

“Go to the head of the class if you ...



BY: GARY E. MOORE

Dr. Moore is a professor of agricultural and extension education at North Carolina State University, Raleigh and historian for the American Association for Agricultural Education.

Dr. Moore has agreed to author a new feature for The Magazine. He will prepare ten questions about some aspect of the history of agricultural education. Each set of questions will have some type of common denominator or theme (i.e. FFA officers, NVATA, federal legislation, etc.). His answers will be included in the next issue of The Magazine. **GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS** if you know the answers.

What do you know about early FFA conventions?

1. The first FFA convention was held in Kansas City at the:
 - a. YMCA.
 - b. Baltimore Hotel.
 - c. Muehlbach Hotel.
 - d. Municipal Auditorium.
2. During the 1930s it was customary for FFA chapters to submit an ear of corn for judging at the National FFA convention. The champion ear of corn was then:
 - a. Fed to the grand champion steer at the American Royal.
 - b. Used in the Star Farmer of America ceremony.
 - c. Displayed at the entrance to the exhibit hall.
 - d. Hung above the secretary's station.
3. In the early years of the convention, a large banquet was held for the attendees. The food for the banquet was provided by:
 - a. Each state bringing some type of food item from their state.
 - b. The American Royal Livestock Show.
 - c. Kansas City Star Newspaper.
 - d. Hallmark Cards.
4. During the 1930s and 40's it was a common practice for the national FFA president to recognize a delegate from Georgia immediately after the convention was called to order. The delegate from Georgia then did something. What did the Georgia delegate do?
 - a. Pass out packages of peanuts to all the delegates.
 - b. Say a prayer to open the convention.
 - c. Present the president with a gavel made

of wood from the farm of Dudley Hughes.

d. Lead the convention delegates in singing "Hail the FFA."

5. At the 1934 convention the delegates voted to buy something and send it to President Roosevelt (provided that it didn't cost more than \$50). What was the item?

a. A prize winning lamb from the American Royal.

b. A set of specially designed FFA dishes.

c. An experimental motorized wheel chair.

d. A rocking chair made with wood from the farm of Dudley Hughes.

6. At the 1936 FFA convention, Maddux of Tennessee moved "...that the national organization furnish copies of the _____ to all FFA chapters." You can see framed copies of this document hanging on walls in agricultural education departments that have been around for a long while but you don't see this document in new chapters. What was the document?

a. General Order on Profanity Issued by George Washington in 1776.

b. The Aims and Purposes of the FFA.

c. The FFA Creed.

d. The Country Boy's Creed.

7. At the national FFA convention in 1941 "Lynn of Illinois moved that there be no _____ during the convention next year; motion seconded and carried." The item that was prohibited was:

a. The use of foul language.

b. The wearing of cowboy hats on the convention floor.

c. Placard waving.

d. Smoking.

8. During the 1942 national convention "Delegate Fair of West Virginia moved to go into committee of the whole for fifteen minutes to discuss the possibilities of the national organization buying a _____; motion seconded and carried." After discussing the issue for 15 minutes a committee of five was appointed to "...look into the matter thoroughly and report back to the convention as soon as possible." What was the national FFA considering

purchasing?

- a. A herd of Angus cattle.
 - b. A bomber.
 - c. A hotel in Kansas City .
 - d. A plot of land that was part of George Washington's estate.
9. The 1946 FFA convention was called the Victory Convention to celebrate the end of World War II. The national FFA Board considered buying 11,000 items for this convention. What was the item they considered buying?
- a. United States Flags.
 - b. Sleeping Bags.
 - c. Victory T-shirts.
 - d. Commemorative coffee mugs.
10. The New Farmers of America held most of their conventions in:
- a. Charlotte, North Carolina.
 - b. New Orleans, Louisiana.
 - c. Birmingham, Alabama.
 - d. Atlanta, Georgia.

The correct answers to the above question will be in the June, 1996 issue of The Agricultural Education Magazine. ■

World Wide WWW

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<http://www.agriculture.com/contents/ffa/ffaindex.html>

- 5).The Ultimate FFA Chapter List:
<http://redskins.s715.ips.k12.in.us/star/ffalist.html>

Student Research

Another reason to use the WWW is that students get more motivated when they find something on the WWW using the computer. They can look up information using textbooks in anyone's class.

To find information, students can go to one of the pages listed above, or they can use WWW-based search engines and directories. If students are using Netscape®, they can click on the "Net Search" button to gain instant access to several search engines. From there, they just type the term they are looking for and let the search engine find links that are related.

For students who aren't sure about the exact term they want, several companies offer directories with well designed category-based search capability. Using Netscape®, all students have to do is click on the "Net Directory" button.

Public Relations

On August 1, 1995, the home page of the Mississippi FFA Association was placed on the WWW. Since then, the home page has provided information about Mississippi and the FFA to over 3500 individuals from 45 states, Australia, the Virgin Islands, Northern Ireland, the United

Kingdom, Canada, Belgium, and Japan. The WWW will prove to be an even more valuable service as more individuals and schools gain access to the Internet.

A local agricultural education program can use a home page for several purposes. Publicizing activities of the FFA chapter, publishing a newsletter for alumni, and promoting agricultural awareness are just a few of the possibilities. Teachers can place media from their lessons on the WWW to show the public what they are teaching their students. (Wouldn't school board members be impressed?)

Sharing Information About The Program

One way to ensure that students are motivated to get involved in important projects is to provide a means of reward that has meaning to them. Imagine a student who published a report on the WWW having people from all over the world reading it and sending them e-mail about the report. The benefits in terms of self-concept to the student would be tremendous! The WWW is an excellent way for teachers to remind students that what they think and do is important and that they are valuable members of their families and communities.

Teachers can also use the WWW to provide instruction, giving students information to help them solve problems. This approach has improved achievement for college students and should work for high school students as well (Newman, Raven, & Day, 1996).

Get On The Train

Because creating HTML documents is fairly easy, many people are starting to take advantage of the WWW as a way to get out the word about products and programs. In August, 1995, Mississippi became the first state to place an FFA home page on the WWW. Since that time, 12 other states have placed pages on the WWW that relate to the FFA. New agricultural information is being added to the WWW regularly. Technology for agricultural educators is changing rapidly. Now is the time to take advantage of these advancements for the sake of the students. There is much to be gained, for students and educators, by increasing our use of one of the greatest informational sources available, The World Wide WWW.

References

- Raven, M. & Settle E. (1995). Clicking Open a World of Information. The Agricultural Education Magazine, 67, (11), 10-11 & 17.
- Newman, M. E., Raven, M. R., & Day, T. M. (1996). A comparison of world wide WWW instruction and traditional instruction on achievement in a technical writing in agricomunication course. Proceedings of the Southern Agricultural Education Research Meeting, 45, 289-98.
- Nielsen Interactive Services. (1995) Internet surveys. World Wide WWW Document (URL: <http://www.nielsen-media.com/demo.html>). ■