

THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

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Honorary State Future Farmer of America degrees were bestowed on four men at the Minnesota Association's annual banquet, May 8, 1950. They are, left to right, Anthony Schugel, New Ulm, father of LaVerne Schugel, state president, 1949-50; Dr. Harry W. Kitts, assistant professor of agricultural education at University Farm; Governor Luther W. Youngdahl; and Alfred D. Stedman, associate editor and agricultural adviser for the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press. LaVerne Schugel is at the right. Citations read at the presentation of each honorary degree are given below.

HONORARY STATE FARMER BRIEFS

1950 State FFA Convention

Minnesota Association of Future Farmers of America

GOVERNOR LUTHER W. YOUNGDAHL
Governor of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.

The Honorary State Farmer Degree is awarded to Governor Luther W. Youngdahl in grateful recognition of the distinguished service he has rendered in rural Minnesota, to farm youth and, in particular, the F.F.A..

We are deeply appreciative of the strong support which Governor Youngdahl has given for increased state aid to our public schools and to vocational education. His efforts in obtaining additional financial help for schools is making it possible for them to attract more capable young people in the profession of teaching.

Governor Youngdahl has always given special emphasis to the advancement of vo-

catiational agriculture and vocational education. He has recommended to the legislature added support for this phase of education. In both inaugural messages he has urged that activities of the Future Farmers of America be continued and expanded as a worthy effort to help develop the youth of the rural communities. In his many public addresses he has called attention to the values of sound youth organization and commended as an outstanding character-building movement, the F.F.A. He has given enthusiastic cooperation in issuing official proclamations for "Future Farmer Week."

Governor Youngdahl has initiated the establishment of the Youth Conservation Program which is designed to help meet the basic needs of all Minnesota youth.

VISITOR

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THE STAFF

M. J. PETERSON	W. T. BJORAER
HARRY KITTS	ALVIN DONAHOO
GORDON SWANSON	A. M. FIELD
PHILIP TESKE	

M. J. PETERSON, *Editor*

He has championed the humanitarian care of the mentally ill and brought about re-organization and improvement in the mental health program of the State of Minnesota during the last legislative session.

Governor Youngdahl has further utilized every occasion to encourage the development of electrical service for farms, improved sanitation, good roads to markets and other means for better living on the farm.

He has helped to bring better understanding and unity between urban and rural people of Minnesota through his inspirational public addresses and his continuing work for the benefit of all the people of the state.

Governor Youngdahl has earned the last- ing respect, admiration and appreciation of the Future Farmers of Minnesota. We are most happy to select him as Honorary State Farmer.

ANTHONY SCHUGEL, New Ulm

Anthony Schugel is the father of State F.F.A. President, LaVerne Schugel. The New Ulm F.F.A. Chapter feels that the interest and enthusiasm in F.F.A. activities shown on the part of LaVerne's father contributed enormously to making LaVerne the rural leader he is today. Mr. Schugel never hesitated in encouraging LaVerne to avail himself to his many F.F.A. responsibilities. Father-son harmony and cooperation reigned supreme at all times in the Schugel household.

Anthony Schugel is also a very progressive farmer in Brown County, Minnesota. He is continually trying to improve his farming operations, and he is a firm believer in leadership training for our Future Farmers of America so that these boys might take their place in society as useful and progressive American citizens.

DR. HARRY KITTS, Assistant
Professor, Agricultural Education
University Farm, St. Paul

Dr. Harry Kitts came to Minnesota well qualified to make a contribution to the Future Farmers of America in this state. As a farm boy in upstate New York he participated in F.F.A. work throughout his high school career and has held local, district, and state offices in New York's Association of the Future Farmers of America. As an agriculture instructor and chapter adviser he provided the kind of leadership that makes possible the accomplishment of our objectives.

Dr. Kitts received his professional training at Cornell University and holds the PhD degree, the highest possible earned degree. Coming to Minnesota in 1948, Dr. Kitts immediately established himself as an individual with a tremendous capacity for hard work, a keen understanding of educational problems, and an appreciation of the needs, purposes, and interests of the Future Farmers of America program. He has contributed a great deal to the training of chapter advisers and has participated in many local, district, and state F.F.A. activities during the past two years. Because of the contributions he has made in the past, as well as the contributions which are expected of him in the future, the Minnesota Future Farmers of America awards Dr. Harry Kitts the Honorary State Farmer Degree.

