

Pennsylvania FFA

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membership enrollment, publicity, setting up a Foundation and activities of the state association at the national convention each year.

Initially, it is planned to finance the post with an extra 10 cents per box of citrus that chapters would turn back to the state association.

When a Pennsylvania FFA Foundation is established patterned after the national concept, the post and other FFA activities could be supported through agribusiness grants and donations.

And there are some other firsts for the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

During FFA Week, which started today, Witmer and other state officers will launch a program of visits to Pennsylvania businesses and industries which have been supportive of the FFA.

Visits during the coming week will be made to Victor F. Weaver Inc., Sperry New Holland, Lancaster Farming, Lancaster Newspapers, Wenger Farm Machinery, Ashcombe Farm and Greenhouse, Country Market Florist and other businesses who aid the FFA in various ways.

"Like the visits of national officers, we want to express our personal appreciation of the help shown by these businesses and industries and to ask for their continued support," Witmer said.

And the dynamic, forward-looking FFA president, who is seeking a career in agribusiness public relations, also has some other "firsts" in mind.

After a recent visit to Maryland, she'd like to see an FFA Citizen-

ship Program adopted in Pennsylvania, in which FFA Chapter presidents and state officers get together with legislative and other governmental officials once a year to discuss mutual interests and needs.

"Due to our large number of chapters, we might have to divide such a program into two sessions for the eastern and western sections of the state," Witmer said.

"But it could be a valuable meeting to keep in touch with state officials."

And what does the future hold for this "FFA President of Firsts?"

Well, like her male predecessors in the post, she's about to begin the annual FFA banquet circuit that will take her to some 30 or more parent-member gatherings in the next couple of months.

And, that will bring her almost to June Activities Week when she will officially relinquish the reins of the State Association but still be active as past state president.

And active personifies the Garden Spot High School graduate who held just about every FFA post in the Grassland Chapter, was a member of the winning State Parliamentary Procedure Team, had breeding sheep and market lamb projects on-farm and works at Yoder's Country Market off-farm. And also managed to win the State Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest.

And I'm sure the "firsts" aren't over. She'll likely be the first female FFA candidate from Pennsylvania for national office.

If not this coming year, possibly next year.



As president of the Pennsylvania Association of the Future Farmers of America, Carolyn Witmer, R2 East Earl, participates in many statewide functions. Standing at right, she joins other state presidents of vocational organizations for the signing of a proclamation by Governor Thornburgh for Vocational Education Week, which was held during the past week and is followed immediately by FFA Week, which began today.

Chapters plan FFA Week events

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Nearly one-half million members of the Future Farmers of America will be involved in promoting FFA/vocational agriculture and the agriculture industry across the nation during FFA Week, which began today.

FFA members in over 8,350 chapters across the U.S. and its territories will be organizing events and activities to create awareness of and support for FFA/vocational agriculture education.

This year's theme for FFA Week — "Keeping America on the

Grow" — will be seen throughout local communities nationwide, not only through promotional efforts of the local students, but also through a national public service announcement campaign featuring Eddie Albert.

FFA/vocational agriculture education places a major emphasis on developing leadership skills, innovative practices and the application of both to the industry of agriculture.

Ron Wineinger, National FFA President, sees FFA Week as a "good opportunity for all involved to reassess the importance of

agriculture to us as individuals and the nation as a whole."

Traditionally, FFA Week has included George Washington's birthday in respect for his leadership and commitment to strengthening America through agriculture. Both the National FFA Center and FFA National Hall of Achievement are located on part of the old Washington estate, near Alexandria, Virginia.

Many chapters throughout Pennsylvania plan special activities during FFA Week.

The Twin Valley FFA Chapter at Elverson will hold an open house from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday in the vo-ag classroom and shop. The chapter will have exhibits and demonstrations of its activities and accomplishments.

The Warwick FFA in Lititz will be displaying some of the project activities of members in the high school lobby and distribute FFA items to supporters, as well as a newsletter of FFA activities to the community. The school faculty will also be treated to cherry pie on Washington's birthday.

