Chapter Chats

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

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State FFA Officers

WE ARE THE WORLD!

Call to the 1985 State FFA Convention

By David Wright, State President

FFA members, there comes a time when we can all come together as one, June 11-14, the 59th State FFA Convention at Virginia Tech. This year's convention will be new, different, and exciting.

The state officers would like to tell you about some of the highlights. At this year's convention, we will have excellent speakers such as Steve Meredith, National FFA President, who will provide the official address on State Farmer night Thursday, June 13.

Kicking off the convention on Tuesday night will be "We Are the World," the Vespers program by the state officers. The evening will continue with the keynote address by Mr. Frederick (Fred) McClure, Associate Deputy Attorney General in the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

All through the week, presentations of awards will be an exciting part of each session. Many chapters and FFA members will be recognized for their hard work. Chapters will be recognized in Safety, Building Our American Communities (BOAC), 100% Membership, Public Relations, and many more. Members will be recognized for their individual efforts in contests and proficiency areas.

For your enjoyment, special entertainment will be provided by members of the State FFA Band and Chorus directed by Mr. Bill Propst and Mr. Larry Davidson. You will also see some of your own state officers show off their talents, too. After all, they aren't just pretty faces!

Virginia Tech will have FFA competition all over the campus on Wednesday and Thursday as members demonstrate their talent in contests. They will be competing in Livestock and Dairy Cattle Judging, Farm Business Management, Horticulture, and many more. Some of the best public speakers in the state will be vying for state championships.

On Thursday evening, 275 young men and women will receive the State Farmer Degree. This is the highest award the

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THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF THE FUTURE FARMERS

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Randolph Trivette ..... Editor

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state may bestow upon a member of the FFA. From these degree candidates five area Star Farmers and Agribusinessmen are chosen, and the Stars Over Virginia Pageant will feature the naming of the 1985 State Star Farmer and State Star Agribusinessman.

There will be several audio-visual programs and a movie for the FFA members. Slide programs on international travel, state officer activities, camp, and convention programs will be shown during the sessions. Because of the Dairy Cattle Judging Contest changes, a special movie presentation has been scheduled for Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in Squires Hall for everyone not involved in other official activities. Admission will be by FFA identification only.

Not forgetting recreation, tournaments in softball and volleyball have been scheduled. Teams representing the five areas will compete for the state convention championships. One change this year will drop swimming from the convention schedule.

The convention is a time to come together, to meet new friends. All week the convention will be filled with all kinds of excitement and you will leave with a renewed enthusiasm for the FFA and vocational agriculture.

As your State President, it is my pleasure to cordially invite you to the convention. We are all certainly looking forward to meeting you, and with your help, we can all come together and make the 59th convention the best ever!

Officers Plan Food Drive

In response to the food shortage in African nations, the State FFA Officers are planning a food drive as part of the 1985 state convention. The convention is scheduled to begin at 7:15 p.m. on June 11 in Burruss Hall at Virginia Tech with the Vespers program. The program, titled "We Are The World," will emphasize the importance of a humane response to those in need.

There will be collection centers for those who wish to donate non-perishable food items. The centers will be located at the entrances to Burruss Hall auditorium, and it is hoped that most FFA members will choose to bring a food donation.

It is hoped that this program will focus attention on a world-wide problem and that the agricultural community is concerned about the future of the world's populace.

FFA Advisory Council Examines Rules

The State FFA Advisory Council met April 25 and 26 in Lynchburg to evaluate area winners of proficiency awards and chapter contests. The state winners of all of these awards will be honored during the state FFA convention at Virginia Tech in June. The committee reviewed applications in twenty-eight proficiency areas, five chapter award areas, and the state star farmer and agribusiness awards.

During the evaluation of the proficiency applications, the council noted the minimum qualifications to receive the awards, as outlined in the agricultural Proficiency Award Handbook. One of the qualifications states that an applicant must have completed at least three years of agricultural education, or all of the agricultural education classes offered in the school. Many applicants had completed only one or two years and were ruled ineligible to receive the state award.

All of those who had been designated area winners will receive the area recognition during the convention, however. There were three award categories in which no one who applied had the minimum of three years in agricultural education. Although the area winners will be announced and recognized, there will be no state winner in Cereal Grains, Forage Production, and Specialty Animal Production for 1985.

