

National FFA Award Winners Tour Europe, Gain Global Perspective

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — As the agricultural community becomes increasingly global, it is crucial that young people considering careers in the industry understand the opportunities and challenges of international trade.

A group of 34 national FFA award winners will tour European agricultural sites this summer and see first-hand what the international marketplace has to offer. Following an orientation session in Washington, D.C., the group will leave on June 18 for a 12-day tour of Scotland, England, Belgium, and France.

"FFA and agricultural education use hands-on learning to supplement classroom education, and international issues are no exception," said Larry D. Case, national FFA adviser. "The global marketplace can be a difficult concept for

students to grasp. Visiting agribusinesses and talking to industry experts overseas helps students see the similarities to U.S. agriculture and better understand how what happens in Europe can have implications back home."

During the seminar, the students will:

- Visit beef and sheep operations and a university research facility in the Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland, areas with the National Farmers' Union and the Scottish Young Farmers organization.

- Attend the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh to see livestock shows, tour farm machinery exhibits, watch the Horse Guards perform and cheer on the national FFA and 4-H judging teams in the Young Farmer Stockmanship program.

- Visit cultural sites in Edinburgh, Scotland; London; Brussels; Ghent, Belgium; and Paris.

- Receive a briefing by the agricultural counselor at the American Embassy in London.

- Attend a discussion of European positions on the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) at the Commission of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium.

- Visit the REO Veiling vegetable and plant auction and a modern plant nursery, tour typical area farms and see the famous double-muscled Belgian White-Blue horses in the Ghent area.

- Visit the Institut National de Agronomie at Grignon, France's premier agricultural college, for a meeting with students and tour of the farm.

The seminar participants were selected from the top national award winners named last November at the 68th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo. The seminar, in addition to cash awards and plaques, is made possible by business and industry contributions to the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Seminar leaders are national FFA staff members Rod Duckworth and Greg Egan, teacher services team specialists, and Jenni-

fer Conway, communications consultant; Merle Richter, high school agriculture instructor from Bloomer, Wis., past president of the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' Association and past consultant to the National FFA board of directors; Dennis Scanlon, professor of agricultural education, Pennsylvania State University, and past consultant to the National FFA board of directors; and Doug Pals, professor of agricultural education, University of Idaho, and current consultant to the National FFA board of directors.

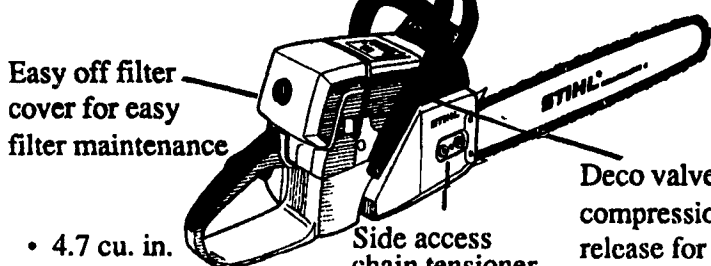


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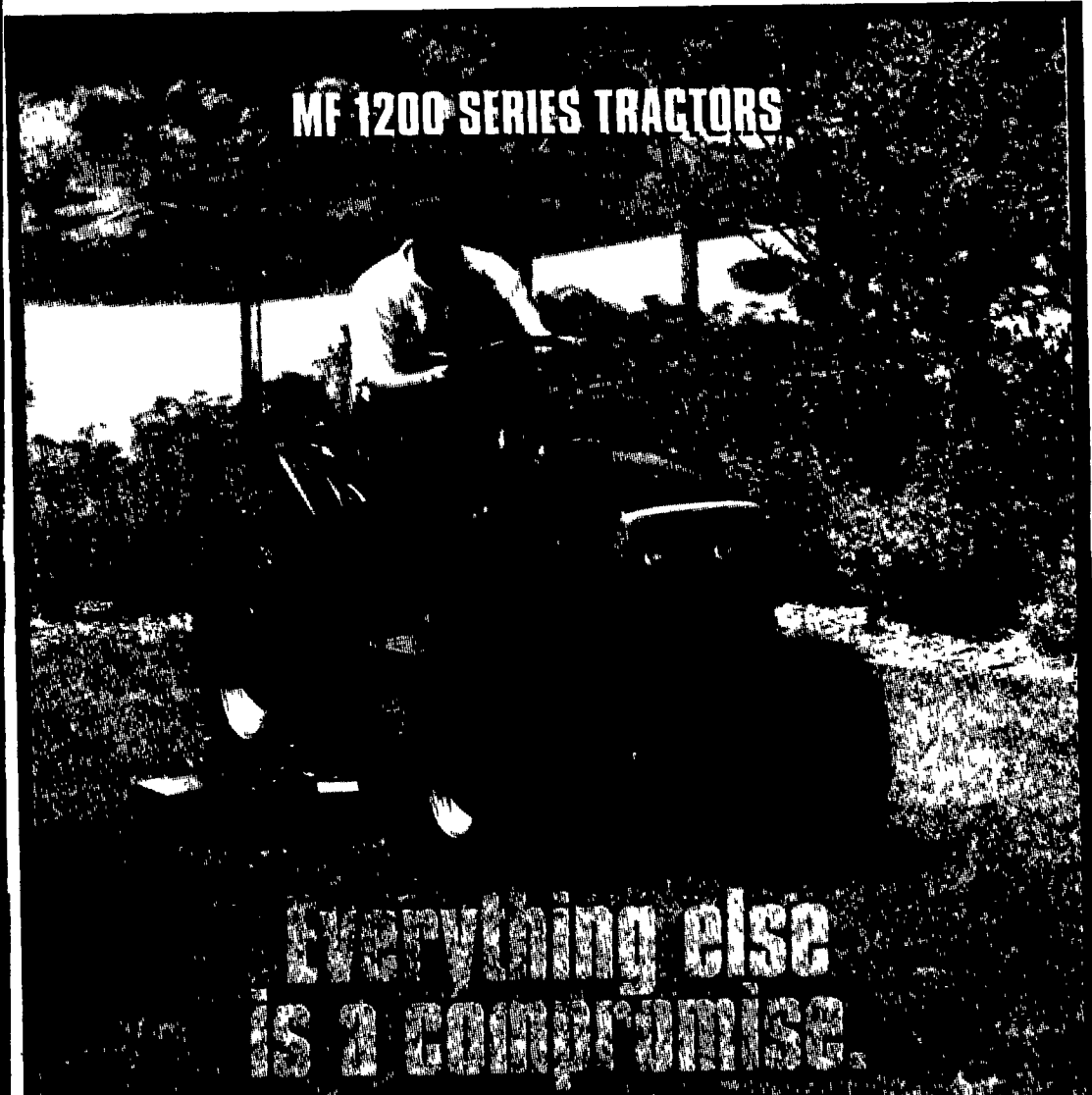
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