. The American Farmer Degree, recognizing achievement in agriculture and leadership, is the highest degree of membership presented by the Future Farmers of America for students of vocational agriculture. It was presented during the National FFA Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, November 12-14.

The 28 Virginians named are: Barry Wayne Allen, Barhamsville; Robert Pearson Bailey, Mechanicsville; William Michael Beal, Gretna; D. Stanley Carpenter, Galax; Mark Douglas Coleman, Ruther Glen; Bob Collie, Danville; Kevin Crist Craun, Bridgewater; Dale Douglas Dick, Warrenton; Richard Wade Eacho, Mechanicsville; Jacklyn Estep, Linville; Jeanette Estep, Linville; Jody G. Harris, Tazewell; Ronnie D. Green, Troutville; David Gale Gish, Hardy; Kenneth Jeffrey Heath, Mechanicsville; Dan Jeffery Lohr, Broadway; Ronald Hugh Messick, Midland; Roderick Kent Miller, Bridgewater; Patrick A. Newchok, Woodford; Wayne Leslie Paulett, Blackstone; Kevin Harper Phillips, Waynesboro; Michael Gene Phillips, Broadway; Michael D. Quesinberry, Laurel Fork; Bryan Keith Shields, Dry Fork; Milton Trent Showalter, Harrisonburg; Nathan S. Smith, Spout Spring; Robert Wayne Snapp, Winchester; and Larry Alan Wittig, Fulks Run.

Travel awards were presented to American Farmer Degree recipients to offset their travel expenses to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. At the convention each American Farmer Degree recipient was presented a gold key and certificate by the National FFA

Organization. The awards are sponsored through the National FFA Foundation by Amoco Oil Co. of Chicago, Illinois; J. I. Case Co. of Racine, Wisconsin; The Federal Land Banks of USA of Denver, Colorado; The Chevrolet Division, General Motors Corporation of Warren, Michigan; Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa, and the Production Credit Associations throughout the United States.

The American Farmer Degree is much sought after because it is presented to approximately one member in 700 of the 481,676 member organization. It is presented only by the National FFA Organization to members who have demonstrated exceptional agricultural and leadership achievements.

The Board of Directors and the National Officers jointly reviewed the applications and recommended that Convention delegates approve the 28 candidates. Approval by these Boards was confirmed by Convention delegates prior to the presentation of the degree.

The Virginia candidates were among 782 FFA members throughout the nation recommended for the American Farmer degree in 1980.

FFA members are eligible to apply for the American Farmer Degree after having earned the State Farmer Degree in their state. They must have been an active member of the FFA continuously for at least three years and have a record of participation in the activities of the local chapter and state association. In addition, the FFA member must have earned at least \$1,000 by his or her own efforts from a supervised farming or other agricultural occupational experience program. The money he or she earned must be productively invested or deposited in a bank. The degree is presented only to FFA members who have demonstrated their leadership and scholarship ability during high school and who are showing evidence of becoming successfully established in an agricultural occupation.

Reporters have an opportunity to show the state how they preserved their chapter's history for 1980-81.

Although final plans are still being worked out, any chapter may bring their 1980-81 scrapbook to the convention for display and judging. A committee of former state officers will judge the submitted scrapbooks and ribbons will be awarded to each one.

Begin now to prepare your chapter's scrapbook for display. Further details will be available later.

FFA Holds Leadership Conference

The annual Pittsylvania Co. FFA Leadership Conference was held at Blairs Jr. High School on Nov. 3. Approximately 130 members and their advisors attended. Lynn Koontz, Virginia Association State FFA President and Bob Collie, former FFA State Treasurer and Virginia's 1980 candidate for a national FFA office, conducted the workshop along with 4 other state officers. Each FFA member attended group meetings on the following topics: Introducing Speakers, Starting Conversations, Social Manners, Leadership Evaluation, Holding an FFA Office, Topics for Speeches and Remembering Names.

After a meal was served in the cafeteria, the conference resumed with each student attending group discussions on the duties and responsibilities of each FFA office.

The other state officers participating in the conference were: Paul Ashworth, Vice-President; Jim Lantz, Secretary; Bobbie Jo Bray, Treasurer; and Matt Yeatman, Reporter.

Both Paul Ashworth and Bob Collie are former Pittsylvania Co. FFA officers.

FFA-FHA Camp

The FFA-FHA Camp Board has announced the operation dates for the Smithfield Camp. The Board met October 31 to determine dates and other matters of importance.

The Camp will open June 15 with the FHA/HERO leadership camp. The weeks of June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13, and July 27 will be open for the regular camping program. FFA leadership Camp will be conducted July 20-24, which is a week earlier than normal, due to change of the State President's Conference in Alexandria.

The camp, which is owned jointly by the Virginia Associations of Future Farmers and Future Homemakers of America is located at Morgart's Beach near Smithfield. Fronting on the James River, the camp has softball fields, volley ball courts, a swimming pool, dormitories and a recreation/dining hall.

The camp is open to any FFA or FHA/HERO member. The fee for one week is \$40 per person. Chapters will be receiving additional information before March 1 so plan now to attend camp this summer.