The Advisory Council also voted to change a rule in the Virginia FFA Activity Handbook concerning eligibility of FFA members in state competition. The rule change allows FFA members who have been successful in other student organizations or clubs to participate in similar FFA activities. For example, a member of the FFA who has won a state livestock contest and/or participated in a national livestock judging event for another club or organization (such as 4-H) may judge in the state FFA livestock judging contest. The ban still applies, however, to FFA members returning to judge in a state FFA contest once they have been declared state winners of that event.

Justice Department Official to Address FFA Members

Frederick D. McClure, an official of the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., will address the 59th annual convention of Virginia Future Farmers of America Tuesday, June 11, at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. McClure will speak during the opening session of the week-long event which honors FFA members from across the state.

McClure, Associate Deputy Attorney General, was appointed to his current position by Attorney General William French Smith. Prior to his appointment, he served as Legislative Director and Legal Counsel to Texas Senator John Tower. He is a former commercial trial attorney, with offices located in Houston, Texas. Since 1979, he has served on the Special Committee on Higher Education Financing in Texas for the state legislature.

McClure received his Bachelor of Science Degree in agriculture economics from Texas A&M, graduating Summa Cum Laude. He was student body president, and currently serves as International Vice-President on the Board of Directors of the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M.

In 1981, he received his Juris Doctor degree from the Baylor University School of Law, where he was elected President of the Student Bar Association and a member of the National Order of Barristers. He presently serves as a director of the Baylor Law Alumni Association.

In 1975, McClure served as a White House Intern under President Gerald Ford. Very active in the FFA organization, McClure served as President of the Texas Association of FFA and as National FFA Secretary. This will be a return engagement for him since he spoke to the FFA members at the 1974 state FFA convention as a national officer.

The Virginia convention highlights the activities of FFA members and chapters during the current school year. During the four-day event, awards will be presented in public speaking, 28 agricultural proficiency areas, and eight contest areas. More than 250 young people will be presented the State Farmer Degree, the highest honor bestowed by the state association. Adults will be honored by the presentation of the Honorary State Farmer Degree for their contributions to agriculture and the FFA program in the Commonwealth.

The Virginia convention marks the anniversary of the founding of the organization which began as the Future Farmers of Virginia (FFV) on the campus of Virginia Tech in 1926. It is believed to be the oldest continuous annual convention of Future Farmers in the United States. In 1928, using the extensive work done by the FFV, the Future Farmers of America was established at a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Virginia holds the first state charter issued by the national organization.

Broadway Members Report on Activities

The Broadway Chapter heard a speech and reports on trips at a recent meeting. Craig Bailey gave a slide presentation on his trip to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. He reported that the Broadway Chapter had received a gold emblem National Chapter Award, a silver emblem Chapter Safety Award and a BOAC Award.

Myron Reedy reported on his trip to the Southeastern Poultry and Egg Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia. His trip was sponsored by the Virginia Poultry Federation as one of the top FFA poultry youth in Virginia. He related his experiences of meeting many of the leaders in the poultry industry and how he became aware of the numerous career opportunities available.

Kerry Hively presented her speech, "Organization — The Key to the Future" in preparation for the federation Prepared Public Speaking contest. Her speech emphasizes the importance of farmers becoming more highly organized in their efforts to market their products more effectively. She pointed to the economic success of the recenty organized Shenandoah Valley Lamb Marketing Association in securing better prices for lambs.

Past State FFA Officers Sought

Do you know anyone who is a past state FFA officer? The state FFA office is trying to locate all of the people who have served as state FFA officers in Virginia. The survey was undertaken to help document the "success story" of agriculture education and the FFA program in the Commonwealth. It is believed that this survey will reveal how important the organization has been to many of the people who are in positions of leadership and responsibility in communities all across the state.

To begin the study, questionnaires were mailed to the available addresses of state officers from 1973 to 1984, asking them to complete the form and return it to the state office. There are no available addresses for most of the people who served as state officers prior to 1972. Over one-half of the 130 past officers responded by returning the survey. Through these men and women, addresses of other past officers are being obtained and additional questionnaires are being mailed.

All of the information is being entered into computer records in the state Agriculture Education office and will be compiled into a directory of past state officers. As far as can be determined, there has never been a study concerning the whereabouts of these state FFA leaders and it is hoped that much insight concerning the program, its history and its contributions can be obtained from the information being gathered. The directory will be distributed to all of the survey respondents, FFA chapters and other interested persons.

