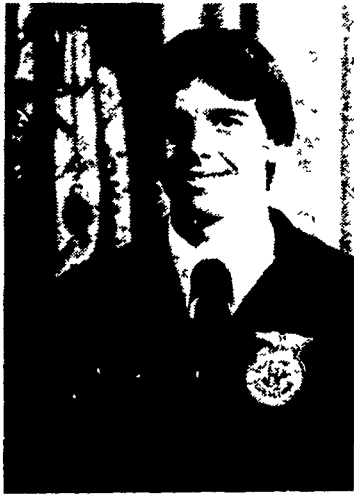


N.J. FFA convention opens Monday

TRENTON, N.J. — More than 300 Future Farmers of American members are expected in New Brunswick next week as the 52nd annual New Jersey FFA Convention opens at Cook College, Rutgers University.

During the 3-day convention, FFA members from all over the state will gather to conduct business of the State FFA Association and recognize fellow members for their outstanding achievements.

This year's convention, to be held Monday through Wednesday, will feature National FFA Vice President, Glenn Caves of Laurel, Miss. as a speaker. Other guest speakers include Secretary of Agriculture, Phillip Alampi, and



Glenn Caves

Grant Walton, Dean of Cook College

According to State FFA Executive Secretary, John K. Grover, agricultural proficiency and other awards will be presented to outstanding members, and chapters will receive Superior Chapter, Safety and Building Our American Communities awards. Garden State Degrees will be conferred upon 32 FFA members who have qualified for the highest state degree as a result of their occupational and leadership achievements.

In addition to student recognition, several adults and groups are to be cited for their service to the FFA. Six adults will receive the Honorary Garden State

Farmer Degree. A Distinguished Service Citation will be presented to the Middlesex County Vocational School.

The nine state FFA officers will preside over the convention. They are

State President, Robert J. Graham, Mays Landing; State Vice-President, David R. Specca, Mount Holly; Vice-President, Central Region, Stephen P. Dey, III, Allentown; Vice-President, Northeast Region, Sandra M. Kutt, Whitehouse Station; Vice President, Northwest Region, Nancy J. Schnetzer, Asbury; State Secretary, Andrea J. Ceur, Stockton; State Treasurer, Roger R. Locandro, Jr., Stockton; State Reporter, Michael J. Novak, Flemington; and State Sentinel,

Jennifer A. Sliker, Califon.

Fifty official delegates from each of the 25 chapters in the state will represent 1,715 members in voting on business. According to Robert J. Graham, State President, delegates vote upon constitutional changes, program of work, program of events, leadership training programs, chapter status, contest changes, and election of officers.

National FFA Vice President Glenn Caves will address the convention, Tuesday, June 23. The major emphasis of his speech will be increasing membership and participation in FFA activities at all levels. Glen was elected at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo., last November.

Stained paint isn't always dirt

NEWARK, DELAWARE — It's easy to understand how inside painted walls become soiled. But what causes the dirty-looking discoloration on outside painted walls, well out of the reach of sticky-fingered children?

A look under a microscope may show that some of that "dirt" is actually mildew, says Delaware extension building specialist Ernest Walpole. Mildew is a black discoloration caused by a fungal growth on the stain. You can recognize active mildew under a microscope or high-powered magnifying glass by its thread-like growth. A simpler test to distinguish mildew from dirt is to apply a few drops of household bleach to the stain. Mildew should bleach out in a few minutes.

Mildew needs moisture to grow. It occurs both inside and outside of houses. Outside it is most common behind trees and shrubs where air movement is restricted, and also on areas where dew forms first and stays longest. These are areas that cool off rapidly, that are unheated, and that are protected from direct sunlight.

Some paints are more susceptible than others to mildew attack. Considering pigments, zinc oxide inhibits mildew, whereas titanium dioxide has very little inhibiting

effect. With oil-base paints mildew attacks exterior flat paint more severely than exterior enamel. Paints containing linseed oil are very susceptible to mildew.

Of the water-based paints, acrylic latex is fairly resistant to mildew. Porous latex paints are affected severely.

Mildewcides can be added to most paints by either the manufacturer or the paint dealer. Mildewcides are poisonous to the mildew fungus. For best mildew resistance, choose a paint with some natural resistance and add a mildewcide.

There is no point in painting over mildew-discolored paint unless you kill the mildew. Use a sponge or bristle brush and rubber gloves to scrub the affected surface with a solution made of one-third cup of detergent, one quart of household bleach, and three quarts of water. Do not mix bleach with a detergent containing ammonia; the fumes of the resultant mixture would be poisonous.

When the surface is mildew-free, rinse with a hose. Let dry and paint immediately with a resistant paint containing added mildewcide. A cleaned surface can be recontaminated if left several days before repainting. For new wood or bare spots use a recommended

primer containing a mildewcide before applying the finish coat of paint.

Blue stain is the common name for another microscopic fungus that attacks wood below the paint. If the wood is wet the fungus will be active and the blue stain will discolor or show through the paint. Dry-wood may contain blue stain fungi with no ill effects. As long as the moisture content remains below 20 percent the fungus will remain inactive.

Active blue stain problems generally indicate a moisture problem. Water may be coming from rain, roof leaks, leaks around windows, or it may be the result of excessive moisture inside the house working its way through the walls. Household bleach may remove the surface staining but it is not a permanent cure. For that, the cause of the moisture problem must be eliminated, says Walpole.

To repaint after blue stain, first remove the old paint and let the surface dry. Apply a water-repellent preservative, then cover

with a primer coat and finish coat as for mildew.

Reddish brown paint discoloration is caused by rust, usually from rusty nail heads. The only solution, according to Walpole, may be to countersink the nails, caulk the holes, and spot prime before repainting.

For new construction or repairs, prevention is the best policy. Use non-corroding nails such as high-quality galvanized, aluminum, or stainless steel.

The knots of many softwood species contain large amounts of

resin. If the resin hasn't been set by high-temperature kiln drying, it can form a brown stain that bleeds through the paint. To cure this problem, remove the existing paint, apply a good oil-base primer, and then a finish coat. The old practice of applying shellac over the knots is no longer recommended as this has been found to result in early paint failure.

As with rust, prevention is the best policy for dealing with resin stain. The problem seldom occurs when kiln-dried lumber is used.



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