

National FFA Foundation Sets Record, Raises \$7.3 Million

LOUISVILLE, Ky — For the 33rd consecutive year, the National FFA Foundation has set a record of support for FFA and agricultural education programs.

At the 72nd National FFA Convention, 1999 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman William T Boehm announced that the Foundation raised a total of \$7,310,000 in 1999 to support annual projects and programs for FFA and agricultural education—an all-time record.

Boehm, who is vice president- logistics for The Kroger Company, said the contributions of the more than 1,300 sponsors help prepare future leaders and maintain the agricultural community, even in the constantly changing industry.

"The food and agricultural industry continues to change rapidly," Boehm said. "These funds help to ensure that new generations of leaders will be available to meet those challenges of change."

Boehm introduced the 2000 FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman-Elect R.W. "Bud" Porter, senior vice president, North American Agricultural Marketing of Deere & Company Porter announced the 2000 Foundation theme, "Invest in Today's Generation."

Since 1944, the National FFA Foundation has provided more than \$85 million to FFA members for awards, scholarships and achievement programs

1999-2000 National FFA Officer Team

The six student members

who will lead the National FFA Organization for the 1999-2000 year were elected Oct 30 at the 72nd National FFA Convention.

Chris Vitelli, a 20-year-old from Plant City, Fla., is the new national FFA president Jodee Ruppel, a 20-year-old from Manchester, Ind., was elected national FFA secretary.

Vice presidents representing each region are Leshe Small, 19, Arkansas City, Kan., central region; Joe Shultz, 20, Degraff, Ohio, eastern region; Carol Spruill, 19, Hoschton, Ga., southern region, and Marshall Baker, 19, Portales, N.M., western region. The officers will take a year-long leave of absence from college to serve their terms.

Vitelli is the son of Arnold and Alice Vitelli. A member of the Plant City FFA, his supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) includes feeder steers and swine, lawn maintenance, and placement in curriculum writing for agricultural education. His advisers are Jane Bender and Ray Clark. Vitelli attends the University of Florida, where he is a sophomore majoring in agricultural education and agricultural leadership.

Ruppel, the daughter of Bill and Miriam Ruppel, is a member of the Manchester FFA Chapter. Her advisers are Gwen Mize and Ron Smith. Ruppel's SAE includes raising Shropshire sheep and her work in agricultural communications. A freshman at Purdue University, she is majoring in agricultural education and telecommunications.

Shultz is the son of Bill and Susan Shultz. He is a member of the Indiana Lake FFA Chapter, where his adviser is Jack Fetter. A purebred Rambouillet sheep operation makes up Shultz's SAE. A sophomore at the Ohio State University, Shultz is majoring in agricultural education and agricultural economics.

Small's parents are Tony and Barb Small. She is a member of the Arkansas City FFA Chapter, where her advisers are Matthew Schweer and Jacob Larison. Small has a hands-on program in beef production and diversified livestock. She attends

Kansas State University, where she is a sophomore majoring in agricultural economics.

Spruill is the daughter of Jack and Ada Spruill. She is a member of the Jackson County FFA Chapter, where her advisers are Tony Embrick, Jimmy Mock, and Phillip Todd. Spruill's diverse SAE consists of boarding and showing horses as well as producing hay commercially. She is a sophomore at the University of Georgia, where she is majoring in agricultural economics.

Baker's parents are Wayne and JoAnna Baker. He is a member of the Texico FFA Chapter,

where his adviser is Bill Morrison. Oil and beef production make up Baker's SAE. HE attends Austin College where he is a sophomore majoring in biology.

During their year of service, the national officers will each travel more than 100,000 miles making hundreds of appearances on behalf of FFA. The national officers meet officials in government, business, education and agriculture, representing members nationwide. As they travel during the year, they meet and work with members on the local, state, and national levels.

Select Sires Dominates Champions At World Dairy Expo

PLAIN CITY, Ohio — In the 33-year history of World Dairy Expo, Select Sires has been able to take credit for the lion's share of champions in the coveted International Holstein Show.

Rainyridge Tony Beauty (EX-Can), a daughter of Marshfield Elevation Tony, is the latest Select-sired Holstein to be named grand champion. The 14-year-old Canadian cow exhibited by Stanhope-Wedgwood and Ray Brown carries the added honor of being named supreme champion of all breeds at the 1999 show.

Beauty has been here before, having taken Expo's top honors in her breed in 1995, too.

The reserve intermediate champion of the 1999 Holstein Show was a Robthom Integrity-ET

daughter, Van Dyk-K Integrity Paradise (VG-89-EX-MS). The 3-year-old definitely had Judge Lowell Lindsay's eye as he remarked, "Balance, this cow fits it to a tee!"

Mark Rueth of Jefferson, Wis., was at the halter as co-owner with Kent Van Dyk.

In the Guemsey show, Select's Maplehurst Opportunity sired this year's grand champion, Sniders Opp Georgie. Exhibited by Jan Snider of New Enterprise, Pa.,

Georgie was also named the grand champion female of the junior show. And it's fair to say the Select-sired Trotacre Mercury Loral-ET daughters dominated the top end of the heifer classes.

Select's genetics rose to the top again with the aged cow class winner being named grand champion of the Brown Swiss Show. Kelly Ambos of Botkins, Ohio exhibited her Miles Away Conquest sired daughter, Hill-N-Dale Conquest Juana.



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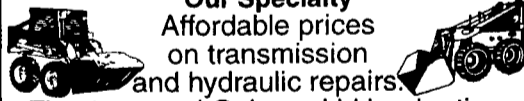
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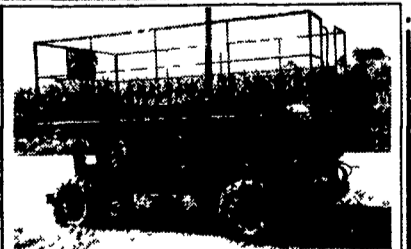
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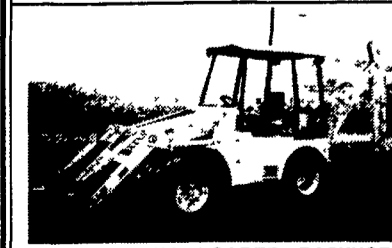
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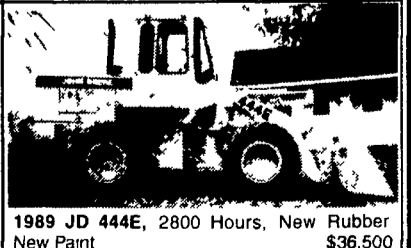
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