

FFA Alumni Hold National Meeting

ALEXANDRIA, VA. — More than 200 farmers, agribusiness leaders, and government officials, all former members of the Future Farmers of America

(FFA), were in Chicago Friday, May 12, for the organizational meeting of the National FFA Alumni Association. Purpose of the meeting was to

elect a national slate of officers and to decide on state, local and national activities in which members can participate. This was the first national meeting of the FFA Alumni Association, which was formed two years ago at the National FFA Convention when state delegates of the national youth organization voted to create an alumni membership status.

According to Gus Douglas, National FFA Alumni Council Chairman and Commissioner of Agriculture in West Virginia, "The FFA Alumni Association is striving to develop activities that will complement the activities of local vocational agriculture departments and FFA chapters."

Although the National Alumni Association has been formally organized for only slightly more than a year, 15 states have already chartered State FFA Alumni Associations. Total membership in the National Association now stands at over 3,000 members and according to Alumni Association administrative secretary, Jay Benham, the membership is growing rapidly. "We estimate that over three million students of vocational agriculture have been FFA members over the 44 year history of the organization," says Benham. "We realize that the present membership is only a small beginning, but response to date makes us optimistic that the Association will grow to a

sizeable organization. Our biggest challenge so far has been to locate former members and to inform them of our organization's existence and purposes."

According to Benham all former FFA members, honorary members and teachers of vocational agriculture are eligible for membership in the FFA Alumni Association. All who joined prior to May 12 will be considered "Charter Members" and received a special charter membership card. National dues for the organization are \$4 per year or \$100 for life membership.

The purpose of the FFA Alumni Association are:

To support and promote the FFA organization, FFA activities, and vocational agriculture on the local, state, and national levels;

To provide a tie to the FFA and to assist FFA and agricultural educational personnel to involve former members in worthy activities;

To promote a greater knowledge of the agricultural industry and support education in agriculture, and

To cooperate with the National FFA Board of Directors, National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees, and the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee.

DairyExpo Winners

The following local youth were included among winners at the 47th Annual Dairy Exposition held last Saturday at Pennsylvania State University:

Individual breed winner for showing—Harold Moyer, Lebanon, reserve champion.

Individual breed winner for showing Jerseys—Matthew Young, Peach Bottom, champion.

Fitting contest individual winner in Jerseys—Matthew Young, Peach Bottom, reserve champion.

Amateur dairy cattle judging contest, Holstein class—Sally Wiggin, Dallas.

Weather Causes Farmers to be Behind Schedule

The first two weeks of May were plenty cool and wet.

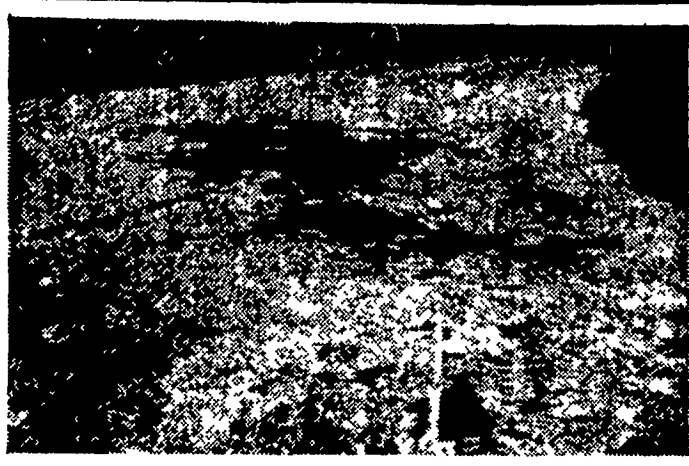
Hay is just beginning to make rapid growth in our area because cool temperatures had held back initial spring growth.

Wet weather also held back spring field work with most growers one to two weeks behind schedule. Topsoil moisture supplies were reported surplus for the second straight week.

The Old Timer



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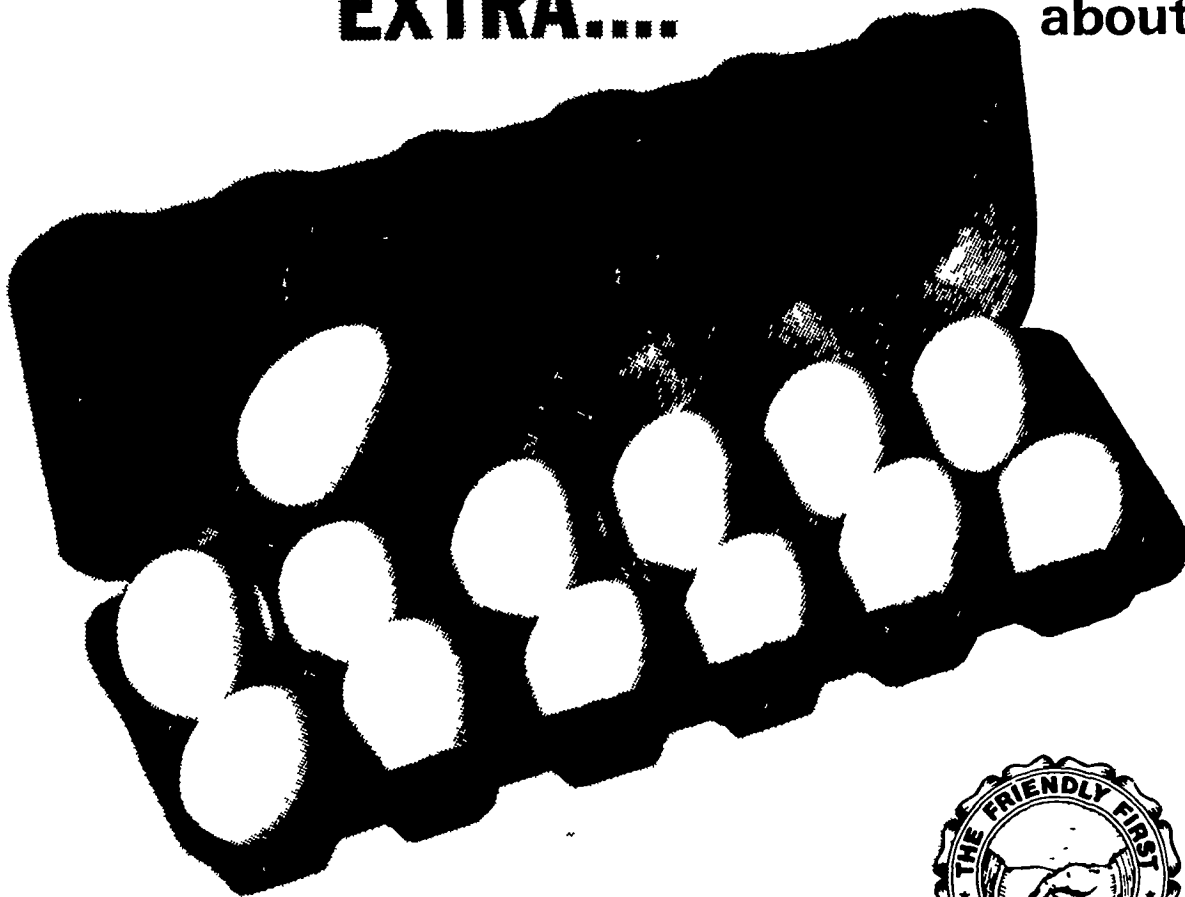
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