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22,000 expected at convention

KANSAS CITY — Nationally-known speakers, contests and award presentations will highlight the 53rd National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention, November 12 to 14, in Kansas City, Missouri.

An expected crowd of nearly 22,000 members, advisors, sponsors and friends will show how the FFA is "Building Tomorrows Today" at the largest annual youth convention in the country.

Radio/TV star and author Art Linkletter will kick off the convention, speaking at the Wednesday morning session. Baseball great Hank Aaron will speak Thursday morning, and Secretary of agriculture Bob Bergland will address the FFA members that afternoon. Senator David Pryor of

Arkansas and Bob Devaney, University of Nebraska athletic director, will also address the crowd.

FFA chapters from across the nation will be honored for outstanding Building Our American Communities (BOAC), safety and chapter projects, and individual members will be recognized for agricultural proficiencies.

The American Farmer degree will be conferred upon 781 members who have developed outstanding production agriculture or agribusiness programs. The top two will be named Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America.

The Honorary American Farmer degree will be conferred upon vocational agriculture instructors and

individuals in education, government, business and industry who have made outstanding contributions to the FFA and agriculture.

Distinguished Service Citations will go to the American Hereford Association, General Motors Corporation, and Lilly Endowment, Inc., and the VIP Citation will be presented to Dr. Harold Binkley, chairman of the University of Kentucky Department of Vocational Education; Frank Carlson, former U.S. Senator from Kansas; Al Haukom, president of NASCO Division-Weatherby, and Clarke Nelson, Vice President of Carnation Company.

Sponsors of the National FFA Foundation, Inc., will be recognized by Roland M. Hendrickson, 1980 National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairman and President of Pfizer Agricultural Division. Retiring addresses of the national officers will also be included on the program.

The nearly half-million FFA members will be represented by 121 state delegates who will consider business of the organization. Other members will be in the National FFA Chorus or Band or display their individual talents at the convention.

Teams from nearly every state will compete in the agricultural mechanics, meats, dairy cattle, milk

quality and dairy foods, livestock, poultry, floriculture, nursery/landscape and farm business management contests. The prepared and extemporaneous public speaking contests will be held before the convention audience.

IN H. Roe Bartle Exhibition Hall, the National Agricultural Career Show will teach FFA members about career opportunities in agriculture.

The Hall of States will feature a booth telling about each state's agriculture, FFA projects or history.

Leadership workshops will be sponsored by the FFA Alumni Association and a reporter's workshop will also be held in Bartle Hall.

After FFA Day at the American Royal Livestock Show, the convention will conclude Friday night with the Firestone Show and installation of 1980-81 national officers.



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