

# THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

Volume XLIV

January 1957

No. 1



The FFJ delegates arriving at the airport. The eight people in the foreground are, left to right: Dale Sauer, President, Minnesota FFA; Takaaki Kurihara, National President, FFJ; Art Jindra, Student Treasurer, Minnesota FFA; Hideto Shishido, Assistant Secretary-General, FFJ; Ray White, President, University of Minnesota Ag. Ed. Club; Mike Yamaguchi, Interpreter, James Foss, Student Secretary, Minnesota FFA; W. J. Kortsmaki, Executive Secretary, Minnesota FFA.

## FUTURE FARMERS OF JAPAN VISIT MINNESOTA

by

DALE SAUER, President  
Minnesota Association of the Future Farmers of America

Representatives of the Future Farmers of Japan arriving at Wold Chamberlain Airport on October 10, 1956, were greeted by a delegation of the Minnesota Association of the Future Farmers of America. The Minnesota Association served as host for Takaaki Kurihara, President, Future Farmers of Japan, and Hideto Shishido, Assistant Secretary-General, Future Farmers of Japan.

The Exchange Program was initiated by the Department of State in cooperation with Japanese education and farm leaders. Dr. Milo J. Peterson, Head of the Agricultural Education Department of the University of Minnesota, also assisted in arranging the FFA-FFJ Exchange Program when he visited Japan last year.

Dr. A. W. Tenney, National Executive Secretary of the Future Farmers of Ameri-

---



---

## VISITOR

Published quarterly during the calendar year in October, January, April, and July, by the Division of Agricultural Education, University of Minnesota, University Farm, St Paul 1, Minn.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at St. Paul, Minn., under the act of August 2, 1912.

Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 2, 1918.

---

## THE STAFF

LAUREN GRANGER            GORDON SWANSON  
HARRY KITTS                A. M. FIELD  
M. J. PETERSON, *Editor*

---



---

ca, and Dan Dunham, immediate past National President of the FFA, visited Japan in October and November. This is the first year of operation of the Exchange Program and it will doubtless be expanded in the future.

The FFJ delegation had an opportunity to see many items of educational and agricultural significance while they were here. Some of the highlights of their visit included an observation of the FFA Marketing School and the Livestock Yards at South St. Paul, Minnesota. Visits to local farms and the FFA Chapter at Forest Lake High School were also scheduled. Entertainment was also a part of their schedule. They had an opportunity to see cinerama and a University of Minnesota football game.

After their brief stay as guests of the Minnesota Association, the FFJ delegation continued on to the National FFA Convention at Kansas City, Missouri. At the National Convention Mr. Kurihara was made an honorary member of the Future Farmers of America. Mr. Shishido was awarded the honorary American Farmer Degree. Following the National FFA Convention the FFJ representatives visited several western states before returning to Japan to act as hosts for the visit of their American counterparts.

The Future Farmers of Japan was established in 1950 and was patterned after the Future Farmers of America organization. Takaaki Kurihara and Hideto Shishido, who is Takaaki's National Adviser, indicated that they enjoyed their visit to Minnesota and America very much.

The Minnesota Association was pleased to have the FFJ delegation as their guests and is looking forward to the exchange program again in the near future.

EDITOR'S NOTE—*The Visitor* congratulates Mr. Sauer, President of the Minnesota Association of the FFA and his coworkers of the committee who planned the program for our Japanese guests. This was a contribution to international understanding and friendship.

## HOME COUNTIES OF MINNESOTA'S AG ED STUDENTS

Page 4 of this issue contains a tabulation of the home counties of undergraduate students in Agricultural Education at the University of Minnesota. The two counties contributing the largest number of students are not among the most intensely agricultural counties of Minnesota. Hennepin and St. Louis Counties lead the list with eight students each; Cottonwood, Dakota, LeSueur, and Rice Counties each contribute seven students; Big Stone, Houston, and Isanti Counties follow with six each.

At the other end of the scale, twelve counties are not represented among the students in Agricultural Education this year. Six of these counties are located in the Northwestern quarter of the state. Lincoln, Murray, and Nobles Counties which lie in the Southwestern corner of Minnesota, are also unrepresented.

A widely distributed geographical pattern indicates that the high schools of Minnesota find their teachers of agriculture to be truly representative of the entire state. Although the tabulation does not show it, enrollment in the Department of Agricultural Education has increased steadily during the past several years. In 1955, for example, there were 195 undergraduate students from Minnesota compared with 240 in the fall of 1956. In 1955 there were eight students from neighboring states; in 1956 seven students came from states other than Minnesota.

In spite of this increase the demand continues to outrun the supply, and opportunities in Agricultural Education are excellent for qualified men.