If you know someone in your school or community who has served as a state FFA officer in Virginia, either have them contact the state FFA office or send their name and address to the editor of this newsletter. The address is located on page two.

New Proficiency Awards to be Presented

Six new agricultural proficiency awards will be presented during the 1985 state FFA convention June 11-14 at Virginia Tech. The new awards were begun by the National FFA Foundation, Inc. to recognize FFA members who have excelled in specific areas of agricultural production.

Those who are familiar with the FFA's proficiency awards will recognize several changes in the new schedule. Gone is the Tobacco Production award sponsored by R. J. Reynolds, Inc. and in its place is the Specialty Crop Production award. Added to the crop areas are awards in Cereal Grains, Feed Grains, Forage Production, and Oil Crop Production. The Crop Production award has been replaced by Diversified Crop Production.

Added to the list this year is the Specialty Animal Production award. The Fish and Wildlife Proficiency award has been changed to the Wildlife Proficiency

(See AWARDS page 8)

PROGRAM
59th STATE CONVENTION

Monday, June 10

1:00 p.m. State Officers Meeting, Pritchard Hall, First Floor, Lounge

Tuesday, June 11

8:00 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting — Pritchard Hall
10:00 a.m. Registration Begins — Pritchard Hall
1:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting — Burruss Hall
1:30 p.m. State Officer Candidate Interviews — 101 Pamplin
2:00 p.m. Recreation Committee — 219 Gym
2:00 p.m. Band Practice — Squires Rehearsal Room
2:00 p.m. Chorus Practice — McBryde 100
2:00 p.m. Practice for posting of colors — Area Creed Speaking winners — Burruss Hall Auditorium
3:00 p.m. Volleyball and Softball: Northern vs. Southside
4:00 p.m. Contest orientation meeting for FFA Advisors, Agriculture Auditorium (146 Smyth)
4:00 p.m. Courtesy Corps meeting, Burruss Hall
5:15 p.m. Dinner — Dietrick Dining Hall
6:45 p.m. All Chapter Safety Award winners report to Area Supervisor in front of stage in Burruss Hall Auditorium
7:15 p.m. Vespers — "We Are The World" — Burruss Hall Auditorium — State Officers
7:30 p.m. First Session — Burruss Hall Auditorium
Posting the Colors — Area Creed Speaking Winners and State FFA Band — Mr. Bill Propst, Director
National Anthem — led by State Band and Chorus
Opening Ceremony — State Officers
Invocation — Richard Owen, State Reporter
Welcome — , Virginia Tech
Nomination and Election of State Farmer Degree Candidates
Introduction of State Officer Candidates
Greetings — Vocational Student Organization Representatives
Greetings from other State FFA Associations
Keynote Address — Fred McClure, Associate Deputy Attorney General, Justice Department, Washington, D.C.
Special Feature — Tammi Heatwole, Turner Ashby FFA Chapter
Awards: Chapter Safety
Forest Management
Ag. Sales and or Service
Specialty Crop Production
Special Feature —
Awards: Forestry Judging
Home and or Farmstead Improvement
Placement in Agricultural Production
Turf Management
Announcements
Closing Ceremony
9:30 p.m. All official delegates — meet in Burruss Hall Auditorium
9:30 p.m. FFA Committee Chairman Meeting — Burruss Hall Auditorium
10:00 p.m. Rap Sessions with State Officers — Dietrick Dining Hall
11:00 p.m. Lights Out

Wednesday, June 12

6:30 a.m. Breakfast — Dietrick Dining Hall
7:45 a.m. Assemble for Judging Contests — across from Cassell Coliseum
8:00 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting
8:00 a.m. Sr. Agricultural Mechanics Contest — Agriculture Engineering Department
8:30 a.m. State Judging Contests
A. Livestock
B. Poultry
C. Crops
Computers in Agriculture
Diversified Livestock
Agricultural Electrification
Tractor Troubleshooting
Tractor Operators
Special Feature — State Offices
Results of Public Speaking — Jr., Sr. and Extemporaneous — Joe Bowman, Past State President
Announcements
Closing Ceremony
10:00 p.m. Rap Sessions with State Officers — Dietrick Dining Hall
11:00 p.m. Lights Out

