

FFA - Hope for the Future

One of the best examples of youth in action on the American scene today is the FFA, the national organization for students studying vocational

agriculture in the public high schools. It is an organization run by the student members under adult guidance. Soon after vocational agriculture became a sub-

ject in many of the nation's high school in 1917, instructors became aware of the need to provide practical training beyond the traditional classroom approach. Their idea was to make the instruction more interesting by making practical work experience, competitive livestock judging, and agricultural leadership development activities part of the instruction. Vocational agriculture instructors and students eagerly accepted the learn by doing principle.

The FFA was founded nationally in 1928 after similar organizations had started in several states. Right from the beginning, the FFA has stressed leadership, cooperation and citizenship - all vital to success in modern agriculture.

Today the FFA has a membership of over 450,000 with chapters in approximately 8,000 high schools throughout the nation. The organization has state associations in all states, except Alaska and in Puerto Rico.

Vocational Agriculture or agribusiness programs are funded in part by the National Vocational Education Acts through the U.S. Office of Education, state departments of education and the local school systems. The FFA operates under a federal charter granted by an Act of Congress in 1950 (Public Law 740, 81st Congress). The charter provides for a national board of directors and board of student officers elected from the membership.

FFA activities are specifically designed to be a part of the instructional program in vocational agriculture. Members learn through active participation

how to conduct and take part in public meetings, how to speak in public, and how to take a leadership role in their school and community.

Each local chapter and each state association elects its own officers each year. In all cases the teacher of vocational agriculture is the advisor of the local FFA chapter and the State supervisor of agricultural education is the advisor of the state association.

FFA members have full opportunity to practice the principles of democracy in conducting the affairs of their organization by exercising their privilege to vote at chapter meetings, serve on committees, and otherwise assist in carrying on the work of their organization. Elected delegates to the state and national conventions, held each year are asked to decide on major issues facing the organization.

Advancement through the degrees in the organization from the Green Hand through the Chapter Farmer, State Farmer and American Farmer or Agribusinessman is based on achievement in farming, ranching, or agribusiness careers.

Nearly 8,000 public schools have FFA chapters. One of the requirements for membership in FFA is that a student be enrolled in vocational agriculture. Students may retain their membership until they are 21.

Competition is a key element of the FFA from the chapter to the national level. Each year the FFA recognizes more than 80,000 members at local, state and national levels for out-

standing achievement in activities related to agriculture career and leadership development.

Funds for awards are provided by more than 700 businesses, organizations, and individuals that sponsor FFA programs through the National FFA Foundation, Inc. The Foundation provides nearly half a million dollars to make the incentive awards available to deserving FFA members in the following award programs: Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman awards, 19 agricultural proficiency awards, public

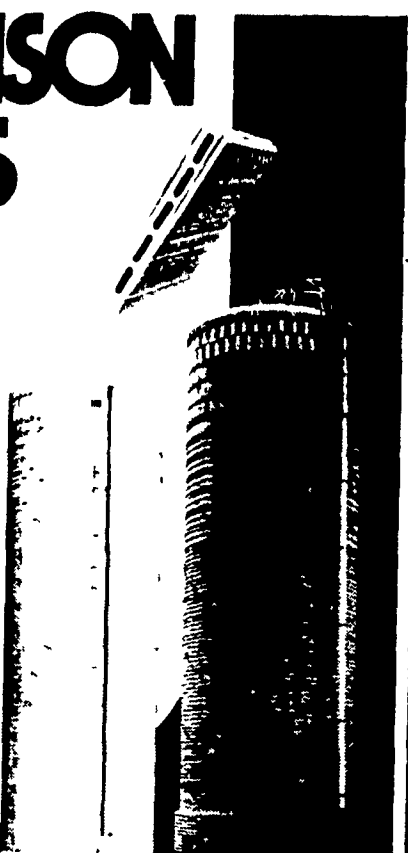
speaking, national chapter awards, national chapter safety, Building Our American Communities Awards, national judging contests, establishment in agriculture awards, and through state initiated programs for improving agricultural leadership.

Recent food shortages in this country have reaffirmed the need for continuing a strong program of vocational agriculture and the FFA. Thus there is a bright future for trained agriculturists ready to serve America.

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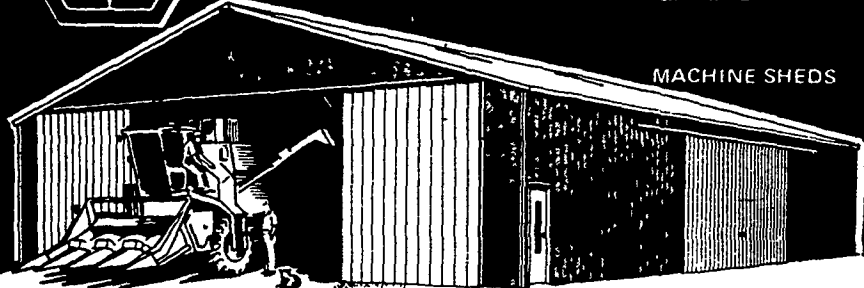
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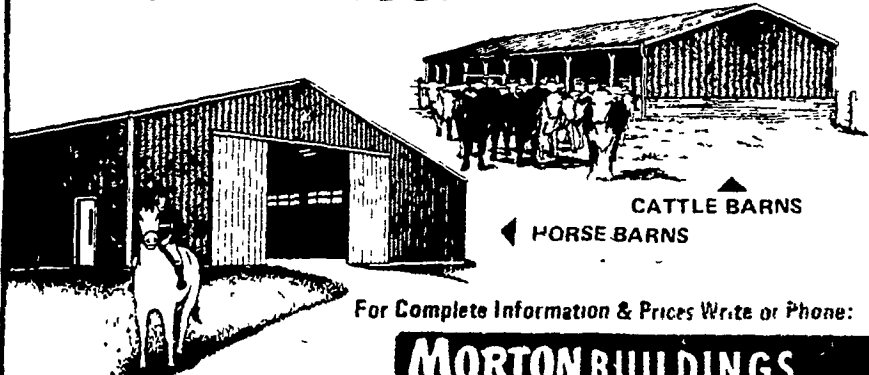


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