

Jaycees Honor Nation's Top Young Farmers

TUSCALOOSA, AL — The United States Jaycees honored four farmers during the 33rd annual National Outstanding Young Farmer Awards Congress, Saturday, February 25, at the Paul Bryant Center.

The winners were chosen from 40 state honorees after a year-long nomination process. Nominees are judged on their progress in agriculture, the extent of their soil and water conservation practices and their contributions to the well-being of their community, state and nation. These judging criteria apply to the local, state and national competitions.

The 1989 honorees are:

Jerry Doan, 35, of McKenzie, North Dakota. In 1882, Doan's great-grandfather homesteaded 160 acres in McKenzie. Doan is the fourth generation on his farm and today operates 8,500 acres. He has used several cattle breeding systems with artificial insemination, trying to maximize conception rates while minimizing labor and costs.

The Farm Business Management System developed by the North Dakota Vocational Agriculture System assists in his computerized enterprise analysis. He was appointed to the North Dakota Beef Commission and has been a member of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association 20 years.

James Giamarese, 33, of East Brunswick, New Jersey. He raises vegetables from asparagus to zucchini and a variety of small fruit, his own vegetable transplants, and bedding plants. In 1981, Giamarese helped form the Harvest Square Farmers Tailgate Market. In 1982, he built a farm stand and entered three more tailgate markets while continuing to wholesale

vegetables to ensure good cash flow. In addition, he made crops available for consumers to pick their own produce.

Giamarese hopes to expand his farm tour schedule and continue educating people about the importance of supporting agriculture nationally. Giamarese's wife is Susan.

Marlan Johnson, 31, of Eagle, Nebraska. At age 11, Johnson rented an 18-acre field from a neighbor landowner, on a 60/40 crop share arrangement. When he was 15, his father died, and Johnson was thrust into an active partnership within his family's livestock and grain operation. He was one of the first farmers in his area to use fungicides for disease control in wheat, and he was selected as Nebraska's candidate for Central Region Star American Farmer.

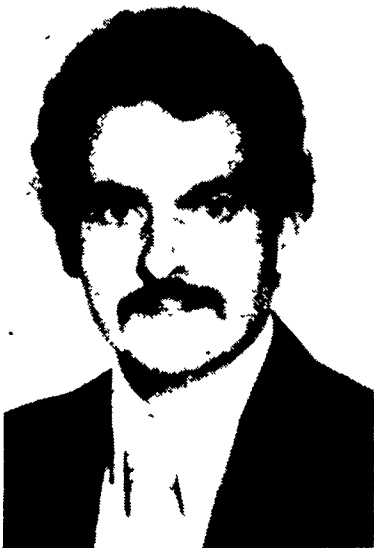
Johnson and his wife, Mary, are active alumni of Future Farmers of America. They have testified at school board meetings, stressing the importance of agriculture in the

classroom.

Gary Riggs, 35, of Garfield, New Mexico. In the late 1970s, Riggs and a friend began farming

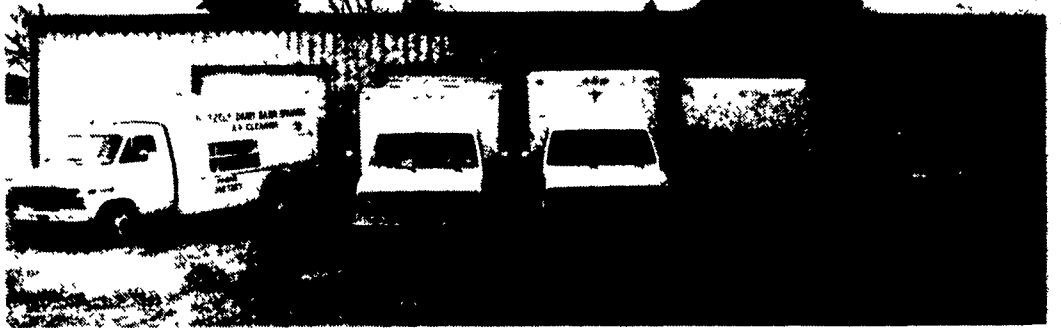
90 acres of alfalfa and started Galo farms. By 1981, when they decided to farm individually, they had increased their acreage from

90 to 1,000, accommodating green and red chile, corn, wheat, lettuce and alfalfa.



James Giamarese

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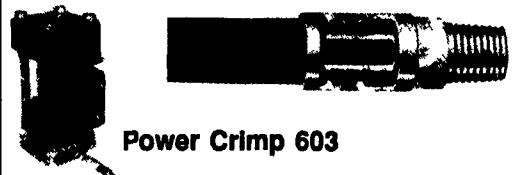
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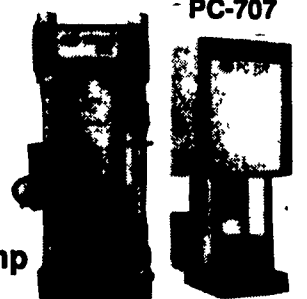
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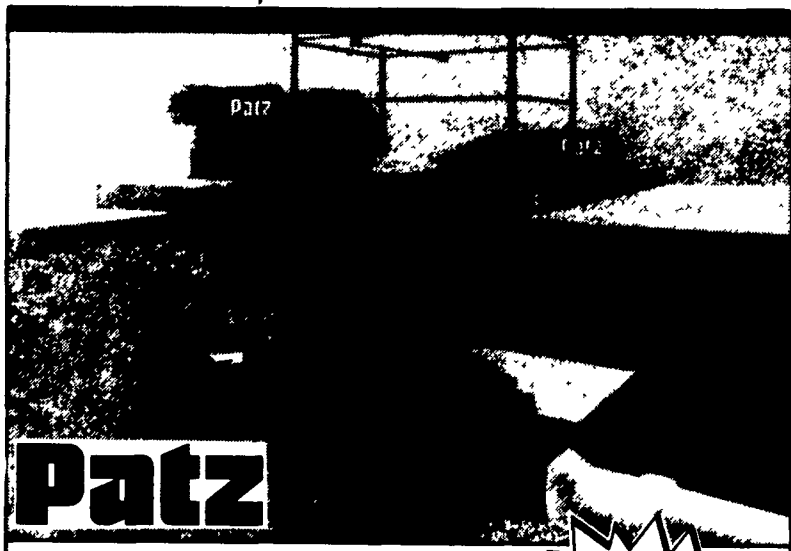
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