ALFRED D. STEDMAN, Associate Editor,
St. Paul Pioneer Press, St. Paul

The Minnesota Association of the Future Farmers of America is proud and happy to present to Alfred D. Stedman the degree of Honorary State Farmer. Few, if any, have done more to merit this honor, and there is not the time to mention all of Mr. Stedman's accomplishments nor to list his contributions to agriculture and rural education. His rich background of experience in government and in journalism, plus his keen understanding and sympathetic interpretation of agriculture and country life, mark him as a man of distinction, not only in Minnesota, but nationally. Mr. Alfred Stedman has long recognized the values and contributions of the Future Farmers of America to a better agriculture for all our people. Through his columns and editorials, as Associate Editor of the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch, he has been able to give to all a more complete understanding of the role of the Future Farmers of America in the great adventure of building better rural and agricultural communities. Because of his enthusiasm, integrity, capacity for work,

and genuine interest in farming and farm people, the Future Farmers of America awards Mr. Stedman the Honorary State Farmer Degree.

1950-51 OFFICERS OF MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

Many of you "old-timers" recall the Agricultural Education Club of the period when you were students. This year recognition was given to the club for being the oldest professional club in continuous existence on the campus. It has supplied a need for its members in the past. This spring evidence of another of its services to majors in Agricultural Education made its appearance.

The club's constitution was changed to provide an editor and his assistant to issue a bi-weekly mimeographed paper, THE EDIFIER. There have been many excellent items of news, research and reports in the issues. You should be interested in the editorial of the June 6 issue. We need not fear about the development of a sound vocational agriculture program at the secondary school level in Minnesota as long as we train critical students as shown by this editorial. The staff at the Agricultural Education Office appreciated the analogy. How can we do a better milling job on the weapons?

* * *

Graduation gets to be a rather sentimental event—not only for the seniors involved but for the rest of us who have worked so close to the fellows in a number of courses and perhaps closer yet across the coffee cup.

At graduation time, I am reminded of a scene in the Field Artillery. The gunner yells, "On the way" and the projectile (or graduate) is sent hurdling off into space.

A number of thoughts run through our minds as we watch our gun crew (Ag. Ed. Office) prepare our shell for firing. Has the workmanship been up to requirements since the day the raw material was first examined

(college entrance exams) and accepted as material suitable for turning into a perfect product? Is the rifling of our weapon true so that when our gun crew has checked the sights for range, direction and elevation and determined the proper charge, our projectile is launched in the proper direction of the selected target (job)?

Our interests do not end with the emergence of the projectile from our weapon. There is little we can do about it but we would like to know what resistance is being encountered. Are there unexpected winds to throw the projectile off course? Will the target or terrain surrounding it offer greater opposition than the projectile was prepared for?

All of this is very important to us who remain behind for one to three years more. We are being turned out of the same mill and groomed for that important time when we will be "On the way" and be expected to do the job as well as we feel you fellows will. The success of the vocational agriculture program in the future (and for us) depends on how well the past and present graduates do their job on the target.

John R. Larson '51
June 6, 1950, THE EDIFIER

THE CHAPTER ADVISER

As adviser to a local F.F.A. chapter, the teacher of agriculture has a tremendous responsibility. First, the F.F.A. is "an intra-curricular activity having its origin and root in a definite part of the school curriculum—vocational agriculture . . . It constitutes one of the most efficient agricultural teaching devices that has been discovered up to the present time."* Through participation as members in this organization, students can be taught to conduct meetings, to speak effectively, cooperate with their fellow workers, acquire agricultural skills and knowledge, participate in home and community improvement projects, practice thrift and sound financing, provide wholesome recreational activities and receive training for useful citizenship.

