

National FFA Announces Regional Stars In Agribusiness, Farming

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Four FFA members who have become successful entrepreneurs in their own agricultural businesses have been named the 1992 regional stars in agribusiness by the National FFA Organization.

Terrill Strnad, 21, Formoso, Kan.; Randall Bogden, 21, Ulm, Mont.; Jeff Martin, 21, East Earl, Pa.; and Chad Wells, 21, McMinnville, Tenn., were selected as the best of 1,161 American FFA Degree candidates.

One of the highest honors an FFA member can earn, the title of American Star in Agribusiness will be awarded to one of the regional winners during the 65th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 12-14.

Four of FFA's best agricultural producers have been named regional star farmers for 1992.

Hal Hensler Glaze, 21, Eastanollee, Ga.; Darren Funk, 19, Burley, Idaho; Brian Lake, 21, Big Cove Tannery, Pa.; and Kelby Paske, 22, Arlington, Wis., were chosen as the best of 1,161 American FFA Degree candidates. One of the highest honors an FFA member can receive, the American Star Farmer will be chosen from the four regional stars during the 65th National FFA Convention.

Selection of the regional stars is based on the quality and growth of their agribusiness programs. The candidates' leadership and FFA activities are also considered by the national, state, and local FFA officials who select the regional winners.

The American FFA Degree rec-

ognition program is cosponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Agricultural Division, of Wayne, N.J.; Case IH of Racine, Wis.; Farm Credit System of Washington, D.C.; Na-Churs Plant Food Company of Marion, Ohio; and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Each regional winner will receive \$1,000 from the National FFA Foundation. The national winner will be awarded another \$1,000. In addition to the cash awards, the four regional winners will travel to Europe for the FFA Stars International Experience Tour.

Strnad Central Region Star

Terrill Strnad, 21, Formoso, Kan., started his career in agriculture the hard way. Before he had a chance to work his farmland, he lost it. Rather than give up, Strnad started a custom farming business. A few short years later, his business is thriving. In recognition of his efforts, the National FFA Organization named Strnad the 1992 Central Region Star in Agribusiness.

Strnad and his brother, Troy, planned a crop production program while they were in high school. Unfortunately, before Terrill graduated from Mankato High School in 1989, the land they had been promised was rented to another farmer, putting Strnad's hopes—and his equipment investment—in a bind.

Instead of giving up on their farming plans, the Strnad brothers began doing custom work for loc-

al farmers. They started a small business swathing and baling hay and eventually branched out to offer drilling, spraying and combining services. Today, Strnad's business serves customers in nine midwestern states and employs four additional people during the busy summer months. The main part of the business is custom harvesting wheat, corn, soybeans and milo.

According to Strnad, the most important factor in their business is the customer. "Making our customers happy is very important. We're not satisfied with our work until the customer is satisfied."

Strnad and his brother call on customers from Texas to South Dakota and have established a solid customer base. "I love to travel and meet people. Customer relations are vital to our success. Our customers count on us to make their livelihoods easier and their operations more efficient," said Strnad.

Mark Harter, Mankato FFA chapter advisor, has great confidence in Strnad's abilities. "Terrill's management skills have enabled him to become more efficient in all phases of the operation. From computerizing his records to tapping the Data Transmission Network for up-to-the-minute market reports and weather forecasts, he uses technology to increase profitability," he said.

Terrill, the son of Dloyd and Linda Strnad, said, "I feel the future of agriculture will be challenging but the rewards will be great."

Bogden Western Region Star
Randall Bogden, 21, Ulm, Mont., learned the meat processing business from the loading dock up at his family's meat packing plant. His involvement in nearly all stages of the food processing industry has earned him the title of 1992 Western Region Star in Agribusiness from the National FFA Organization.

Through the years, Bogden has experienced every aspect of meat processing from handling the product on the dock to working the kill floor and the cutting room to making sales calls and writing invoices. Along the way, he developed skills in sharpening knives, cutting meat, warehouse management, and customer relations.

Bogden figures those skills will be put to good use. He plans to become a full partner in the family business in the next five years and hopes to be the sole operator within 10 years. "I'd like to build a modern packing plant capable of processing 100 head of cattle per day. The plant will include a smoke house and have the capability to switch to hogs. I'd also like to expand our distribution through the western half of the United States," Bogden said.

Duane Gebhardt, Cascade FFA chapter advisor, believes Bogden will reach his goals. "In the 14 years I've spent teaching, I have never worked with a more mature, capable leader. Randy has served as chapter and district president and was the class president four straight years," he said.

After graduating from Cascade High School in 1989, Bogden

began pursuing a degree in agricultural business at Montana State University in Bozeman. To help pay tuition, he worked as a part-time crew manager at Wendy's and as a meat cutter at a local grocery store chain. Those experiences gave him a chance to work closely with the consumer end of meat processing.

Bogden contributes part of his success to FFA. "The FFA has given me a base to work from, and I have developed so much confidence in my abilities when dealing with people and performing the skills necessary to be successful in business," he said.

He also credits his parents. "My dad played an important role, too, in that he taught me about the business. He taught me about responsibility. I'll always appreciate him for pushing me so hard," Bogden said.

Bogden, the son of Richard and Betty Jo Bogden, is currently working as a salesman for the family business, Meats Unlimited. He calls on customers throughout Montana, marketing the products and services of their business.

Martin Eastern Region Star

Jeff Martin, an arborist at age 21, has been climbing more than trees. He's climbing the ladder of success and was recently named the 1992 Eastern Region Star in Agribusiness by the National FFA Organization.

Martin's agribusiness experience began when he was eight years old and he started showing sheep at local fairs. During his senior year in high school, he

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