# Leaders Exchange Ideas

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The national FFA officers will learn about the latest developments in agribusiness from U.S. industry leaders across the country during a two-week series of business and industry visits. At the same time, they will update executives about how agricultural education and FFA are changing to involve more young people in increasingly diverse areas of agriculture.

The six officers, accompanied by representatives of the National FFA Foundation, will travel Feb. 26 through March 8 in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C.

"The best way for our national officers to learn about current issues in agribusiness and the food industry is to talk to leaders in those areas," said Larry D. Case, national FFA adviser and coordinator of agricultural and rural education, U.S. Department of Education. "By the same token, the best way for industry leaders to learn about agricultural education and the FFA is to meet our national officers who represent our members across the nation."

The tour begins in Chicago for a meeting with Allan R. Johnson. president of Farm-Progress Companies, Inc. and 1996 National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board chairman. The officers then will divide into three teams to visit a variety of FFA sponsors' businesses across the country and learn more about the industry of agriculture and the economic factors affecting it.

"Sponsors are a vital part of FFA, both in supporting our programs and activities and in representing the industry to our members," said Seth Derner, national FFA president from Bartlett, Neb. "We look forward both to learning from the leaders we will meet on our tour, and to showing them our enthusiasm for agricultural education and American youth."

Other officers participating in the business and industry tour are: Cody Wagner, national secretary from Banner, Wyo.; William Catania, eastern region vice president from Westfield, N.Y.; Joe Caffee, central region vice president from Geneva, Ind.; Clara-Leigh Horn, southern region vice president from Ashville, Ala.; and Andy McCall, western region vice president from Houston, Texas.

The U.S. tour follows the national officer team's return from a two-week visit to Japan sponsored by Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc. The Japan trip provides the officers with a better understanding of international trade relations and the importance of a global marketplace to American agriculture.

The national FFA officers take a year off from college to represent FFA members to officials in government, education, business and agriculture. As they travel during the year, they meet with members on the chapter, state and national levels and will be able to share information about agricultural issues and concerns with their fellow students.

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