Thursday, June 13

7:00 a.m. Breakfast — Dietrick Dining Hall
8:00 a.m. A representative from each chapter selling Seald-Sweet Citrus Products report to Area Supervisor in front of stage in Burruss Hall Auditorium
8:00 a.m. Assemble for second day's judging contests — in front of Cassell Coliseum
8:30 a.m. Judging Contests: Dairy (1st Round)
Crops (top 10%)
Livestock (top 10%)
Junior Agricultural Mechanics
Nursery — all teams
Floriculture (top seven teams)
8:30 a.m. Co-op Seminar — 409 Saunders
8:30 a.m. Chorus Practice — 100 McBryde
8:30 a.m. Fourth Session — Burruss Hall Auditorium
Music by State FFA Band
Opening Ceremony — State Officers
Awards: Chapter Forestry
Nursery Operations
Oil Crop Production
Feed Grain Production
Chapter Wildlife
Special Feature — Melvin Atkinson, State Vice President
Sheep Production
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production
Small Engines Troubleshooting
Wildlife Management
Seald-Sweet Growers Fund-Raising Recognition
Business Session
Roll Call of Delegates
Report of Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Unfinished Business
New Business
Committee Reports
a. Auditing
b. Budget and Dues
Special Feature — State FFA Band
c. Constitution and By-Laws
d. Chapter Chats
e. FFA-FHA Camps
f. Program of Activities
g. Contests and Awards
h. Public Relations
Special Feature — State FFA Chorus
Nomination of State Officers for 1985-86
Announcements
Closing Ceremony

8:00 a.m. Sr. Agricultural Mechanics Contest — Agriculture Engineering Department
8:30 a.m. State Judging Contests
A. Livestock
B. Poultry
C. Crops
D. Floriculture
E. Nursery Landscape
8:30 a.m. Band Practice — Squires Student Center
8:30 a.m. Chorus Practice — McBryde 100
8:30 a.m. Farm Business Management Contest — 233 Biochemistry
8:30 a.m. Co-op Seminar — 409 Saunders
8:30 a.m. State Officer Candidate Interviews — 101 Pamplin
8:30 a.m. Tractor Operators Contest — Written Exam — Agriculture Engineering Building
9:00 a.m. Feature Film — Squires Ballroom, Admission by FFA Identification only
9:00 a.m. Preliminary Sr. Public Speaking Contest — Burruss Hall Auditorium
9:00 a.m. Extemporaneous Speaking Contest — Animal Science Building 1840-70
9:00 a.m. Junior Public Speaking Contest — Animal Science Building 1850-60
11:00 a.m. Review of Judging Contest Classes
12:00 noon Lunch — Dietrick Dining Hall
12:30 p.m. Farm Business Management Continuation — 233 Biochemistry
1:00 p.m. Tractor Operators Contest
1:00 p.m. All BOAC Award Winners report to Area Supervisor in front of stage in Burruss Hall Auditorium
1:30 p.m. Co-op Seminar — 409 Saunders
1:30 p.m. State Officer Candidate Interviews — 101 Pamplin
1:30 p.m. Second Session — Burruss Hall Auditorium
Opening Ceremony
Music by State FFA Chorus — Mr. Larry Davidson, Director
Awards: Building Our American Communities
Specialty Animal Production
Beef Production
Horse Proficiency
Special Feature —
Floriculture
Cereal Grains
Poultry Production
Dairy Production
Swine production
Special Feature — Greenweek International Program
Parliamentary Procedure — Jr. & Sr.
Agricultual Processing
Outdoor Recreation
Forage Production
Soil & Water Management
Agriculture Mechanics
Announcements
Closing Ceremony
3:00 p.m. Committee Meetings — All Delegates
1. Resolutions — McBryde 658
2. Auditing — Burruss Hall
3. Budget and Dues — McBryde 666
4. Constitution and By-Laws — 116 Randolph
5. Chapter Chats — 120 Randolph
6. FFA-FHA Camps — 121 Randolph
7. Program of Activities — 212 Randolph
8. Contest and Awards — 102 Randolph
9. Public Relations — 115 Randolph
4:00 p.m. Softball and Volleyball Games — Tuesday's winner vs. Appalachian, Central vs. Eastern
4:30 p.m. Reception for FFA Foundation Donor Representatives — Dietrick Dining Hall, Hosted by Virginia Tech Collegiate FFA Chapter
5:15 p.m. Dinner — Dietrick Dining Hall
6:30 p.m. All Public Relations Award winners report to Area Supervisor in front of stage in Burruss Hall Auditorium
7:00 p.m. Third Session — Burruss Hall Auditorium
Music by State FFA Band
Opening Ceremony — State Officers
Public Speaking Contest Finals — Sr. Prepared Contest
Music by State FFA Band
Recognition of FFA Foundation Donor Representatives
Report on Virginia FFA Foundation, Inc. — Dr. Claud L. Scroggs, Chairman
Recognition of Virginia FFA Foundation Board of Directors
Awards: Public Relations — Line-up
Diversified Crop Production
Special Feature — State FFA Chorus
Nomination of State Officers for 1985-86
Announcements
Closing Ceremony
11:00 a.m. Dairy Management Contest
12:00 noon Lunch — Dietrick Dining Hall
1:00-4:00 p.m. Virginia FFA Alumni Association Convention — 146 Smyth
1:00 p.m. Creed Speaking Contest
1:30 p.m. Band and Chorus Practice
1:30 p.m. National Officer Candidate Interviews — 105 Lane Hall
1:30 p.m. Co-op Seminar — 409 Saunders
3:00 p.m. Dairy Judging — 2nd Round
3:30 p.m. Softball Championship — Drill Field
3:30 p.m. Volleyball Championship
3:00-4:00 p.m. Reception for State Farmer Degree Recipients and Advisors — Sponsored by Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers Committee — Squires Ballroom
4:30 p.m. State Officer Family Reception — Dietrick Dining Hall, Hosted by Virginia Tech Collegiate FFA
5:15 p.m. Dinner — Dietrick Dining Hall
6:30 p.m. All State Farmer Degree recipients report to Area Supervisor in front of stage in Burruss Hall Auditorium
6:45 p.m. State FFA Band — Burruss Hall Auditorium
7:00 p.m. Fifth Session — Burruss Hall Auditorium
Opening Ceremony — State Officers
Greetings from State Young Farmers — Eddie Chitwood, President
Conferring Active State Farmer Degrees
Music by State FFA Chorus
Conferring Honorary State Farmer Degrees
Address — Steve Meredith, National FFA President
Presentation of FFA Alumni Association Scholarship — Tim Gano, President
Presentation of Alpha Gamma Rho Ray Warren Memorial Scholarship
Special Feature
Conferring of Distinguished Service Awards
Recognition of State Officers' Parents
Music by State FFA Band
Stars Over Virginia — Star Farmer and Star Agribusiness Awards
Closing Ceremony
11:00 p.m. Lights Out

