

# Nat. FFA convention

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achievement in one of 19 areas of production agriculture and agribusiness.

Building Our American Communities Awards will be presented to 108 FFA chapters during the Thursday morning session. The BOAC program is a national

effort of the FFA to involve members in community development. Thirty-seven chapters will be recognized as Gold Emblem recipients in the award program. Of those chapters, four will be recognized as regional winners, and one of the four will be named to receive the National Citation for the top community action program in the nation.

The National FFA Alumni Association will hold the opening session of its fourth annual meeting on Thursday morning at the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel. Over 1,000 persons are expected to attend the 17,500 member Alumni Organization's meeting which will convene for two half day sessions on Thursday and Friday mornings (November 13-14).

FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards will be presented to three FFA Alumni members and over 100 Legion of Merit Citations will be presented for active leadership in building the FFA Alumni Association. In addition to the award presentations, the Alumni will conduct a business session, hold committee meetings, and elect new officers.

The Thursday afternoon FFA Convention program will feature former Secretary of the Treasury Joh Connally of Texas, and Yazoo City, Mississippi, humorist and fertilizer salesman Jerry Clower, both of whom will address FFA members who have earned the American Farmer Degree.

The Honorary American Farmer Degree will be presented to 80 persons in education, government, business and industry who have made outstanding contributions to the FFA and agriculture. This year 92 vocational agriculture teachers will also receive the Honorary American Farmer Degree for their work as teachers and advisors on local chapters.

The American Farmer Degree, highest degree presented to members of the Future Farmers of America will be awarded to 703 deserving FFA members this year, the largest number of FFA members ever to receive the degree.

Always a highlight of the National FFA Convention, the naming of the Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America will be Thursday evening. An expected audience of over 12,000 FFA members and guests will be present. The Star Farmer of America award, was presented for the first time in 1929, by the Kansas City Star newspaper. Since then it has come to be a symbol of achievement in the FFA, recognizing the Future Farmer who has developed the most outstanding farming program. The Star Agribusinessman award was created six years ago to recognize the FFA member who has developed outstanding career opportunities in agricultural business. There will be four candidates for each award - one representing each of the four FFA administrative regions. A \$1,000 cash award is presented to the Star Farmer and the Star Agribusinessman of America at the conclusion of the "Stars Over America" Pageant. In addition, the eight "Stars" are featured in the premier showing of a 25-minute film sponsored by CIBA-GEILLY Corporation. Following the convention, the film is made available on free loan to FFA chapters throughout the year.

A busy morning session is scheduled for Friday as the convention draws to a close. At breakfast in their honor, individual and team winners will be announced in the seven National FFA Contests. Back on the convention floor participants will hear an address by Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, and National FFA Safety Awards will be presented to chapters that conducted outstanding safety programs during the 1974-75 school year. Later in the session delegates will vote for six national officers who will represent members during the 1975-76 school year.

Following an afternoon of participation in FFA Day at the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show, convention participants will return to the Municipal Auditorium for the final session. National FFA President Alpha Trivette of Ladysmith, Virginia, will deliver his closing address and a new slate of officers will be installed. Trivette and his fellow officers will recognize their parents and vocational agriculture instructors by presenting them the Honorary American Farmer Degree. The convention will be adjourned but few will leave the auditorium, as an evening of special entertainment begins immediately following the closing gavel. Over the years the variety show featuring professional entertainment sponsored by the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company of

Akron, Ohio, has become a regular feature of the convention.

On Saturday morning the National FFA Band will fulfill a long-standing tradition by leading the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show parade through the streets of Kansas City. It will be the final performance of the 1975 National FFA Band signaling the conclusion of the 48th National FFA Convention and the beginning of the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show.

The planning committee for the First World Conference in Agricultural Education will begin on Tuesday, November 11 at the Phillips House and will conclude on Tuesday (November 18). The committee, which is made up of agricultural educators and youth representatives from many of the countries which will be involved in the Conference will establish a program for the conference which will be held in conjunction with the 1976 National FFA Convention. A feature of the Conference will be the First International Agriculture Olympics in which agriculture students from all nations will compete in tests of agricultural skill and knowledge. The entire cost of the Conference is being sponsored by Massey-Ferguson Inc. as a Special Project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.



Agronomists from Penn State recently used a new harvester to sample yields of small grain and soybeans in Lebanon County research plots. Dr. Richard Cole, (left) Penn State agronomist and

Denis Hoke, agricultural agent are shown placing the samples into bags. James Eakin, Penn State Agronomist (right) looks on. The harvester was manned by a technician from Penn State.

## Crop variety plots harvested

Seven varieties of soybeans and twenty-one varieties of grain sorghum were harvested last week by Penn State Agronomists. The variety plots are part of an on-going research and demonstration program to test new varieties of the major crops grown in Lebanon County.

The seven soybean varieties included a new variety of edible soybean called Emerald which was developed at the University of Maryland. It produces a satisfactory yield of ex-

cellent quality beans, which have a bright green color and good cooking quality. The other bean varieties in the test were all field types which are commonly grown for livestock feed.

The soybean plots were planted onland which is leased by the Annville-Cleona High School Vocational Agriculture class taught by Lowell Morton. James Eakin, Penn State Extension Agronomist, designed the experimental plots which were planted under the supervision of

Newton Bair, County Extension Agent.

The grain sorghum variety plots on the farm of Clair Gerberich, Jonestown were sampled for yield and quality of the different hybrid sorghum. Sorghum yields were somewhat lower than in previous years, but were generally satisfactory. Yields ranged from 30 to 70 bushels per acre. All the data on yields, moisture, maturity and seed quality will be made available to the growers as soon as it can be compiled and evaluated.

Harvesting and yield checks of both crops were done with the help of a miniature combine designed for harvesting small plots. Self-propelled, it cuts a 48 inch swath and can handle most small grain crops. It was recently purchased by the Pennsylvania State University from a manufacturer in Belgium. The new machine has increased the efficiency and accuracy of harvesting experimental plots, which was formerly done by hand labor.

## York Co. gal wins trip to hort conference

Megan Shaub, 350 W. Railroad Ave., Shrewsbury; daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shaub, left recently for the National Junior Horticultural Association Annual Meeting in Beloxi, Mississippi.

Megan was chosen for this trip by qualifying as one of five Horticulture Keystone Winners in Pennsylvania from forty applicants. Winners are chosen on the basis of their 4-H Horticulture Project work, overall 4-H experience and accomplishment, their leadership abilities and well-rounded character.

Miss Shaub, 15, has received awards on various levels of 4-H work. In the past two years she has been recognized as an Outstanding 4-H member in Horticulture and Flowers, as well as receiving the Out-

standing Junior Girl and Achievement Awards on the county level.

In addition she is an officer in 4-H clubs (3); the Saddle up Horse & Pony club, (President), The Shrewsbury 4-H Community Club (Vice President) and the York County 4-H Horticulture Club (Vice President).

While in Beloxi, Megan will take part in various workshops, tours, seminars and rap sessions on various horticulture subjects.

Thanks must also go to Earl Brown's Orchard, Loganville; Ernest Horn, Pennfield Corp, Red Lion; Shrewsbury Lions Club; Glen Rock State Bank and York Bank and Trust who are sponsoring her trip this weekend to the National Junior Horticulture Association's Annual Meeting.

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