

## FFA Convention Delegates Vote Down Reapportionment Proposal

KANSAS CITY, MO — Delegates to the 62nd National FFA Convention here, debated at length a critical question concerning the future of FFA delegate apportionment. At issue was state representation.

After three days of discussion, an amendment to the FFA constitution, which would have provided for additional delegates according to state membership, failed.

The original reapportionment amendment would have entitled a state to one additional official convention delegate for every 1,000 members in addition to the minimum two delegates each state is currently allowed. Supporters of the "equity" amendment argued that it would provide states with representation that reflected their respective percentages of total national membership. Opponents were concerned that representation of states with smaller memberships would be diluted.

Delegates reconsidered the issue at a special Friday evening session when hours of debate at Wednesday's general business session yielded no clear consensus.

FFA delegates are instrumental to the effective workings of the large student organization which has a membership of 397,115. The

delegates vote on issues and sit on committees that impact the entire organization.

Another proposed constitutional amendment was passed which dropped the quota on the number

of American FFA Degrees allowed per state and raised the minimum degree qualifications to re-

quire each candidate to have earned and invested a minimum of \$7,500.

## FFA Foundation Raises Record \$3.72 Million

KANSAS CITY, MO — The continuation and improvement of FFA activities and programs — not meeting or even exceeding its annual campaign goal — is the real bottom line for the National FFA Foundation Inc. Toward that end, the Foundation surpassed the \$3.5 million challenge set in 1988, reaching a record total of \$3.72 million in 1989.

At the 62nd National FFA Convention here, Nicholas Babson announced the total to the nearly 23,000 FFA members and guests in an overflowing Municipal Auditorium. Babson serves as the 1989 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman, and is president and chairman of Babson Bros. Co./SURGE, Naperville, Ill.

Babson commended the Foundation staff and the 1,032 Foundation sponsors who contributed to the campaign drive. "By working together, we've achieved outstanding results. The success of this year's drive wouldn't have been possible without a tireless staff and sponsor companies who

recognize the importance of the FFA and who provide executives who serve as your Foundation's Sponsors' Board."

He introduced the 1990 FFA Foundation chairman, Thomas Hennesy, chairman of TSC Industries, who announced the 1990 Foundation theme — "Time to Serve."

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania is one of 18 states selected for a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) survey of swine health conditions and diseases.

The study, slated to begin in late December, is the first national survey to be conducted under the Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

NAHMS was launched in 1983 by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to measure the occurrence and costs of diseases in vari-

ous types of livestock. In preparation for the year-long study, APHIS is currently field testing its interviewing techniques and survey forms among Pennsylvania swine producers.

The national survey will focus on farrowing sows and pre-weaning pigs (from birth to weaning). For a three-month period, 1,400 randomly selected producers will be asked to keep daily records of disease conditions occurring in farrowing sows and their litters.

In addition, the participants will be asked to complete three questionnaires to profile the facilities, feeds, management and treatment practices used for all phases of the operation. Questions on labor and operating expenses are also included.

In return, the producers will be

given an opportunity to participate in a laboratory subsampling program testing water and blood sera. Once the information has been examined, each producer will receive reports that compile the farm's data and outline the national and regional results. This information will be used by producers, veterinarians, scientists, pharmaceutical companies, legislators and others to assist the swine industry.

Additional information on NAHMS and the Swine Survey is available by contacting Dr. Reed Macarty, APHIS, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110; phone 717/782-3442. Inquiries also can be directed to USDA: APHIS:VS, Animal Health Monitoring System, 555 South Howes, Suite 300, Fort Collins, CO 80521; phone 303/498-1974.

## State To Participate In Swine-Health Survey

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