Friday, June 14

7:00 a.m. Breakfast — Dietrick Dining Hall
8:00 a.m. A representative of each 100% membership Chapter and each Chapter Contest Award Winning Chapter report to Area Supervisor in front of stage in Burruss Hall Auditorium
8:30 a.m. Sixth Session — Burruss Hall Auditorium
Opening Ceremony — State Officers
Committee Reports
Resolutions
FFA Advisory Council, Mr. J. D. Puckett, Chairman
Music — State FFA Band and Chorus
Special Presentation to State Officers — Kendall Clay, State President 1961-62
Announcement of National Officer Candidate
Awards: Community Service
Recognition of New Chapters
Co-op Seminar Scholarships to AIC
Creed Speaking Results
100% Membership Chapters
Special Feature — Darrell Ritchie, State Vice-President
Superior Chapter
Chapter Contest (Jr. and Sr.)
Softball Games
Volleyball Games
Housing Contest
Judging Contest Results — Final
President's Annual Address — David Wright, State President, 1984-85
Installation of Officers for 1985-86
Incoming President's Address
Closing Prayer — Keith May, State Treasurer, 1984-85
Closing Ceremony — 1985-86 State Officers
11:15 a.m. Meeting of Newly Elected State Officers — Burruss Hall
11:30 a.m. Lunch — Dietrick Dining Hall
Leave for Home

National FFA President to Attend Convention

Steve Meredith, National FFA President, will be a featured speaker at the 59th annual Virginia Convention of the Future Farmers of America June 11–14 on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Meredith, of Glendale, Kentucky, will address the fifth session on Thursday, June 13, following the awarding of the FFA's highest membership degree to 300 outstanding Virginia members.

Meredith, 19, was elected at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City in November to serve the one-half million FFA members in the 51 state and territory associations.

Meredith served as the president of the Kentucky Association of FFA, after serving as an officer of his chapter and federation. In high school, he was student government president for two years, was a member of the Beta Club and the Future Business Leaders of America, was on the basketball team and graduated first in his class of 140.

