

National FFA Convention Shows Youth's Leadership Spirit

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — From the opening gala celebration to the final tap of the gavel, the 65th National FFA Convention showed the leadership spirit of today's youth.

The activities in and around the Municipal Auditorium last week showed the promise of the agricultural industry, and the young people who will serve as its leaders. A record 28,418 members and guests were on hand to witness the convention events.

The convention kicked off with a lively opening celebration featuring a performance by the Kentucky HeadHunters, a country music group comprised of several former FFA members. Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton and former hostage Thomas Sutherland shared words of inspiration with the students during convention sessions.

Following the excitement of the confetti-filled opening gala, the members got down to the normal convention events of participating in contests, receiving awards, attending leadership workshops, and honoring sponsors who make possible the extensive list of FFA programs. Businesses and individuals who support the organization received Honorary American FFA degrees, Distinguished Service awards, and VIP citations. Thirty-four teams participated in the premiere of the national parliamentary procedure contest.

During business sessions, official delegates passed a measure to realign the four regional boundaries, creating more equitable divisions of states and territories. The delegates also voted to discontinue sales of FFA sweetheart jackets and accessories from the FFA Supply Service.

The National FFA Alumni held a successful auction, raising almost \$36,000 to support FFA programs. Items sold at the auction were donated from various businesses and individuals.

FFA Foundation Sets Record Raises \$4.75 Million

For the 26th consecutive year, the National FFA Foundation has set a record level of support for FFA and agricultural education programs.

At the convention, Neil O. Christenson announced that a total of \$4,751,000 was raised in 1992 to support projects and programs for FFA and agricultural education, a seven percent increase from 1991. A crowd of more than 24,000 FFA members and guests cheered the announcement.

Christenson serves as the 1992 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman, and is vice president, Farm Equipment, U.S. and Canada for Deere & Company.

Christenson sees the contributions of the more than 1,000 Foundation sponsors as an investment in the future. "We are really counting on you, the FFA, to keep this industry growing," he said.

Christenson introduced the 1993 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman, Dale Miller, who is president and chief executive officer of Sandoz Agro, Inc. Miller announced the 1993 Foundation theme, "Tomorrow's Leaders Today."

Since 1944, the National FFA Foundation has provided more than \$46 million to FFA members for awards, scholarships and achievement programs.

FFA Elects 1992-93 National FFA Officer Team

The 1992-93 national FFA officer team was elected last week

at the 65th National FFA Convention.

Leading the six-member team is national FFA president Travis Park, 20, of Franklin, Ind. Park, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Park, is a member of the Indian Creek FFA Chapter. His father is his local advisor.

Park's supervised Agricultural experience (SAE) program consists of a diversified crop and livestock operation as well as a custom hay and straw baling experience. He is a sophomore at Purdue University majoring in agricultural education, and will take a year's leave of absence from his studies to serve his term as president.

The secretary is Kevin White, 20, of Redding, Calif. His parents are Shelly Burts and Larry White, and he is a member of the Anderson FFA Chapter. White's local advisor is George Wold.

White's SAE program consists of market and breeding swine, agricultural sales and service and landscape development. He will postpone his entry into Cal Poly State University in order to serve his term as secretary, but plans to pursue a degree in agribusiness and political science beginning next fall.

The central region vice president is John Kleiboeker, 20, of Stotts City, Mo. His parents are Donald and Carole Kleiboeker, and he is a member of the Pierce City FFA Chapter. The local advisor is Jeffrey Martin.

Kleiboeker raised purebred and commercial beef cattle for his SAE program. He is a junior at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he is pursuing a degree in agricultural communications. He will take a one-year leave of absence to serve his term as vice president.

Rick Perkins, 19, of Bloomville, Ohio, is the eastern region vice president. He is the son of William and Sarah Perkins, and is a member of the Sentinel FFA Chapter. His local advisor is Tom Gerschutz.

Perkins raises registered Hampshire sheep and crops, and works on a farm for his SAE program. He is a freshman at The Ohio State University where he is studying agribusiness and applied economics. He will take a year's leave of absence in order to serve his term.

Todd Hingson, 19, of Live Oak, Fla., is the southern region vice president. His parents are Duane Hingson and Dorothy Long, and he is a member of the Suwannee FFA Chapter. Hingson's advisor is John Thomas.

Soybeans, watermelons and tobacco comprised Hingson's SAE program. He attends the University of Florida, where he is a sophomore majoring in agricultural economics and political science. He will take a one-year leave of absence to serve his term.