Some of the specific duties of an adviser are to:

1. Assume the initiative to maintain a successful chapter
2. Impress the members that it is their organization and the adviser's role is mainly guidance and supervision
3. See that an efficient staff of officers is selected and all officers know their part of the F.F.A. ceremonies
4. Assist officers and members in becoming proficient in parliamentary procedures and leadership
5. Meet with all committees and give

* Introduction, F.F.A. Manual

guidance and assistance to their work, especially the program of work committee, in setting up a suitable program of activities for the chapter

6. Supervise activities so ceremonies and initiations are carefully planned and executed
7. Provide opportunity and stimulation for members to participate in district, state and national F.F.A. activities
8. See that chapter meetings are well planned and conducted in a business-like procedure at regularly stated intervals
9. See that a program of sound, adequate financing is planned and funds are properly protected
10. Check qualifications and encourage members to advance to higher membership degrees
11. Provide members with information regarding chapter equipment, supplies and paraphernalia and urge securing, proper usage, and protection of such F.F.A. materials
12. Aid members to conduct ceremonies, public performances and publicity carefully and creditably
13. Inform school authorities and the public of the F.F.A. activities and accomplishments
14. Keep informed on F.F.A. developments and call them to the attention of the chapter

The local F.F.A. chapter adviser has an excellent opportunity to develop aggressive competent rural leaders. His responsibilities are varied and important. If he fails in his duties as an adviser, his contribution as the local teacher of vocational agriculture is greatly reduced.

The first state meeting for delegates from Young Farmers' Clubs was held in Room 305, Administration Building, University Farm, in 1915. Our present Minnesota F.F.A. organization is an outgrowth of these early efforts.

THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CLUB

Elsewhere in this issue is reproduced an editorial from THE EDIFIER. This publication is only one of the varied activities sponsored by the Agricultural Education Club at the University of Minnesota. The National F.F.A. constitution provides for collegiate F.F.A. chapters. At the University, it is believed that the Agricultural Education Club has similar objectives to those of a collegiate chapter.

The purpose of the Agricultural Education Club, as stated in its constitution, are:

(1) to acquaint the members with problems of the teaching profession, particularly

those which pertain to agricultural education (2) to further professional pride and enthusiasm in men fitting themselves to teach agriculture

(3) to provide opportunity to practice parliamentary procedure and to plan and conduct meetings and discussions.

Active membership is limited to students regularly enrolled in the agricultural education curricula. Meetings are held twice a month during the regular university session. Officers are elected each quarter. Much of the training future F.F.A. advisers receive for working with their high school F.F.A. chapter is on an informal basis through membership in this club.

Among the activities in the 1949-50 program of work were: planning and erecting the F.F.A. booth at the State Fair for the State Association, a picnic for members and their wives or sweethearts, floats in the Ag Royal and Western Round-Up parades, sponsoring a Freshman Night and inviting all freshmen in the University who were either former F.F.A. members or interested in training as advisers for F.F.A. chapters, having members attend the National Dairy Congress at Waterloo, Iowa, the National F.F.A. Convention at Kansas City, Mo., the M.V.A. Convention, participating in the campus Community Chest drive, arranging an exhibit for Farm and Home Week and furnishing attendants to explain the displays, having representatives at the Governor's Youth Conference and at the reception for the National F.F.A. officers, sponsoring a panel discussion on problems of an agriculture instructor, participating in Education Day activities and sponsoring a candidate for the Education Day queen, nominating a member as a candidate for the "Ideal Teacher" award on Education Day, participating in the Western Round-Up and Ag Royal, having representation on the Ag Club Commission of the college, sponsoring the state F.F.A. Parliamentary Procedure Contest, providing committees to arrange and conduct the State F.F.A. Judging and Identification Contests, and arranging for a group picture of seniors in Agricultural Education to be presented to the department. Among the speakers presented on the educational programs at meetings during the year were: T. A. Erickson, educational adviser, General Mills; Ralph Backstrom, agricultural representative, Great Northern Railroad; Elwood Gilbertson, agricultural representative, F. A. Peavey and Co.; Kenneth Hovet, instructor, College of Education; Reverend George Dickson, Congregational pastor; W. E. Peterson, dairy department, University Farm, Skuli Rufford, assistant director of Agricultural Extension.