He has taken a one-year leave of absence from Elizabethtown Community College where he is a student of agriculture. He plans to earn a degree in agriculture economics from the University of Kentucky, then teach vocational agriculture or work in agribusiness while farming part-time.

During his year as national president, Meredith will travel more than 200,000 miles representing the nation's FFA members at state conventions, chapter banquets, industry visits, and other public relations activities. He has travelled to Japan, Hong Kong and China on an agriculture experience tour.

Gretna Junior Honored for Promotion

The Gretna Junior FFA was honored at the 15th annual banquet of the Friends of the Industry of Agriculture held on March 19 at the Hyatt Hotel in Richmond. The award recognizes one FFA chapter from Virginia which made accomplishments in presenting information about agriculture to the public.

FFA President, Martin Kent, received the State Publicity Award on behalf of the Gretna Junior Chapter. The advisors of the FFA are J. D. Robertson and Mike Hopson. S. Mason Carbaugh, Commission of Agriculture, presented the chapter a plaque and a check for $100.

New Horticulture Contest at State Fair

Dr. Alan McDaniel of Virginia Tech has announced a new FFA Horticulture Contest at the State Fair in September. The contest is the first Horticulture contest for FFA members to be held at the Fair.

The contest will be held on Thursday, September 26 in the Youth Building, where the FFA Exhibit is located. Each FFA Chapter is invited to enter one or two members, but if two are entered, each must present a different demonstration topic. Demonstration topics may deal with fruits, vegetables, nuts, flowers, ornamental plants, and turf within any of the following areas: Crop production or soil management, Crop marketing or preparation for storage and exhibition, Food crop preparation for fresh use or processing, or floral material preservation, Artistic arrangement of live or dried products in arrangements, corsages, or plaques (no artificial flowers or plants), Landscaping, installation, and plant maintenance within and around the home, business, or public grounds.

Each demonstration is limited to fifteen minutes, followed by questions from the judges concerning the demonstration.

The two top scoring members will be certified to compete in the American Junior Horticulture Association contests. At this time, however, no funding for travel is available.

AES Conference Scheduled

By Myra Newman and Kim Lineburg

Once again the Virginia Tech Agricultural Education Society will be hosting its annual FFA Leadership Conference to be held Friday, September 27, 1985. Plans for the conference have already begun with several committees working to make this fifth conference the most successful yet.

Already scheduled are interesting and motivational classes, taught by agricultural education students, ranging from opportunities in the FFA to personal development. An addition to the conference will be the recognition of the chapters which have attended the conference all five years.

Students and advisors will have the opportunity to see the Virginia Tech-Syracuse football game on Saturday, September 28. There will also be campus tours available.

A highlight of the conference will be an address by Kentucky's Steve Meredith, National FFA President.

More details of the conference will be sent to all chapters in the early Fall. Plan now to attend the conference. Students and advisors will find it interesting and beneficial.

Blairs Supports FFA Supply Center

The Blairs FFA Chapter makes it easy for students to obtain FFA supplies offered in the official FFA Supply Service catalog.

When a local department store moved, the Blairs Chapter purchased one of their jewelry cases. Locks were added to the drawers for storage and a lock was added to the sliding glass showcase. Items were purchased from the supply service to be placed on display in the lighted showcase. Items can be seen better in the showcase than in the FFA catalog, and are available immediately.

Blairs takes pride in the amount of support it offers the FFA Supply Service. Every year students purchase 30 to 75 FFA jackets. The Annual Parent-Student Banquet requires an order of $500.00 in additional supplies, awards and plaques.

The Blairs Chapter provides a scholarship pin to each student who maintains at least a "B" average in all classes for the year. With over 200 students in agriculture, 30 or more scholarship pins are purchased each year.

There are 10 local contests held in the Pittsylvania County FFA Federation. Blairs provides each of the four highest scoring students in each contest award pins purchased from the supply service.

Total purchases from the supply service range from $2000 to $4000 per year. The chapter has found the display case very popular with the students and the parents. We strongly urge all FFA chapters to help support our very own FFA Supply Service Center.

Greene Chapter Has Pig Roast

By Earle Paynter
Chapter Reporter

In January, the Greene County FFA Chapter held its fifth annual pig roast at William Monroe High School. The roast required many hours of planning by chapter members and involved five days filled with action.

