

# National FFA Officer Goals: To Teach, Then To Lead

**ANDY ANDREWS**

*Lancaster Farming Staff*

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** —

National FFA Vice President Lee Schroeder has a clear career goal in mind, shared by many who lead agribusiness in Ohio — the skills developed by teaching FFA members to work for a common goal can be transferred to the workplace.

Many Ohio agribusiness leaders first served as FFA instructors before moving on to manage agri-industries in the state, according to Schroeder.

Schroeder, who is in partnership with his father and brother in a swine finishing operation in Leipsic, Ohio, joins five other national FFA officers during National FFA Week, which begins Saturday and lasts through the week.

Schroeder, 19, son of Dan and Nancy Schroeder, served as Ohio Association president and served as leader of his Leipsic FFA Chapter, advised by Don Barnhart. His decision to enter FFA and pursue an agriculture career began when he chased greased pigs at the county fair, he said. Soon after, he became one-half partner with his

father, Dan, and then obtained eight steers to finish out. Both enterprises grew, and now, Schroeder increased the number of steers finished to 15 a year and the hogs to about 448 head.

He wanted to farm, originally, after playing a big role in the spring of 1989 to put the crops in, after a wet spring. But he decided that he could find "a lot of self-satisfaction in agribusiness," said Schroeder.

He wants to follow the common perception in Ohio, that by teaching agribusiness at the high school level, viewed as the "biggest challenge," he said, he can serve in a leadership role.

While in Washington, D.C., Schroeder and other national FFA officers will be meeting with state leaders from around the country and visiting political leaders throughout the capitol.

"FFA — The Leadership Advantage" is this year's highlight. During the week, FFA chapters throughout the U.S. conduct activities to develop the leadership skills of high school students to prepare them for future leadership



New National FFA officers are, front, Jennafer Neufeld, vice president, central region; Greg Vetter, vice president, western region; Trisha Bailey, vice president, southern region; and Lee Schroeder, vice president, eastern region. Back, from left, Travis D. Hagen, secretary, and Corey D. Flournoy, president.

roles.

Agricultural education classes emphasize hands-on experience in diverse areas of agriculture. FFA activities provide leadership and personal development, career training, and award incentives for young people.

Corey D. Flournoy, national FFA president from Chicago, Ill., said, "FFA Week is an important time to share success stories about high school agriculture and FFA. Many leaders in American agriculture were members of FFA and studied agriculture education. They are leaders as well in their communities.

"We are proud of the increasing numbers of members who are joining our ranks," said Flournoy. He said the organization achieved an increase in membership for the first time in a number of years in 1992 and increased again in 1993 and 1994.

"We are also seeing significant changes in the ways chapters and their advisers serve their communities," said Flournoy. The atten-

dance at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo. in November was a record-breaking 34,491.

At the convention, the national FFA officers were elected. They are:

• Corey D. Flournoy, president, Chicago, Ill. Flournoy, 20, is a member of the Chicago Ag Science FFA Chapter. He served as state vice president. FFA awards include state agricultural processing proficiency and National FFA Foundation scholarship. He is a sophomore in agricultural economics at the University of Illinois.

• Lee Schroeder, vice president, eastern region, Leipsic, Ohio. Schroeder, 19, is a member of the Leipsic FFA Chapter. He served as Ohio Association president. Schroeder's awards include parliamentary procedure, public speaking, and the National FFA Foundation scholarship. He is a freshman studying ag education at Ohio State University.

• Travis D. Hagen, secretary. Hagen, 20, Chico, Calif. is a member of the Chico FFA Chapter. Hagen served as California Association treasurer. Awards include state finalist in both ag sales and service proficiency and state star in agribusiness. He is a sophomore in

agriculture science at California Polytechnic University.

• Trisha Bailey, vice president, southern region. Bailey, 20, Dover, Fla., is a member of the Plant City Senior FFA Chapter. She has won awards in national forestry and ornamental horticulture events and was the state finalist in public speaking. Bailey is a sophomore in agricultural communications and sports physiology at the University of Florida.

• Jennafer Neufeld, vice president, central region. Neufeld, 20, Inman, Kan., is a member of the Inman FFA Chapter. She served as Kansas Association secretary. Neufeld's awards include finalist in the state prepared public speaking contest and she was the Kansas FFA grass and grain record keeping winner. She is a sophomore in agricultural economics at Kansas State University.

• Greg Vetter, vice president, western region. Vetter, 19, Carpenter, Wyo., is a member of the Burns FFA Chapter. Vetter's awards include the state winning farm business management team and state proficiency winner in diversified livestock. He is a sophomore in agricultural business at Laramie County Community College.



## State Requires Beekeepers To Register

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is reminding all beekeepers that they must register their apiaries with the department.

"The state Agriculture Code has been amended to require apiary registration, no matter how small or large they are," said Jim Stein-

hauer, the Department's chief apiary inspector. "The registration system is designed to help the bee industry as well as individual beekeepers."

Registration forms have been mailed to all state beekeepers on the department's current list.

If you keep one or more hives of bees and have not yet received a registration form, contact the Department of Agriculture's Apiary Section by telephone, at (717) 787-5609, or by mail at 2302 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408, to have a form sent to you.

A registration fee of \$10 per beekeeper, regardless of the number of apiaries owned, will register the beekeeper for up to two years.

Apiary registration has many benefits. These benefits include an ability to notify beekeepers of potential dangers and benefits to their apiaries, tracking of trends in the distribution of bees, pests and diseases, and an increase in efficiency of the bee inspection program.

The Agriculture Code's amendments also include an increase in fines and penalties for failure to register apiaries.

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