

Mark Anderson selected Regional Star Agribusinessman

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Mark W. Anderson, East Berlin, was recently selected as one of four Regional Star Agribusinessmen for the National FFA Organization.

Anderson was selected from among nearly 700 candidates for the American Farmer degree. The National FFA officers and board of directors selected the regional winners based on their FFA leadership achievements and their involvement in one or more areas

of agribusiness.

Anderson literally started from the ground up when he began sweeping floors in his family's fledgling fertilizer business. Today, as part-owner and manager of the company, he has earned the title of Eastern Region Star Agribusinessman.

The 21-year-old son of Jack and Barb Anderson, Mark received the award for his work that has doubled his sales of fertilizer equipment in six states.

GVM Incorporated, named for the three Anderson children, was one of the first companies to develop a foam marker for spray equipment. Anderson worked after school and during summers to save money to buy stock in GVM as part of his Supervised Occupational Experience program in vocational agriculture FFA. His responsibilities have grown to overseeing custom building and designing liquid fertilizer systems.

The FFA provided leadership

training for Mark, who served as secretary and reporter of the Bermudian FFA Chapter. Mark said the FFA gave him valuable training in record keeping for his work.

After a successful semester at Delaware Valley College, Mark decided to return to the growing family business as a sales representative. He realized the importance of keeping up with changing technologies that affect his work and continues his education by attending many trade meetings and workshops across the country.

"Mark Anderson readily reveals the emergence of a talented young businessman who has character, dignity and a sincere interest in agriculture and the people he serves," said Larry Redding, Mark's former FFA advisor and vocational agriculture instructor.

Also named Regional Star Agribusinessmen were Carolyn Sue Martin of Baxter, Tenn.;

Michael V. Fuhler, of Trenton, Ill.; and Rex Alan Wichert, of Fairview, Okl.

Each Regional Star Agribusinessman will receive \$1,000 from the National FFA Foundation, Inc. at the 57th National FFA Convention, November 8-10 in Kansas City, Mo. During the convention, one of the regional winners will be named Star Agribusinessman of America and will receive an additional \$1,000.

In competing for this top honor, the regional winners will be evaluated on the quality and growth of their own agribusiness enterprises throughout their years as FFA members. They will be judged on their knowledge and use of good business practices, return on investments made through their agribusiness enterprises, and future plans for continued success in their involvement with agriculture.

Vo-ag and FFA leaders meet President Reagan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 400 FFA state officers, vocational agriculture teachers, state supervisors and teacher educators met with President Reagan last week at special White House Rose Garden ceremonies.

The ceremonies were held in conjunction with the FFA State Presidents' Conference and the National SOE/FFA Workshop in Washington, D.C.

"You represent the best in America," Reagan told the group. "FFA is giving more than a fine start to young people like yourselves. By cultivating traditional values, leadership skills and patriotism, the FFA ensures the strength and vitality of our country."

Reagan praised business and industry for their support of vocational agriculture. "FFA has some 14,000 adult teachers and state advisors who are good, caring Americans who are offering a gift of a lifetime, the gift of opportunity, and it's all made possible in part by the generosity of the private sector," he said. This year business and industry are

expected to give more than \$2 million to provide incentive awards to FFA members.

Following Reagan's speech, the National FFA officers presented him with a plaque commemorating the White House visit.

Earlier in the day, FFA members attended a Congressional Luncheon at the Capitol with remarks from Senator Robert Dole and Congressman E. (Kika) de la Garza.

Secretary of Agriculture John Block spoke to the group on Friday.

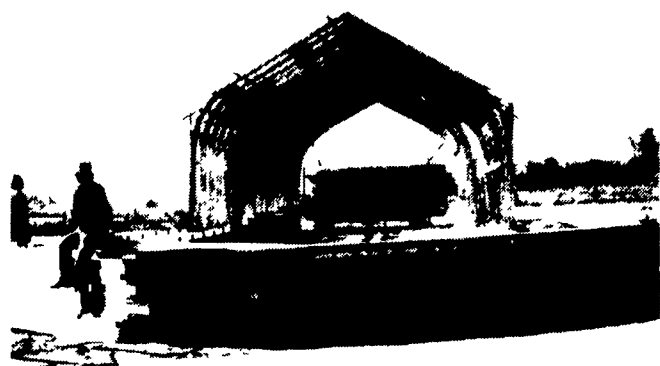
The FFA State Presidents' Conference and the National Supervised Occupational Experience (SOE)/FFA Workshop were week-long conferences designed to advance the goals of vocational agriculture and the FFA. At the State Presidents' Conference, more than 100 FFA state officers from 50 states and Puerto Rico gathered to learn more about their leadership responsibilities and duties as American citizens.

National FFA President Ron

Wineinger said, "This week in Washington is no only an opportunity for each of us to grow personally, but also an opportunity for all of us together to tackle the challenges in education and agriculture."

The National SOE/FFA Workshop brought together about 200 vocational agriculture teachers, state supervisors and teacher educators to discuss the role of SOE/FFA in high school vocational agriculture classrooms. National FFA Advisor Larry Case said, "The workshop provides an outstanding opportunity for educators from across the nation to learn about new activities in vocational agriculture and motivates them to share this information with others. This will help keep SOE and FFA dynamic and viable components of vocational agriculture in these changing times."

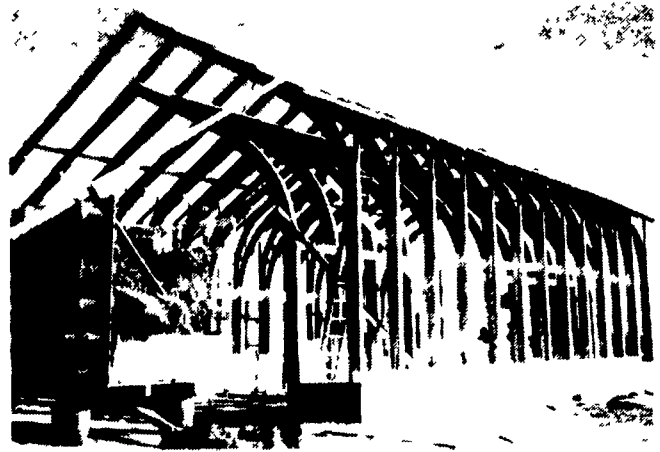
The groups toured historic points of interest in Washington, D.C., and attended a theatrical performance at the Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre.



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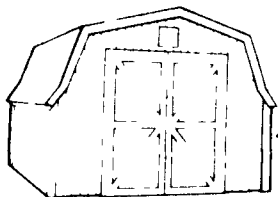


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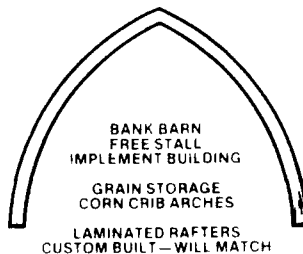
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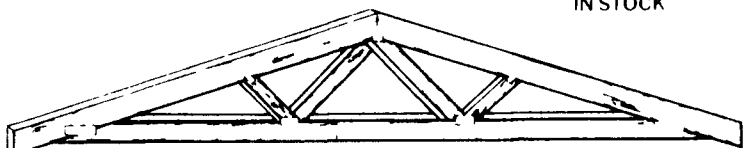
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