The action began the first day on the farm of local Young Farmer David Eddins, where three pigs were purchased and prepared. The second day, the chapter members roasted the pigs over an open pit fire for more than six hours. On the third day, the meat was cut up and, with the help of the Home Economics instructor, the meat was shredded and barbecue sauce mixed with it. On the fourth day, meals consisting of a barbecue sandwich, cole slaw, potato chips, cake and drink were sold during Parent-Teacher conferences to the school faculty and visiting parents. On the fifth day, the chapter members could eat pork barbecue sandwiches during their lunch periods.

This year's roast was a fun, learning experience. Reflecting on this year's pig roast, Chairman Brian Collier said, "Everything ran smoothly; everone did what they said they would do."

Dairy Contest Changed

The state Dairy Cattle Judging contest has been rescheduled from a two-day event to a one-day event for the 1985 state FFA convention. Due to a schedule conflict for the staff of the Dairy Science Department of Virginia Tech, all events of the contest will be held on Thursday, June 13. Round one is slated to begin at 8:30 a.m. with the second round (normally the second day's judging) slated to begin at 3:00 p.m. The Dairy Management (Dairy Bowl) will be conducted between the two rounds.

Results of the first round will be posted as quickly as possible to notify the top scoring teams that they are scheduled to judge in the second round on Thursday afternoon. The contest will return to its normal two day schedule in 1986.

Since the contest will not be held on Wednesday morning, there will be a special feature for all of the Dairy Cattle Contest judges and others who are not involved in an official capacity. A movie will be shown in Squires hall at 9:00 a.m. to any FFA member who shows official convention identification.

FFA-FHA Camp Opens June 17

The jointly owned FFA and FHA Camp will open its doors to campers on Monday, June 17 for another season of activity on the bank of the James River. The camp is located west of Smithfield in Isle of Wight County and enjoys a beautiful view of the river at a point where it is about five miles wide.

The camping season will continue, with the exception of the week including July 4, through July 27 for regular camping weeks. The FFA Leadership Camp will be held the following week and will be the last week the camp will be used this season by FFA or FHA members.

The regular camp weeks will open on Monday afternoon and close on Saturday morning after Breakfast. During the week, campers are led by six camp counselors in team sports, including softball and volleyball. There are also individual activities such as swimming, boating, badminton, board games and video games. Tournaments are held in many of the individual and team sports and a camp Olympics is a regular event. One day each week, campers may go to Busch Gardens for an entire day of park activities, including all of the rides and shows.

At night, the camp comes alive with pool parties, dances, and recent full length movies. Creative campers may even entertain the group with a song or skit during the talent show.

Camp Director Turner Trice will be returning for his twentieth season at the Smithfield camp. Working with him will be an energetic crew of hard-working counselors who are looking forward to an exciting summer of seeing old friends and making new ones.

Make your plans now to attend YOUR camp this summer. The cost is only $50 for a week you will always remember! Information concerning the camp was sent to all chapters of Future Farmers and Future Homemakers in January. The FFA-FHA Camp does not discriminate against anyone, regardless of race, creed, color, religious affiliations, or handicapping conditions. Ask your advisor for additional information or write to Randy Trivette, P.O. Box 6Q, Richmond, VA 23216 for information and reservation forms.

Riverheads Sets Record

For the first time, one FFA Chapter has won both junior and senior divisions of the state Parliamentary Procedure Contest. The Riverheads chapter, of the Northern Area, won both 1985 championships on March 23. The contest was held at Buckingham Vocational Center in Buckingham County. Both teams were coached by advisor Robert Christian.

The parliamentary procedure contest requires teams to perform the official FFA opening and closing ceremonies, give officer and committee reports and solve a problem given by the judges. The problem for the senior division was "Plan to recognize individuals of your chapter for FFA related activities." The junior division problem was, "Plan activities to increase FFA membership."

In the senior division, Pulaski County placed second, Tunstall was third, while Nelson County placed fourth and Essex was fifth.

Four Riverheads members were named to the All State team in the senior division. Named were: Billy Wade, President; Mac Williams, Secretary; Carol Heizer, Reporter and Jimmy Wade, Committee Chairman. From Pulaski, Joe Guthrie was named Vice-President and Marc Bishop was named Treasurer. Scott Reinhardt, from Essex, was named All-State Sentinel for the third year. Tunstall's Rick Holland was named as the Second Committee Chairman.

Placing second in the junior division was Laurel Park. Essex placed third, while Stonewall Jackson Jr. placed fourth and Grayson County was fifth.