## AWARD TO DR. KITTS

Dr. Harry W. Kitts, Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Education of the University of Minnesota, was presented an engraved FFA ornamental paperweight by the National Association of the Future Farmers of America. This award was made in recognition of Dr. Kitts' contributions to the organization as superintendent of tabulations and assistant superintendent of the National FFA Dairy Cattle and Dairy Products contests held at Waterloo, Iowa since 1950. Dr. Kitts has been appointed superintendent of the National FFA Dairy Contests for the period 1957-60. *The Visitor* congratulates Dr. Kitts and salutes him for his efficient handling of the more tedious and less glamorous aspects of this national activity.

## VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE ACROSS THE BORDER

We all agree, I am sure, that individual assistance is impossible for all farmers at the present time. I do not agree that it is impossible for all farmers for all time, nor for some farmers at the present time. In fact I believe formal agricultural training for farmers is becoming more and more an absolute necessity, and farm management is one of the most important sectors.

Yet, how much farm management training do our farmers of Canada receive? In Saskatchewan we have approximately 112,000 farmers. At a turnover rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  percent, approximately 2800 new farmers try their hand each year. How many of these get farm management training? With one or two men at the University at Saskatoon to do all the teaching as well as administrative and research work, the province is extremely fortunate if one or two hundred farmers have an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of farm management. What about the other 2500 new farmers that take over each year? They jump into an occupation that is extremely hazardous and demanding with respect to managerial ability with no formal training. It is only due to the good fortune of some and resourcefulness

of others and the personal sacrifices of many farmers and farmers' wives that a large number are able to survive at all.

It is common knowledge that most farmers keep very inadequate records when the amount of investment tied up in a farm and the amount of business carried on is considered. Many records are not adequate to correctly file an income tax return and this usually results in overpayment of tax. Again many farmers have an inadequate understanding of their cash farm income for any given year, let alone total farm income, or operator's labor income, or percent return on investment. They have little idea what it costs to produce a bushel of wheat or a finished 1200-pound steer. Consequently they have little idea what the price or yield must be to make an adequate living. Farmers and farm organizations need to know what production costs actually are in order that a sound and adequate agricultural policy can be developed.

The Kindersley School Unit has started, as part of its Vocational Agriculture Program, a Farm Management Service for its farmers. This was done in an attempt to give the farmers of that area some of the training and information necessary to better grasp the economics of production and marketing of agricultural goods.

You might be interested to know that for the sample of grain farmers keeping records for 1953, the average cost of production of a bushel of wheat or its equivalent was 78 cents. If a modest \$3000 is allowed the farmer for his work and management this cost jumps to \$1.07. In that exceptionally favorable year of 1953, 31 percent of the farmers in sample did not realize \$3000 for the labor and management expended in growing grain.

Farmers must know these production figures so that individually and collectively they can take steps necessary to insure that their businesses are going concerns.

---

EDITOR'S NOTE—These are excerpts from a speech given by J. W. Clarke, Vo-Ag Teacher, Kindersley School Unit, Saskatchewan, Canada. Mr. Clarke formerly studied in the Department of Agricultural Education of the University of Minnesota.

## Distribution of 240 Undergraduate Students in Agricultural Education

University of Minnesota, Fall 1956, by Home County\*

Number of Students	County	Number of Students	County
8	Hennepin	2	Anoka
8	St. Louis	2	Crow Wing
7	Cottonwood	2	Itasca
7	Dakota	2	Lake of the Woods
7	Le Sueur	2	Lyon
7	Rice	2	Olmsted
6	Big Stone	2	Pennington
6	Houston	2	Pine
6	Isanti	2	Pope
5	Brown	2	Roseau
5	Carver	2	Stearns
5	Fillmore	2	Stevens
5	Freeborn	2	Waseca
5	Goodhue	2	Washington
5	Grant	1	Dodge
5	Todd	1	Faribault
4	Beltrami	1	Hubbard
4	Kandiyohi	1	Jackson
4	McLeod	1	Kanabec
4	Meeker	1	Koochiching
4	Morrison	1	Pipestone
4	Mower	1	Ramsey
4	Nicollet	1	Redwood
4	Steele	1	Rock
3	Becker	1	Scott
3	Benton	1	Sherburne
3	Blue Earth	1	Sibley
3	Carlton	1	Traverse
3	Chippewa	1	Wabasha
3	Chisago	1	Wilkin
3	Douglas	1	Yellow Medicine
3	Kittson	0	Cass
3	Lac qui Parle	0	Clay
3	Martin	0	Clearwater
3	Mille Lacs	0	Cook
3	Otter Tail	0	Lake
3	Polk	0	Lincoln
3	Renville	0	Mahnomen
3	Swift	0	Marshall
3	Wadena	0	Murray
3	Watonwan	0	Nobles
3	Winona	0	Norman
3	Wright	0	Red Lake
2	Aitkin		

\* Seven students come from three neighboring states.