In Berks County, Conrad Weiser Chapter is planning displays in area grocery stores; Oley Valley, a display in the school lobby; Hamburg, an FFA Dress-Up Day; Kutztown, placements in restaurants; and Tulpehocken, bulletin boards displays and a sign in front of the school.

National officers coming to NE

NEW YORK — The national FFA officers will travel throughout the Northeastern United States during the next two weeks to learn about American business and industry.

This year, the two FFA "Stars" (Star Farmer and Agribusinessman) are accompanying the six national officers among others in the FFA group visiting 30 cities in 10 states. Thus, approximately 150 businesses and industries in the Northeast will be visited in an effort to teach the officers and stars something about the structure of the U.S. economic system.

New York City will be the starting point for the two-week tour. The group will meet with Hilmer Jones, Vice President, North American Operations, MSD AGVET Division of Merck and Company, Inc., Rahway, N.J. Jones is also the Chairman for the 1984 National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Board. From there, the group will divide into three teams and cover New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maryland and Delaware.

"The U.S. tour will give us the chance to visit with many businesses and communities that

support vocational agriculture and FFA," commented Ron Wineinger, National FFA President from Marion, Kansas. He added, "It is our chance to learn about their work and service as well as an opportunity to express our appreciation to them and explain our current activities."

During the first half of the month, the national officers participated in a two-week trip to Japan.

The officers visited their Japanese counterparts — the Future Farmers of Japan and stayed with host families provided by the FFJ.

Hayes is Grassland speaker

NEW HOLLAND — Samuel E. Hayes, Jr., Minority Whip of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, will be the featured speaker at the 25th Anniversary Banquet of the Grassland FFA to be held on Friday, March 9. The program will begin at 8:15 p.m. in the auditorium of the Garden Spot High School following simultaneous banquets at the Blue Ball and New Holland Fire Halls.

A former FFA member, Hayes holds both the Honorary Keystone Farmer Degree and the Honorary American Farmer Degree. He graduated from Penn State with both a bachelors and masters degree. He began his career as a teacher of vocational agriculture in Central Pennsylvania. In 1970, he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and has served seven consecutive terms. Currently he serves as Minority Whip, and he previously served as Majority Whip for two legislative sessions. In 1983, he was named Lawmaker of the Year and was also the recipient of the Miracle Mile Award and Special Leadership Award given by the Rural Electric Cooperative.

More than 500 current and former FFA members including recipients of chapter, county, state and national degrees; chapter,



Samuel E. Hayes Jr.

county, state, and national FFA officers; and charter members of the Grassland FFA Chapter of the Garden Spot High School are expected to attend the activities. In addition, teachers; administrators and former administrators; school board members; and community and agri-business leaders will be in attendance.

All former members of the Grassland FFA are invited to attend. For information about tickets, call Clifford Day or Robert Herr at (717) 354-4031. Reservations must be made by Feb. 21.



In addition to all of her commitments as State FFA president, Carolyn Witmer works in produce department of Yoder's Country Market, New Holland.

Record year

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Nearly 1,000 individuals and businesses agreed with the 1983 National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee Chairman's theme, "Today is the Day to Shape Tomorrow's Leaders," by giving record amounts to the FFA.

Sponsors showed their faith in the Future Farmers of America in 1983 with \$1,601,000 in support to fund the organization's programs and awards. This is a new record for sponsor giving to the organization and represents a 17.1% increase over the 1982 campaign. Also, over \$1,600,000 in deferred giving - grants from wills and trusts — was pledged in 1983 to help support FFA activities in the future.

The FFA Foundation serves FFA members by providing monies for numerous incentive, leadership and citizenship programs on the chapter, state and national levels.

With the close of calendar year 1983, the FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee has begun work on the 1984 fund raising campaign. Dr. Hilmer L. Jones, the 1984 chairman has announced this year's theme, "Keeping America on the Grow — Vocational Agriculture and the FFA."