Scrapbook Contest

Does your chapter maintain a scrapbook of activities? Would you be proud enough of it to bring it to the State Convention in June?

Upon the recommendation of a number of members and advisors, the State Officers and the State Staff, the Virginia Association is sponsoring a FFA Chapter Scrapbook Contest during the 1981 State FFA Convention. Chapter

Regional Forestry Won By Keith

Rohrs Keith of Hanover's Patrick Henry High School is the Eastern Region winner of the Forest Management Award. Keith, a member of the Patrick Henry FFA chapter was honored during the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Keith of Glen Allen, Virginia.

He works with his father in the family logging and sawmill operation. In addition, the 18 year old FFA member owns a seven acre woodlot and has purchased logging rights on several small private woodlots. Keith works in all phases of the business, clearing land, planting seedlings, cutting trees and milling finished lumber. Over the past four years, Keith has cut and replanted two acres of his own woodlot and clear cut an additional two acres of mature trees. He has cleared the family woodlot of disease-infested trees to allow the healthier trees to mature faster and produce a higher yield. Keith recently built a road to his woodlot for easy access when harvesting timber and firewood. He operates and maintains the chainsaws, bulldozer and forklift used in the operation. Since beginning his own enterprise, Keith has planted over 8,000 loblolly pine seedlings in his own woodlot.

53rd NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Building Tomorrow's Today



Rohrs Keith is congratulated by Mr. Con Borsting, Tree Farm Family and Lease Manager, Weyerhaeuser Company.

The Forest Management Proficiency Award is sponsored by Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation of Tacoma, Washington. It's designed to recognize accomplishments of FFA members preparing for careers in forestry industry or working to learn more about using good forestry practices as a part of a total farming operation. Applicants for the award must show activities and experiences in the classroom and on the job which provide a background for career development in the forest industry.

Koontz Attends Greenweek

Lynn Koontz, State FFA President attended the International Greenweek Exposition in Germany, January 23-31, representing the Virginia Association and its members. This is the third year Virginia has sent a representative to this international showcase for agriculture. Previously Melanie Burgess and John Green have attended as official delegates. Less than a dozen FFA members make the trip each year.

While on the trip, Koontz attended the Greenweek Expo with exhibits and displays on seeds, fertilizers, garden machinery, animals and livestock breeding and a special international flower hall, attracting over 100,000 visitors daily. He attended the Annual Congress of the European Young Farmers and heard debates on the agricultural policy of the common market. Two large receptions were held for them by the German Rural Youth Organization.

Koontz visited the Berlin Wall, check point Charlie, the Olympic Stadium, the Free University, Kaiser Wilhelm Church, and attended the German Opera. There was also a visit to Munich, Frankfurt, a Bavarian Farm and the research station of the University of Munich.

This trip was a part of the Virginia Association's contribution to international understanding as outlined in the state and national programs of activities. Many chapters have contributed to defraying the cost of the trip as part of their participation in international cooperation and understanding. All will be presented a certificate for their contribution. If your chapter wishes to contribute, you may send a check payable to Virginia Association FFA to Executive Secretary, Virginia Association FFA, Virginia Department of Education, P.O. Box 6Q, Richmond, Virginia 23216.

Washington Conference Program

The FFA's Washington Conference Program begins its 1981 season on June 8. Operated by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Office of Health, Education, and Welfare, the conference strives to develop leadership skills and abilities in FFA members. Participants are also exposed to America's heritage while visiting historical monuments in the nation's capital.

Any FFA officer and/or advisor is eligible to attend. Each chapter may send a maximum of two representatives

each summer and an individual may attend only once.

The conferences will attract members from all over the United States and it is an opportunity to exchange ideas and notes with many chapters and states. It is, truly, a week you will never forget.

Forms will be mailed to your chapter at a later date but plan now to spend a week in Washington with local, state and national FFA officers. The cost is \$225 for students and \$175 for advisors. You may be able to obtain local sponsors to pay for the trip.



Lynn Koontz, Staff FFA President leads discussion on ways of starting conversation at the Pittsylvania County FFA Leadership Conference

CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

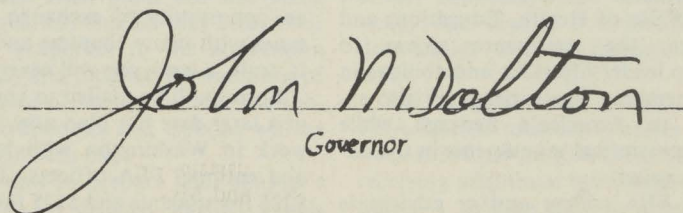
*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution
in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia,
there is hereby officially recognized:*

NATIONAL FFA WEEK

1981

The 18,400 members of Future Farmers of America in Virginia learn the fundamentals of providing food and fiber for our society, and at the same time the responsibility of full citizenship.

Calling attention to the benefits of this study and practice, the organization in Virginia joins the national organization in setting aside the period February 21 - 28 as NATIONAL FFA WEEK, and I call its significance to the attention of all Virginians.


Governor