Riverheads placed two members on the junior division All-State team. Eric Swortzel was named President and Chuck Belsamo is the First Committee Chairman. From Essex, Stephen Ellis is the Vice-President and Wayne Moore is the Reporter. Laurel Park had Valerie Barnes named Secretary and Chip Wade named Treasurer. Ricky Womble from Stonewall Jackson Jr. is the Sentinel and Grayson County's Wes Sutherland is the Second Committee Chairman.

Southern States Cooperative co-sponsors the senior division contest and the Virginia FFA Alumni Association sponsors the junior division.

Future Farmers of America

American Farmer Degree Being Revised Again

The National FFA Center has announced that there are two omissions in the newly revised American Farmer Degree application that could affect eligibility of certain candidates for the degree. The omissions were noted after several states, including Virginia, expressed concern over the eligibility requirements as outlined in the new application.

The first revision changes the wording on Item IV A on page 11 of the application. It has been changed so that a candidate for the degree may include all of his or her personal living expenses during the period of time covered by the application. These expenses include rent, utility bills, etc. The total of this section is then transferred to page 14, Item D, Line 3e and to page 15, section VI, Item A, line 8.

The second revision, on page 14, will allow the candidate to deduct these personal expenses from the total non-supervised occupational experience (SOE) program earnings. The officials at the FFA Center state that this will more fairly determine whether the student has met the minimum investment total of $5000 by placing far less penalty on a member who has earned a substantial amount of money from these non-SOE activities.

Although many candidates have already submitted applications for the degree for 1985, it is thought that these changes will not affect any who have applied this year. These revisions will be reflected in applications printed after the current year.

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award. These bring to 28 the total number of proficiency awards presented to Virginia FFA members by the national organization.

The Virginia Association FFA honors a winner from each of the five supervisory areas of the state with a certificate and a check sponsored by the Virginia Association. All of the state winners of the national proficiency awards will receive a check for $100 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc., and the opportunity to compete for Eastern Regional and, perhaps, national honors. National winners are named in Kansas City during the national FFA convention following an extensive round of interviews. National award winners receive, among other things, an expense paid agricultural tour of European nations.

John Martin, State FFA Vice President (r.), assists in the presentation of a broken plate to Senator Robert Dole.

Officers Participate in Promotion

Three Virginia FFA Officers participated in the promotional activities on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on February 26. David Wright, Keith May and John Martin assisted officers from Maryland, West Virginia, and New Jersey, delivering broken plates to congressional offices, the media, the Department of Education, and the Department of Agriculture.

The broken plates were distributed to promote the national television special, "Agriculture's Next Generation — A Conflict of Interests." The special focuses on need for talented young people to enter the field of agriculture.

The National FFA Alumni Association sponsored the promotion to bring Congressional attention to the special.

PUBLIC RELATIONS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!

By: Richard Owen, State Reporter

Public relations can be the force that puts your FFA chapter on the map! Few people realize that a chapter's communication with its community is the key to gaining support for future activities. In many cases where administrative and community support is low, the problem lies in the fact that these people are unaware of what is going on in their FFA chapter. Many chapters have proven this true when they began to periodically submit articles to newspapers, hold faculty information meetings and by posting events on school bulletin boards. Here are a few suggestions that might improve your chapter's image.

If your chapter doesn't alrady do so, hold a parent-member banquet to "show-off" to parents, school officials and other supporters the accomplishments of the year. This may be the most important activity your chapter will be involved in during the year, so allow plenty of time and hard work to assure its success.

Begin a newsletter to keep members informed of chapter activities. You will want to include results of recent contests, dates and details of upcoming events and other information that involves the members. You may want to send copies to school administrators and parents to keep them informed about the FFA.

Participate in National FFA Week. This public relations event always occurs in February during the week of George Washington's Birthday. Proven successful activities have been submitting articles and news spots to the local papers and radio and TV stations. Other possibilities are to hold an activity involving the entire student body, having members wear official dress during the week and hosting a teacher appreciation event.

The state association encourages all chapters to submit articles concerning FFA activities to the state publication "Chapter Chats." The magazine is normally printed three times during the school year and its size is partially determined by the number of articles received. On the national level, chapters should submit news to National Future Farmer magazine. If you feel your chapter has a truly worthwhile article or event, you are encouraged to send it.

A community cannot be expected to be supportive of your chapter if they are unaware of its activities. Insure that you have accomplished your share of the task by keeping them informed.