The western region vice president is Dennis Degner, 19, of Malone, Texas. He is the son of Morris and Irene Degner, and is a member of the Hillsboro FFA Chapter. His local advisor is Bill Woody.

Degner's SAE program consists of a purebred Angus beef cattle operation, and he also raises market steers. He is a sophomore at Texas A&M University, where he is studying agricultural engineering. Degner will take a year off from his studies to serve his term as national officer.

During their year of service the national officers will each travel

more than 200,000 miles making hundreds of appearances on behalf of the FFA. The national officers represent members to officials in government, business, education and agriculture. As they travel

during the year, the officers meet with members on the local, state and national levels.

National FFA Names American Star Farmer and American Star in Agribusiness

1992 NATIONAL FFA WINNERS

STATE	CITY	AWARD OR HONOR	NAME	AGE
NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS				
		National President	Travis Park	20
		National Secretary	Kevin White	20
		National Central Region Vice President	John Kleiboeker	20
		National Eastern Region Vice President	Rick Perkins	19
		National Southern Region Vice President	Todd Hingson	19
		National Western Region Vice President	Dennis Degner	19
WI	Arlington	American Star Farmer	Kelby Paske	22
TN	McMinnville	American Star in Agribusiness	Chad Wells	21
TX	Ysleta	National BOAC Chapter RJR Nabisco Foundation, Inc. The chapter focused on improving the quality of life for residents of the forgotten segments of the city of El Paso. Members tackled a one-day project of door-to-door outreach in two zip codes within their region to distribute bilingual literature and to answer questions on the uprising of cholera.	Ysleta FFA Chapter	
AR	Amity	BOAC Achievement in Volunteerism RJR Nabisco Foundation, Inc. Carroll was instrumental in organizing a major service crew for senior citizens in the community.	Jeremy Carroll	
AR	Camden	Prepared Public Speaking Winner FMC Foundation Speech: American Agriculture—Shop and Compare	Brian Tribble	18
TX	Glen Rose	Extemporaneous Speaking Winner American Farm Bureau Federation Speech: The Role of the Free Market System in American Agriculture	Curtis Childers	19
MI	Bainville	Computers in Agriculture National Winner	Dustin Harmon	16
IA	Pleasantville	Computers in Agriculture Runner-up Foundation General Fund	Kelly Wallace	16
NJ	Washington	Agriscience Student of the Year Agriscience Student Runner-up Monsanto Agricultural Company	Robin Stuart	Boreman Wright
MI	Kalamazoo	Agriscience Teacher of the Year Ford Motor Company Fund and PCS Sales	Thomas Hurst	
WA	Ritzville	Parliamentary Procedure Contest National Winner	Ritzville FFA Chapter	
NM	Portales	Parliamentary Procedure Contest Runner-up United Soybean Board	Portales FFA Chapter	
ME	Presque Isle	Marketing Plan Project (Pilot) Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company The Presque Isle High School agriscience department developed a marketing plan for the school's 4,000 gallon aquaculture laboratory. The plan includes an analysis of the market, business proposition, action plan, budget and evaluation.	Presque Isle FFA Chapter	

1992 NATIONAL FFA PROFICIENCY AWARD WINNERS

STATE	CITY	AWARD AREA	NAME	AGE
IN	Bremen	AGRICULTURAL ELECTRIFICATION National Food & Energy Council, Incorporated and the General Fund of the National FFA Foundation	Jeffery B. Koontz	20
NC	Kinston	AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS Case III	James K. West	19
IL	Miami	AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING Ag Processing Inc; Archer Daniels Midland Company; and Supersweet Feed	Danny Baez	20
NY	Hamilton	AGRICULTURAL SALES AND/OR SERVICE CHEVY TRUCKS; Northrup King Company; Vigortone Agriculture Products; and ICI Americas Inc.	David Snyder	19
IN	Bainbridge	BEEF PRODUCTION Nasco Division/Nasco International, Incorporated and Pitman-Moore, Inc.	Andy Wilson	19
LA	Welsh	CEREAL GRAIN Kellogg Company and Unocal 76	Patrick D. Hayes	18
WI	Reedsburg	DAIRY PRODUCTION Alfa-Laval Agri, Inc.; American Breeders Service; and Manna Pro Corporation	Jamie S. Judd	20
AZ	Wellton	DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION Cargill	Tyson Stuhr	19
OK	Adair	DIVERSIFIED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION Livestock Marketing Association and Wayne Feed Division/Continental Grain Company	Devin DeLozier	18
OK	Altton	FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.	Eric W. Johnson	18
TX	Slaton	FIBER CROP PRODUCTION Sandoz Agro, Inc.	Timothy G. Kitten	17