

FFA Begins Rural America Program

Making rural communities better places in which to live and work is the objective of a new community action program announced recently by the National Organization of the Future Farmers of America.

Theme of the new program is "Building Our American Communities"

Harry Budwell, National FFA

President, made the announcement at a Capitol Hill breakfast for State FFA Presidents, then Congressmen, and Senators.

"This is an opportunity for young people to show their concern for America by getting actively involved in their community," Budwell told the group of 80 State Officers and 40 Congressmen.

"We want to make it clear," said Budwell, "that students of vocational agriculture and members of the FFA are training for occupations in both farming and agribusiness. Because of our expanded interests and the desire of our members to be associated with agriculture, we feel it is essential to build strong rural communities where they can live and work in agriculturally related jobs. This will be possible only if jobs are available and rural communities are desirable places in which to live and work," he said.

In addition to support from the FFA, several top government officials including President Nixon have given their verbal support of the FFA Community Action Program Lilly Endowment, Inc., of Indianapolis, Indiana, is sponsoring the "Building Our American Communities" program through the National FFA Foundation, Inc. More than 5,000 awards are available to FFA chapters that take an active role in improving their communities.

"We realize this project is quite an undertaking," said Birdwell, "however, we anticipate that many other organizations will become actively involved in community projects as a result of FFA efforts to help coordinate rural development."

Robert Good Attends

(Continued from Page 17) events was the announcement of a new FFA community action program—"Building Our American Communities" Announcement of the new program was made at a Capitol Hill breakfast for state officers, then Senators and Congressmen.

leadership skills, and develop an understanding of the national heritage. During the week the FFA officers had an opportunity to exchange ideas with other officers throughout the nation.

In addition to the training sessions, the FFA members visited Mt Vernon Plantation, the National Archives, Arlington National Cemetery, and several other historic monuments and memorials in and around the Capital.

The "Building Our American Communities" program combines classroom study with action projects to get FFA members involved in making their communities better places in which to live and work.

State officers from 49 states attended the FFA conference program designed to improve

Good, age 19, is the son of Mr and Mrs Harold C Good of Anville, Pa. His vocational agriculture instructor is John G Myers. In addition to his duties as State 1st Vice President he, is currently operating a 75 head dairy operation with 316 acres.

The Building Our American Communities program is a joint effort of the FFA, the U.S. Office of Education and the Farmers Home Administration (FHA), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. The FHA has prepared a "Guide to Understanding and Developing Communities" for use by vocational agriculture instructors in the high school vocational agriculture classroom.

The guide outlines discussion that can be related to any community and includes topics such as identifying the wants and needs of the local community, analyzing the resources available for community improvement and how to carry out constructive projects for improving the community.

A second phase of the program will involve FFA members in community action projects. Chapters will be encouraged to take on constructive projects that will improve their communities. Some projects being suggested include surveys of community land, water, manpower and transportation resources, job surveys, environmental clean up and control and community health and safety projects.

As we view America's future, it becomes more evident that rural America must help find solutions to the problems of congested urban centers," said Budwell in announcing the program. "The over population of cities can be reduced," he explained, "provided that sufficient jobs, adequate housing and municipal facilities can be secured, to make rural and semi-rural areas more attractive places in which to live and work."

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