

What Do You Know About the FFA Camp/Center?

By Gary E. Moore

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The recent decision by the National FFA Board of Directors to move the National FFA Center signals the end of an era and the start of a new one. How much do you know about the current National FFA Center? Did you know it was originally an FFA Camp? Go to the head of the class if you can answer the following questions about the National FFA Camp/Center.

- In what year did the delegates at the National FFA Convention vote to establish a National FFA Camp?
A. 1929 C. 1935
B. 1932 D. 1938
- How many acres of land were bought the following year for the camp?
A. 6 C. 28 1/2
B. 15 D. 35
- The land that was purchased for the FFA Camp:
A. had at one time been part of George Washington's estate.
B. was owned by the federal government as part of Fort Belvoir.
C. had been part of the Woodlawn Plantation.
D. had been inhabited by the Narragansett Indian tribe.
- The original purpose of the FFA Camp was:
A. to serve as the national headquarters of the FFA.
B. to provide a place for FFA chapters to stay when they visited the nation's capital.
C. to have a location where the National FFA could conduct leadership conferences similar to the present Washington Leadership Conference.
D. to serve as an educational center where students could come to learn more about agriculture.
- All of the following statements about the original FFA Camp are true except one. Which statement is false?
A. The water from the camp came from a 126-foot-deep well.
B. The Ferguson Sherman Company of Dearborn, Michigan gave a tractor to the camp.
C. The dining room was finished in pecky cypress.
D. The Holstein-Friesian Association gave the FFA two Holstein milk cows to provide milk to the campers.
- The National FFA Camp officially opened on May 30, 1941. The first FFA Chapter to use the camp was from:
A. Milton, Wisconsin C. Shawnee Mission, Kansas
B. Danville, Virginia D. Storrs, Connecticut
- During the camping season, the FFA operated:
A. a ferry boat to help FFA chapters from the south cross the Potomac River.
B. a bus that carried visitors to the nation's capital.
C. a farming program that featured the newest technology of the time.
D. Washington's Old Grist Mill.
- During World War II, travel restrictions curtailed the use of the camp by FFA members. In an effort to help the war effort:
A. the FFA allowed nearby Fort Belvoir to use the camp for training troops.
B. the camp served as a depot where chapters would bring scrap metal and old tires to be recycled for the war effort.
C. tomatoes were grown at the camp as part of the Food for Victory campaign.
D. the Civil Air Patrol established an observation tower on the property which they staffed to watch for enemy aircraft.
- The camp reopened and operated for several years after World War II before it was determined the camp was not cost effective. The camp was closed to FFA chapters. A new use for the camp emerged. The new use was to:
A. house the FFA Supply Service and the staff of the *National Future Farmer Magazine*.
B. serve as a private retreat for the national FFA officers and federal agricultural education officials.
C. house the National FFA Foundation Staff.
D. provide housing for employees of the FFA.
- Since the camp was originally designed for use only in the summer, it was decided during the 1950s that a more permanent, year-round facility was needed and more space was needed. Ground was broken in 1956 for a new building which is now the primary building at the National FFA Center. The building was completed in 1958, but was not dedicated until the cost of the building had been completely paid. As a part of the dedication ceremony in 1959:
A. a Narragansett Indian holy man consecrated the ground.
B. a relative of George Washington lead the invocation.
C. soil from each state was placed at the base of the flagpole.
D. the United States Postal Service issued an FFA commemorative stamp.



The answers to this quiz are located on page 25 of this issue.

A Guide for Raising Animals for

Book
Review

Junior Livestock Shows 2nd Edition

by Roger Pond, (Goldendale, WA: Pine Forest Publications, 1997).

Written as though the author were sitting across from the reader talking over a cup of coffee, the *Livestock Showman's Handbook* is an easy-to-read guide to successful youth livestock programs and projects. Roger Pond lays out common sense principles based on sound animal husbandry practices to help 4-H and FFA members raise successful livestock projects.

While the bulk of the information in the *Livestock Showman's Handbook* is sound, the novice and beginner showman will probably gain the most from this book as many of the little details typically only learned through experience are explained. However, the more experienced showman will find some references to practices and strategies that may appear to be outdated and of only regional significance.

The *Livestock Showman's Handbook* does not promote the "win-at-all-costs" attitude of doing

whatever it takes to manipulate the visual appearance of livestock project animals. As Roger Pond explains on page 88 in the chapter on care and feeding of market lambs, "Ultra-short tail docking increases the risk of rectal prolapse and should be avoided when purchasing feeder lambs. Short docking is one of those show ring fads that goes against common sense." Experienced showmen who do not agree with everything in the book, or novice showmen on a steep learning curve can all learn from the no-nonsense, wholesome approach to youth livestock shows laid out by the author. This book is recommended as a basic foundation of knowledge and skills needed to successfully exhibit 4-H and FFA livestock project animals.

The *Livestock Showman's Handbook* simply provides back-to-the-basics information about raising youth livestock projects for show. With the book, Roger Pond also provides a sorting gate for the individuals who are involved with youth livestock programs for the



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right reasons, and those who are off on the "win-at-all-costs" tangent. As people read the book, they will automatically sort themselves into these two camps. Wouldn't it be great if we could have someone operate the sorting gate as the book is read? Those that see worth in Roger Pond's book would be in the "keep" pen, those who see no worth in the book would be in the "cull" pen.



Here are the answers to the quiz on page 26 of this issue (July-August 1997) of *The Agricultural Education Magazine*.

1. D. 1938
2. C. 28 1/2
3. A. had at one time been part of George Washington's estate.
4. B. to provide a place for FFA chapters to stay when they visited the nation's capital.
5. D. The Holstein-Friesian Association gave the FFA two Holstein milk cows to provide milk to the campers.
6. A. Milton, Wisconsin
7. D. Washington's Old Grist Mill.
8. C. tomatoes were grown at the camp as part of the Food for Victory campaign.
9. A. house the FFA Supply Service and the staff of *The National Future Farmer Magazine*.
10. C. soil from each state was placed at the base of the flagpole.